

## PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



### **Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6.30pm**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, J Pritchard, A Brookes, R Evans, N Lewis, D Jones, P Heywood, C Sandells, N Manning, S Davies and A Windows

**Clerk of the Meeting:** Debbie Marais

**Public present:** Two residents

#### **188.23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Gregory

#### **189.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None**

**190.23 Public Questions and Comments –** A resident present at the meeting wished to request a speed limit to be introduced on the Cruckton to Cruckmeole road as it is a dangerous stretch of road for pedestrians and cyclists. They also wished to request that HGVs were prohibited from taking that route for safety reasons.

#### **191.23 Minutes of Council**

After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Heywood, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

**192.23 Police Matters –** a verbal report was received from PC Rich Walters which was **NOTED**. There had been a rise in burglaries of equipment from local farms. Letters have been sent to parents in the cases of anti-social behaviour and letters and visits are being made to speeding offenders. Cllr Pritchard asked Clerk to chase the response from PCC about Ringmaster as an incident number does not really help local farmers when the equipment stolen is essential and needed immediately. PC Walters urged councillors to remind local residents to report anything suspicious, to build local evidence for an increase in officer numbers in this area.

Cllr Trow asked if car tax and insurance status information should be passed to police when captured as part of the ANPR data collection. PC Walters would check.

Cllr Heywood asked if the car of a persistent speeding offender could be confiscated. Only the policing traffic division can take enforcement action. Cllr Evans reported that under s51 of the Road Traffic Act police can seize the vehicle of a persistent speeding offender.

Cllr Windows asked if the police stats could be put in the village newsletter which PC Walters will look into, they are available on gov.uk website as well.

192.23.1 Councillors reviewed their policing priorities as asked by the Police and Crime Commissioner office. Councillors wished for the following priorities to remain:

- Drug issues – in particular around School Green and Poles Coppice
- Anti-social behaviour around School Green and the play area
- Speeding along the A488
- Rural Crime

**193.23 Community Report** – a verbal report from Cllr Davies was received and **NOTED**. Cllr Davies reported that the luncheon club has extended to some meals being delivered. This and the coffee mornings are well attended. Residents were concerned about the proposed closure to the A488 and how people would get their prescriptions.

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

- The SC Quarter 3 Financial monitoring report had been published. Of £51m savings required, £40m had been achieved. It is predicted that use of reserves will be needed.
- In 204-25 another £50m savings are required. The final budget for 2024-25 would be published this week and go to full council. There is a proposed rise in the precept and reductions in services offered. There were more than 1000 comments received as a result of the budget consultation.
- The proposals to increase car parking costs in Shrewsbury and swimming pool charges had been called in for review.
- The North West Relief Road would be considered this week.
- The Local Plan – queries have been raised about the need for further house building in Shropshire and a consultation proposed. The public hearing could still take place in the summer of 2024.

Cllr Sandells raised the fact that the 20mph speed limit outside Hanwood School had not been included in the 2024-25 list of works. Cllr Evans has submitted a request for clarification on the criteria used to prioritise works to be put on the list. Cllr Evans had also requested information on where the speed measurements were taken as this has an impact on the speeds experienced.

Cllr Fletcher asked where the funds were coming from for the Riverside development. Cllr Evans responded that there was Levelling up 2 funding for the demolition of the development and the gyratory. No other funds were yet available.

### **195.23 Planning**

Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 which was **NOTED**.

### **196.23 Statutory Business and Finance**

196.23.1 Income of £993.03 once the VAT refund had been paid to the PCC. This was **NOTED**.

196.23.2 After a proposal from Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve payments of £13,741.84 as attached list.

196.23.3 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £15,000 from CCLA reserves to Unity current account to cover general payments

196.23.4 Quarter 3 2023-24 Bank Reconciliation for all accounts was **NOTED**.

196.23.5 Quarter 3 2023-24 Budget Monitoring report was **NOTED**.

196.23.6 Internal Checks for Quarter 3 2023-24 had been completed and there were no issues to raise.

196.23.7 After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a payment of £35 for SALC Fundamentals for Councillors training for Cllr Brookes

196.23.8 After a proposal from Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Evans, (Cllr Windows voted against), it was **RESOLVED** to approve a further 12 month contract, In line with Financial Regulations para 11.1.a.ii, with ANPRCheq/cc4business from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

### **197.23 Health & Safety matters – None**

#### **198.23 Pavilion Committee**

After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Windows, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

198.23.1 payment of £1,855.36 to Allied Westminster for insurance for the Pavilion from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

198.23.2 to combine the general council insurance and insurance for the Pavilion at the end of their respective contracts.

198.23.3 Pavilion Committee meetings to be held on a quarterly basis – next meeting to be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

198.23.4 select company no. 4 to deliver waste disposal services for the Pavilion and nominate Deputy Clerk to sign the Service Level Agreement.

#### **199.23 Tree Inspection report**

After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

199.23.1 select company 1. to carry out tree works recommended in the 2023 tree inspection report as the company is based locally, has strong knowledge of the parish council maintained trees, and has provided excellent value for money for work carried out previously.

199.23.2 an additional budget of £500 be made available for work to be done (by company 1.) due to storm damage since the inspection report was received.

199.23.3 to approve the following recommendations by the SC Tree Officer, Cllrs Lewis, Fletcher and Clerk relating to the woodland next to the sports area.

1. Signage be put up warning people that the area was unsafe and to avoid entrance to the woodland
2. Pontesbury Sports Association be asked to advise their members to avoid entering the wood
3. Usage be monitored and reviewed before the next inspection survey in Autumn 2025.
4. Ash die-back to be monitored at the site as this can weaken trees and lead to them ultimately falling, which could cause a health and safety risk to anyone using the adjacent sports area and/or woodland

Cllr Fletcher wished to publicly thank Siobhan Reedy, the SC Tree Officer for all of her time and input

#### **200.23 Pontesbury youth project update – a written report was received by Cllrs and NOTED.**

Following a number of setbacks, the Pontesbury Youth Project is now up and running. A Youth worker has been appointed. The successful candidate has to undergo a DBS check before the appointment is confirmed. The group relaunched last week, and are hoping that take up will grow primarily through word of mouth. Equipment for the cafe to provide refreshments has been purchased. Please contact Greg Smith, Vicar St George's Church, Pontesbury for further information.

### **201.23 Hall Bank Deed of Easement**

After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Lewis, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE and execute the Deed of Easement for the attenuation pond**

### **202.23 Carriage way surface dressing work for A488 Nag's Head to Hanwood**

After a discussion where councillors relayed concerns by local residents/organisations about short notice and long diversions proposed, it was agreed that Clerk would write to SC Highways to ask for the works to be deferred until a meeting can be held with councillors from affected areas in order to find a more effective approach. Councillors felt very strongly that going ahead as planned and with such limited notice for the public, will lead to maximum disruption and negative impact on local residents. It was felt that local knowledge is paramount to ensuring that the work is done effectively and with as limited disruption as possible.

### **203.23 Local housing for rent by local people**

Councillors considered two policy documents from Housing Plus about allocations for properties on the new development off Mount Way, for rental and shared ownership. Councillors felt that it was crucial that local housing is allocated to Pontesbury Parish residents in the first instance. After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE Clerk to write to Shropshire Council and state that the parish council require Shropshire Council to ensure that housing on the development off Mount Way in Pontesbury, be allocated to Pontesbury Parish residents first and to confirm in writing that this will be the case.**

### **204.23 Request for bus shelter at School Green**

A request for a bus shelter had been made to Cllr Hignett. Clerk was asked to write to Minsterley Motors to find out usage of the stop and to obtain quotes for a simple shelter to be erected.

### **205.23 Resident's survey about speed restrictions in Cruckton/Cruckmeole**

Following an informal survey by Cllr Evans of residents in the area, 80% were in favour of speed and usage by HGV restrictions between Cruckton/Cruckmeole and Quiet Lane status for Pound Lane. Cllr Evans requested a formal parish council survey of the residents in the area using funds set aside within the CIL funds relating to the Shingler estate. It was agreed to set up a working group to take this forward, including Cllrs Fletcher, Hodges, Heywood, Sandells, Trow and Windows.

### **206.23 Clerk's Report**

A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted. Clerk reported that there was to be a meeting with the PCC in Ford village hall where residents could ask questions about road safety issues.

### **207.23 Parish Business** the following parish business was reported:

- Cllr Hignett     A resident had reported cyclists using Bridge Leys Lane. The parish council have no enforcement powers but had put up no cycling signs
- Cllr Pritchard     Prison lane in Habberley had been repaired
- Cllr Windows     Public toilets on School Green are in need of cleaning and the locks are not working. Clerk reported that both issues had been reported to the appropriate contractors

- Cllr Heywood potholes on Pound Lane had been repaired more than once, but needed doing again and nearby potholes had not been repaired at the same time. Clerk asked to raise this with SALC.
- Cllr Trow reported a good service following reporting on FixMyStreet
- Cllr Hodges raised concerns about the quality of repairs on potholes
- Cllr Manning asked when the public meeting was happening about the proposed traffic management issues on Main Road. The new date for the public meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Cllr Sandells requested that litter picking be done along the A488 whilst it is closed for resurfacing works. Work has begun on the toilet block at Cruckton Village Hall.
- Cllr Lewis Concerned about the potholes outside the Trading Post. Cllr Fletcher reported that one quote had been received and one quote was awaited.
- Cllr Jones trees overhanging along Brookside are impacting the traffic Cllr Fletcher/Jones and Lewis would meet and look at it
- Cllr Fletcher resident request to have speed restrictions brought in on Pontesford/Earls Hill to reduce speeds from 60mph. Future agenda item for full council

**208.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Pontesbury Public Hall, starting at 6.30pm. This will be followed by an Extraordinary Full Parish Council meeting approximately 8pm.**

**The meeting closed at 20.35pm**

Signed: .....  
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: .....