

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



**Full Council Meeting
held at The Pavilion on
Tuesday 12th June 2023 2023 at 7.30pm in Cruckton Village Hall**

PRESENT

Councillors: N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, D Jones, A Windows, P Heywood, C Sandells, S Davies, N Lewis, J Pritchard

Clerk of the Meeting: Nicola Young

23.23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Brookes, Cllr D Gregory & Cllr D Fletcher

24.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

4.23.1 Cllr Davies reported an ordinary interest in relation to Agenda Item 15, Pontesbury Sports Association.

4.23.2 No Grants of Dispensation were noted.

25.23 Public Questions and Comments

25.23.1 Presentation from SWS Broadband Samantha Taylor, SWS representative, gave a presentation on the company from Stiperstones plans to bring fibre to each property in Pontesbury. The fibre will replace copper wires which are currently in place. Customers hours have to express their interest with SWS. SWS are having fibre built to known addresses in Pontesbury. The Clerk was requested to send a copy of the Pontesbury Parish map to SWS and SWS will confirm whether fibre is being installed throughout the Parish or just Pontesbury.

25.23.2 Public Questions Information about Budget Skips was requested. Cllr Evans reported that he had visited Budget Skips with Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency, and Cllr Evans is waiting for a response following the visit.

26.23 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2023.

27.23 Police Matters PC Richard Walters reported:

- The team in Pontesbury Pavilion is now fully staffed; 2 x PCs, 4 x PCSOs
- Quite a few burglaries of plant, arrests have been made in Wales. The LPT are carrying out late night and early morning patrols, and operations will be taking place soon.
- ASB – youths have been gathering in the Pontesbury play area, and throwing stuff off a bridge, the LPT are incorporating these areas into their patrols and returning young people to their parents.

- Pontesbury Hill – there was an incident where young people had rolled a tree stump down the hill – the Police have visited the residents of the property that was nearly hit by the tree stump and are now doing regular patrols of the woods.
- The LPT visited Cruckton Academy special school as it has now re-opened.
- Budget Skips – the Police reported Budget Skips to the HSE – the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council Highways are due to visit and report back to the Police.
- A Cllr reported that young people are climbing over the fence into the Mary Webb school field.

28.23 Community Report Cllr Sharon Davies reported on behalf of Rea Valley & Pontesbury Community Good Neighbours Scheme:

- 4 emergency food parcels have been delivered in Minsterley and Pontesbury
- CGNS have collected and delivered 10 prescriptions
- Taxis have been organised and paid for by CGNS covering the cost of transport to RSH, RJ&AH Hospital in Gobowen and to Pontesbury Medical Practice. Local people are struggling to get from Worthen to Pontesbury Medical Practice.
- The Coffee Mornings are still well supported
- The Gentlemen's Group is still running at the Pavilion, this now has a waiting list.
- The Coffee & Chat Group, which is a small group for people who have recently lost a family member and cannot face a larger group, runs every Wednesday at the Pavilion
- Two new potential volunteers have joined CGNS befriending service.

29.23 Shropshire Council Member Report Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett reported:

- Shropshire Council Finances The latest financial report shows that the Council overspent by £8.5 million in the last year, leaving the Authority with £7.1 million in its general reserves-which is less than half of the recommended minimum level. This overspend is less than the £10 million predicted at the end of quarter three, but remains a significant challenge for the future, as the Council attempts to save over £50 million from its Annual Budget.
- Riverside Area The award of nearly £18.7 million for the redevelopment of the Riverside area in Shrewsbury has enabled the project to move forward. The first stage is the partial demolition of Riverside Shopping Centre, for which plans have been submitted. Over the summer months a number of Public events will be held to capture ideas from Residents and the general public.
- Boundary Commission The draft recommendations for Division Boundaries in Shropshire have been published, and the consultation period for responses closes on 10th July. As proposed, the Rea Valley Division appears to be unchanged, whilst adjoining Divisions have been altered. As I note that this is Agenda item 14.1, Councillors will have an opportunity to discuss this later in the meeting.
- Scrutiny Committees It was approved at the last Full Council Meeting to reduce these Committees by 1, but increase the number of Members on each Committee from 9 to 11. This has been carried out, and the Committees are now meeting.
- Shropshire Highways Shropshire Residents are to be asked for their views on Shropshire Council's Highways and Transport Services—from the condition of roads and footpaths, to the quality of cycling facilities, in this year's annual "National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey". A questionnaire will be sent to a minimum random sample of at least 3,300 residents, from 16th June - with Local

and National results being published late October. Since the survey is based on a sample, any residents that receive a copy are urged to take part.

- **Flooding** Two projects that aim to provide nature-based solutions to reducing flooding on the River Severn are to go ahead, after being approved by Shropshire Council's Cabinet on 7th June. The two schemes are part of a wider programme of works planned for the upper part of the Severn Catchment Area. They will be funded using £4.5 million of Government finance and be delivered over the next 4 years. The two schemes affect the Rea Brook and the river Perry. The £900,000 scheme for Rea Brook will be delivered by Severn Rivers Trust, and will see the construction of 200 leaky dams, 4 hectares of woodland creation, 1.5 km planting of new mix hedgerows across slopes, creation of at least 35 water storage features such as ponds, scrapes and swales to provide additional offline water storage during storm events, and installation of on-farm Rainwater Harvesting systems.

30.23 Planning

30.23.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Lewis, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27th April 2023.

30.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 5th June:

- An extension on Station Road was supported
- Several TPOs were supported
- Hare & Hounds affordable housing cross-subsidy scheme pre-application was presented; the Committee are pleased with the designs and note that the properties will be starter homes, with a market value discount of 20%.
- Pontesbury Neighbourhood Plan, with the External Examiner's comments, will be put before Shropshire Council Cabinet on 19th July, if approval is given, the referendum will be held early September (possibly 7th September). Put Referendum on July full council agenda.

31.23 Pavilion The Pavilion Committee minutes of 20th March 2023 were received by full Council.

32.23 Finance & General Purposes Committee

32.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hodges, it was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2023.

32.23.2 The F&GP Committee recommended approval of:

1. **Direct Debits and Standing Orders for 2023-24** – The Committee resolved to approve an updated list including monthly instalments of non-domestic rates and water bills for the Pavilion.
2. **Bad Debts** – None identified.
3. **S137 Expenditure** – The Committee noted that expenditure of £3,889.66 is well within the permitted expenditure limit of £23,83.64
4. **Asset List** – The Committee approved the updated value of the Fixed Asset Register as £299,231.47 with a request that the insurance value of the rebuilt bus shelter at Hall Bank is confirmed by revaluation.

Cllr Jones reported that the Asset List should show 21 solar lights and not 16 for insurance purposes.

After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Heywood, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the items listed 1-4 above.

After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Windows, it was **RESOLVED** to amend the Asset List so that the number of solar lights along the Pontesbury to Minsterley Road is noted as 21 and not 16, and to amend the total asset value appropriately from the date of the meeting.

32.23.3 Earmarked Reserves The F&GP Committee recommended approval of the following reserves transfers by Full Council:

1. Year End Reserves Transfer of £5,000 for legal fees relating to PCC lease, effective 31 March 23
2. Earmarked Reserves Transfers, effective 1 April 2023
3. Transfer £500 unspent budget from Bus shelter R&M to a new EMR for bus shelter R&M
4. Transfer £400 unspent grant budget to existing EMR for Grants & Donations
5. Transfer £500 unspent budget for Neighbourhood Plan Consultation and Promotion to the existing Neighbourhood Plan EMR
6. Transfer £700 unspent budget for Pavilion furniture to Pavilion EMR for office furniture and,
7. Transfer £350 unspent budget for Pavilion supplies and incidentals to Pavilion EMR for office supplies (increases Pavilion EMR to £17,677)
8. Transfer £350 unspent budget for Pavilion Website to new EMR budget for Pavilion Website re-build
9. Transfer £4,500 unspent Play Area & BMX budget to existing Play Area EMR (increases Play Area EMR to £6,000)
10. Transfer £1,000 unspent Public Toilets budget to existing Public Toilet Review EMR (increases EMR to £6,000)

After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the above-numbered 1-10 year end Earmarked Reserve transfers.

33.23 Statutory Business/Finance

33.23.1 £2,493.63 income was noted.

33.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED** that £24,919.36 expenditure be approved as listed.

33.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED** that retrospective approval be given for the payment of Occupational Health retainer fee of £100 and Adviser fee of £95.

33.23.4 After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED** that retrospective approval be given for purchasing an aluminium gate to install between the POS and play area for ease of access for the grounds maintenance team, total cost £550.

34.23 Audit

34.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign, and respond YES to all questions, excluding question 9, which is not applicable for AGAR Section 1 – the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 for Pontesbury Parish Council. Council noted the Annual Internal Audit Report, and Pontesbury Parish Council Internal Audit Report 2022/2023.

34.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign, noting the restatement of previous year from receipts & payments to Income & Expenditure basis – AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/2023 for Pontesbury Parish Council.

34.23.3 It was noted that the intention to public the Notice of Elector's Rights on 14th June and upload it and the AGAR pages to the Council website.

35.23 Leases / Licenses

35.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED** to approve completion and exchange of signed lease with West Mercia Police regarding the offices and parking spaces.

35.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, It was **RESOLVED** to sign and approve the completion and exchange of the Trading Post lease with the Pontesbury & District Gardener's Association.

36.23 Boundary Commission

36.23.1 It was reported that there was no change to the Shropshire Councillor boundary division for Pontesbury Parish. After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Pritchard, it was **RESOLVED** to respond to the Boundary Commission Report on draft recommendations for division boundaries with the following:

"Pontesbury Parish Council agree with the parish boundary for the Shropshire Councillor divisions. Pontesbury Parish Council wish the Boundary Commission to note the community connection of rural parishes with major settlements in Shropshire."

36.23.2 It was noted that Shropshire Council may undertake a Community Governance Review on parish council boundaries, but this is not due to start until the Boundary Commission Divisional Boundary Review has been completed. It was requested that a Parish Council Boundary Working Group be set up to gather relevant evidence and canvass local opinion regarding Pontesbury Parish Council boundaries. This item will be added to the July Full Council Meeting.

37.23 Pontesbury Sports Association

37.23.1 It was noted that the agenda was incorrect, that planning permission is not required, but Pontesbury Parish Council support the project.

37.23.2 Pontesbury Sports Association will be invited to give a presentation to Pontesbury Parish Council July 2023 meeting regarding their request for funding for the sports pavilion project.

38.23 Place Plan The following Councillors were nominated to attend the joint Place Plan Working Group – one from each ward:

Councillors Allan Hodges, Douglas Jones, Adrian Windows, Nick Hignett, Roger Evans, Duncan Fletcher, Peter Heywood.

40.23 Clerk's Report

A report from the Acting Parish Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting was received.

41.23 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

Cllr Evans Plealey gutters and pathways need to be cleared, could the Environmental Maintenance Grant be used for this?

Cllr Trow A resident in Pound Lane had made contact regarding several near misses she had had with her vehicle coming out of Pound Lane, from 30mph to 60mph the shortly back to 30mph.

Cllr Evans reported that he had also received a request to reduce the speed limit in Lea Cross to 50mph.

Cllr Pritchard Grass verges have been growing over the last few weeks, and the long grass is hampering visibility at junctions.

Cllr Jones reported that grass verges are starting to be mown.

Cllr Evans Sight line at junctions is poor due to grass needing to be cut.

Cllr Hignett Plealey road junction requires cutting.

42.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 10th July 2023 in the Habberley Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2100

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: