

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 12th December 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr N Hignett, Cllr M Trow, Cllr R Evans, Cllr A Hodges, Cllr D Gregory, Cllr A Windows, Cllr D Jones, Cllr N Manning and Cllr N Lewis

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

In attendance: None

153.22 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from, Cllr P Heywood, Cllr C Sandells, Cllr S Davies and Cllr J Pritchard. After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that Apologies for Absence be approved.**

154.22 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations. None.

155.22 Public Questions and Comments. None

156.22 Minutes of Council. The minutes were submitted and circulated as read. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council, held on 14th November 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

157.22 Police Matters

Cllr Fletcher gave a brief update which was **NOTED** including that PC Richard Walters will now cover the Western rural area and PC Simon Lewis the Eastern end. PC Simon Lewis will still be based at The Pavilion and the aim is to have one rural team covering the whole area in the future.

158.22 Shropshire Council Member report. Cllr Hignett gave a verbal report, including the following information, which was **NOTED.**

- **FINANCE AND BUDGET---** Shropshire Council is to propose a transformation and efficiency programme that will clear the way for delivering The Shropshire Plan, and bring the budget into balance. If agreed, the proposals will save £50.6m in the next year. Ongoing impacts of the pandemic and economic conditions, particularly the effects of inflation and rising energy costs, are at the root of a £36m budget challenge facing the council. The financial strategy lays out a clear plan for the next 5 years to bring the council budget into balance, but requires greater efficiency and some difficult decisions. Shropshire is in a similar place to all other councils and, in line with the Government's expectations, and is proposing to increase Council Tax by 4.99%-including a 2% precept to support adult social care. A 4.99% increase is equivalent to £1.38 a week for the average band C property. It is worth noting that the rate of Council Tax in Shropshire is 6% below the average for Unitary Councils. Some of the

savings proposed include: increased car parking fees, increased charges for council services such as planning, introducing a charge for collecting green waste. All budget proposals will be subject to public consultation and Scrutiny. Final proposals will go to Full Council on Thursday March 2nd 2023, when the budget must be agreed.

- LIGHTING--Shropshire Council has converted almost 8,000 of its 20,000 lights to LED, and will convert 12,000 more in the next 12 months. That will save over £1m per year, and save around 7,000 tonnes of Carbon.
- BINS FOR MIXED RECYCLING--phase 1 (over 80,000 bins) was completed in late October. Phase 2 (20,000 bins) is now well underway and should be completed soon.
- ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS--There are now 50 public EV chargers operational across the Shropshire Council Area. Almost £1m funding has been awarded to the Council, so a further 270 EV chargers will be installed across the County. The locations have been chosen using data which reveals residential areas where properties have little or no off-street parking. With a total of 320 Public EV charging points, Shropshire Council will be rated 11th out of 375 Local Authorities for the number of publicly available charging points.
- 20 MPH ZONES---The trial of 20mph zones in the Copthorne and Porthill areas of Shrewsbury was approved by Cabinet, and public consultation started on 21st November 2022. If the trial proves to be successful then further areas will be considered.
- COST OF LIVING CRISIS---The list of “warm hubs” continues to grow and is available to view online for the whole County. Locally, foodbanks and other help is being provided and I would urge anyone needing assistance to contact their local Parish or County Councillor if they needed further advice.

Councillors expressed concerns that charging for green waste collection may lead to increased fly-tipping.

159.22 Planning Committee.

- i. After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the planning meeting held on 7th November 2022.**
- ii. Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report which was **NOTED.**
- iii. Footpath Diversion, Brook Vessons – After a proposal by Cllr Hodges and seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following comment be submitted to Shropshire Council. The parish council support the proposed footpath diversion as there will be no significant impact on footpath users or the local area.**

160.22 Statutory Business and Finance

- i) After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Lewis, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a payment of £5006 + VAT to Lanyon Bowdler for PCC lease work from Pavilion Lloyds account and further bill to come when work completed of £1683.50 + VAT**
- ii) After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE retrospectively a budget of £300 for clearing the land behind the Trading Post by parish council’s grounds maintenance contractor**
- iii) After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hodges, (Cllr Gregory abstained), it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a maximum budget of £200 for request for trees, from Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action group, to be planted at the junction between**

Brook Road and Brookside with the proviso that the trees be properly staked to avoid potential vandalism. Ties would be available from the Gardener's Association.

- iv) Receipts of £687.60 (All parish council accounts) were **NOTED**.
- ii) After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE all payments on payments list for December 2022 (payments list attached to minutes)**.
- iii) Clerk reported that the PKF Littlejohn had been re-appointed as the External Auditor for local councils which was **NOTED**.

161.22. Recommendations from Personnel Committee meeting held on 24th November 2022: After a proposal by Cllr Trow and seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

- i) Office space will be provided for council staff within The Pavilion at the earliest opportunity
- ii) Adoption of the Training & Development policy as prepared by Clerk (*Policy available for viewing on parish council website*)
- iii) Council meetings where possible (other than full council and standing committees), to be held on zoom
- iv) All staff to be given a 1 salary scale point increase (as stated in staff contracts) to take effect from 1 April 2023
- v) The production of the newsletter will be kept in-house and be done by the Deputy Clerk as no one had come forward locally to be the editor
- v) The Newsletter Working Group will meet quarterly to plan changes to the newsletter in order to appeal to all age groups and sectors of the community
- vi) The newsletter will continue to be produced 11 months per year, noting the increase in printing costs. Any future price increases will be reviewed by the Newsletter Working Group

162.22 Recommendations from Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th December 2022 – After a proposal by Cllr Trow and seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

- i) The amended Strategic Plan as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank Clerk for her work on this.
- ii) New contract with DM Payroll Services for £230 for 2023-24 to be signed by Chair
- iii) The monies from Shropshire Homes for grounds maintenance on the Hall Bank estate to be invested in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund which provides high security, good return and instant access to funds
- iv) Transfer of £35,000 from Nationwide Savings account to Unity Current account for payment of invoices. Account will be kept open for future use with a nominal amount, below the sum at which interest is generated
- v) Deputy Clerk's hours to be increased permanently from 22.5 - 25.5 hours/week to produce newsletter and other project work

163.22 Cost of living update – Clerk read a report by Cllr Davies about Good Neighbours activities to support the community which was **NOTED**. Cllr Fletcher noted thanks to Cllr Davies and volunteers for all their hard work and the public hall for offering the venues for the luncheons. Cllr Gregory had been contacted by Mary Webb school asking if any support for young people's mental health was available through The Pavilion. Clerk reported that a Feelgood Friday event focusing on mental health was being planned for February 2023.

164.22 ANPR update. After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Jones (majority in favour, Cllr Windows voted against) it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following:**

- i) Continuation of contract with ANPRcheq from 1 February 2023 – 31 March 2024 in principle. Final contract to be signed at January 2023 meeting
- ii) Additional budget of £1326 to be paid from CIL Neighbourhood Funds in 2022-23
- iii) Budget of £3000 be set for 2023-24 (which includes costs associated with moving the camera which will be reviewed during 2023)

165.22 Request for financial support from Worthern Juniors – Clerk had been contacted to say that no help was required at this point

166.22 Amended Data Protection Policies – After a proposal by Cllr Windows and seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that the following policies be adopted as updated by Clerk** (*All policies available for viewing on parish council website*):

- i) Data Protection Policy
- ii) General Privacy Notices (internal and public)
- iii) Information Security Policy
- iv) Data Breach Policy
- v) Subject Access Request Protocol
- vi) Document Retention Policy

167.22 Health & Safety Matters

- i) Cllr Hignett would talk to One Stop Shop about the gritting materials used outside the shop

168.22 Rea Valley Rural Watch

Councillors considered the information received from the Rural & Business team (West Mercia Police)

As part of the West Mercia Police, Rural Matters campaign to tackle crime in rural areas, Rural & Business officers have launched a new watch scheme initiative across Shropshire.

Rural Watch has been specifically designed for residents in rural areas. The objective is to encourage members of the public to be more vigilant and to share and report information regarding any suspicious circumstances or crimes sighted within their community with other residents and their local policing teams. The benefit of a watch scheme is the intelligence gathered and reported by the local community.

Clerk was asked to put something in the parish newsletter and on the parish council website to invite local residents to get involved. Graham Donaldson, Rural and Business Crime Officer, would be invited to The Pavilion to talk to councillors and local residents.

169.22 Clerk's Report - Clerk gave a verbal update which was **NOTED**. Cllr Gregory expressed concern about the length of time and costs involved in creating the lease for the Trading Post with the Pontesbury District Gardener's Association. Cllrs Fletcher and Lewis reported that all efforts were being made to get the lease finalised at the earliest opportunity.

170.22 Parish Business – the following concerns were raised

- Malehurst Bridge had been damaged again. Cllr Hignett would follow this up
- Fibre Broadband is now available in Cruckton.
- The One way sign at the bottom of Hall Bank opposite the entrance to Wray Drive is obscured by foliage. Cllr Hignett would report.
- Hare & Hounds conversion is moving forward and properties are now available for purchase
- Cllr Fletcher reported that the FixMyStreet reporting function on Shropshire Council website had been very useful and he had been informed that potholes he had reported have been fixed
- Cllr Hignett reported that information has been circulated to councillors about the boundary review
- Clerk reported a request from a resident of Top Road about Shropshire Council adopting Top Road. This issue has been raised previously, Cllr Hignett would talk to the Rights of Way team at Shropshire Council

171.22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

The next Full Parish Council meeting will take place at The Pavilion on Monday 9th January 2023 at the winter time of 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 19.56pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: