

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 11th December 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, J Pritchard, R Evans, S Davies, N Lewis, D Gregory, D Jones and N Manning

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: PC Richard Walter and PCSO Margaret Baldwin

143.23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received Cllrs A Brookes, A Windows, P Heywood and C Sandells

144.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – Cllr S Davies declared an interest in Agenda Item 14.1 request for funding from the Pontesbury Sports Association

145.23 Public Questions and Comments – None

146.23 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2023.

147.23 Police Matters- PC Walters gave a verbal update which was noted, including: School Green – The Problem Solving Plan which has been in place is now being closed as no further incidents have been reported.

Wray Drive – the anti-social behaviour that was reported has been monitored and the problem seems to have calmed down

Other than ongoing issues with rural crime there have been no major issues in the area. The speed monitoring motorbikes have been used in Hanwood.

Cllr Trow asked for the criteria for police visits to people found to be speeding on the ANPR camera data. PC Walters would find the criteria and circulate it to Cllrs.

Cllr Fletcher asked if the police visits to speeding offenders were having an impact. PC Walters felt that they were, particularly when visiting young offenders and involving their parents in the visit.

Cllr Pritchard asked if there had been any feedback on the drug usage in Habberley. PC Walters reiterated the importance of reporting incidents so that evidence was gathered to merit further police time in investigating the issue.

Cllr Gregory asked if information from police visits about speeding was shared with other police departments. PC Walters explained that the information is entered onto the police internal systems and then traffic could pick it up and investigate further with police official enforcement cameras. Evidence from the police cameras can be used to prosecute offenders.

Cllr Manning asked if there have been any arrests in connection with rural crime. PC Walters reported that there had been arrests in other areas.

148.23 Community Report – Cllr Davies gave a verbal report including;

- The Community Good Neighbours Group phone is no longer in use.
- 48 people attend the October Luncheon Club in the Public Hall and 8 lunches were delivered.
- 48 families would receive Christmas hampers from the foodbank (throughout the Rea Valley area) and GNS have supplied biscuits for the hampers.
- The Christmas dinner seating and transport are all in place
- Festive Friends in Bishop's Castle are organising xmas lunch for anyone on their own and 6 people are going from Pontesbury accompanied by volunteers
- The Parish Council thanked all the volunteers for their continued support.

Cllr Fletcher thanked Cllr Davies and all the volunteers involved. Cllr Gregory would send a link to the Warm Spaces app so that GNS could register their events as warm spaces.

149.23 Shropshire Council Member Report Shropshire Councillor Roger Evans gave a verbal report including:

- AONB – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are to be renamed as National Landscapes
- Hydrogen Manufacturing plant – a plant is planned for Shropshire
- Special Educational Needs – transport is to be reviewed in order to reduce costs
- Finance – Shropshire Council will be drawing up a draft Financial Strategy for 2024-25 which will include a public consultation
- Shrewsbury Castle – a development plan is to be drawn up to attract more visitors
- Veolia grant stream – grants are available for environmental improvements
- Quarry swimming pool – opening on 13th December
- Shropshire Council on demand bus service – is now operating in the Longden area, Meole Brace and Shrewsbury town centre
- Community Governance report – going to full council this week, no affect on Pontesbury area
- Polling station review – no changes in Pontesbury area
- Woodland creation – new Shropshire Council officer Ross Cowie who is looking for areas to create new woodlands

Cllr Gregory raised the issue of flooding in Asterley and that contractors promised had not arrived and the blocked gully is still causing flooding. Cllr Hignett replied that Asterley was on the programme list but that further flooding in all areas had caused a delay.

Cllr Evans had reported big potholes around Plealey and Longden.

150.23 Planning

150.23.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 6th November 2023.

150.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 4th December 2023 which was **NOTED**.

150.23.3 Planning Application 23/05068/FUL. Development proposed – installation of roof mounted solar panels and air source heat pump. Location: Springbank Cottage, Plealey, Shrewsbury, SY5 0UX. Comment to be submitted:

Pontesbury Parish Council support this application. The proposed air source heat pump is in the same position as the existing oil tank and is protected by a wall, therefore there is very little risk of road users damaging or being damaged by the pump.

The property is well screened and therefore there isn't a significant negative visual impact on the adjoining Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Natural Landscape)

The roof aspect to be used for the solar panels will mean no significant impact on the neighbouring listed building.

151.23 Statutory Business/Finance

151.23.1 £22,429.94 income was **NOTED**.

151.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE £40,098.86 expenditure as listed**.

151.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a maximum budget of £450 for Woodmatters to cut both sides of the hedge between the Station Road play area and the open area at the bottom of the Hall Bank estate**.

151.23.4 Q2 Internal Checks report was received from Cllr Trow and **NOTED**. There are no concerns and the RFO is looking at how to set up a paperless system.

151.23.5 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the Veolia price increase of £4.25/month for the Pavilion refuse/recycling collection**

152.23 Hall Bank Junction Improvements Consultation – Cllr Hignett gave a verbal update of a meeting with SC Highways Officers at the end of the public consultation. There had been more than 100 responses, 70% of which were objections, 30% in support. There is to be a public meeting in January with SC Highways Officers to look at changes agreed and other issues that need further discussion. The public meeting will be followed by an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting to discuss the parish council response to the SC proposals. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank Cllr Hignett for all his hard work on the plans. Cllr Evans asked for the meeting to be promoted to surrounding areas not just Pontesbury.

153.23 Community Garden Project – the updated report with answers to questions raised by Cllrs at the November meeting and detailed costings for the project was received from the Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action Group.

153.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Davies, Cllrs Gregory/Jones abstained, it was **RESOLVED to approve the site next to the Village Green for the community garden**

153.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Davies, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve a grant of £2500 towards the total project costs. This money**

would be split as follows, £500 from the Carbon Zero projects budget and £2000 from the CIL monies earmarked for allotments.

154.23 Health & Safety matters – None

155.23 Pavilion Committee

155.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting on 30th October 2023**

155.23.2 A verbal update report by Cllr Fletcher was received and **NOTED**.

155.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Davies, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve delegated authority to a Communications Working Group to look at a social media policy, along with a general Communications policy and strategy for the council.**

156.23 Pontesbury Sports Association

156.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, (Cllr Davies did not take part in the vote), it was **RESOLVED to approve a further grant of £1500 from CIL unallocated funds towards the completion of phase 1 of the refurbishment of the changing rooms of this well used facility.**

156.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the Licence to Underlet (between Pontesbury Parish Council and Pontesbury Sports Association) and for it to be signed by Cllr Fletcher/Clerk.**

157.23 Hall Bank transfer of attenuation pond and Deed of Easement – this was deferred until the January meeting

158.23 Pontesbury Newsletter – a report about the village newsletter and request for additional copies to be printed was received and considered by the council.

After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve that 1700 copies of the newsletter be printed each month at a cost of £579. (Increase of £60/month).** Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Jonathan Walton/Christine Day and all of the volunteers who deliver the newsletter.

159.23 Recommendations from Personnel Committee Meeting held on 16th November 2023

159.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 26th June 2023**

159.23.2 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED to delegate authority to the Personnel Committee to obtain quotes for HR and Health & Safety support for the parish council and to report back to the January Full Council Meeting.**

159.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the annual increment of 1 salary scale point for all parish council staff from 1 April 2024 as stated in employment contracts.**

160.23 Recommendations from Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 7th December 2023

160.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the FGP meeting held on 5th October 2023**

160.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the General Reserves Policy as prepared by the RFO**

160.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED to approve the level of general reserves be set between 3 – 12 months Net Revenue Expenditure, aspiring to be 6 months NRE.**

161.23 Clerk's Report

A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted. Clerk to circulate email from Lois Dale about the removal of the BT phone box and Cllrs to feedback any comments they wish to make.

162.23 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

Cllr Pritchard The road from Habberley to Pontesbury has been repaired but now the drains need to be cleared to prevent erosion of the newly laid road surface

Cllr Gregory The SC streetlights around the one way system by St Georges have been removed. Cllr Hignett explained that they will be replaced as part of SC's conversion to LED programme but there are no indications of a date as yet

Cllr Evans there are a number of potholes around Plealey that are in the middle of the road and are a health and safety hazard. Cllr Evans wished for the Clerk to write a letter from the parish council to escalate the repairs to the side roads within the parish

Cllr Hodges There is significant flooding in a number of places around Cruckton due to a failure of drains maintenance. An ambulance failed to get through recently.

Cllr Lewis The entrance to Station Yard play area needs urgent attention as there are many big potholes. It was agreed that Cllrs Lewis, Fletcher and Hignett would investigate and come back to the council with a long-term plan.

Cllr Jones Cycleway light no. 12 is not working properly. The gulleys along the cycleway verge have been blocked by the verge mowing.

163.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 8th January 2024 in the Pavilion, Hall Bank, starting at 6.30pm. Please note winter start time

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: