

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 13th February 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Cllr D Fletcher, N Hignett, N Lewis, A Hodges, M Trow, P Heywood, S Davies, D Gregory, N Manning, D Jones, A Windows. R Evans

Clerk of the Meeting: Nicola Young

In attendance: None present

196.22 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from, Cllr J Pritchard & Cllr C Sandells. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED that Apologies for Absence be approved.**

197.22 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations. None.

198.22 Public Questions and Comments. No members of the public present.

199.22 Minutes of Council. The minutes were taken as read. After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council, held on 6th February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

200.22 Police Matters. The Clerk is chasing the Rural Watch officer and is waiting for information. Local Policing Team officers have completed operations around the rural areas.

201.22 Shropshire Councillor Member. Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett gave the following report:

- a. Shropshire Council Budget. As stated previously, the Council needs to close a budget gap of £51million. Following consultation, the budget proposals and medium-term financial plans will go to full council on 2nd March for approval.
- b. Northwest Relief Road. Further technical information has been added to the planning application for the NWRR. This triggers a 30-day consultation period, after which it is expected that the application will go to the Northern Planning Committee for determination.
- c. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Shropshire Councillors have been briefed on proposed changes to the NPPF. Some of the objectives include more democratic engagement with communities on Local Plans, enabling them to shape their neighbourhoods. The aim is to deliver more homes in the right places, supported by sustainable and integrated infrastructure for our communities and economy. There is an emphasis on getting a local plan in place under the current system by 30th June 2025. It is good to note that the Pontesbury Neighbourhood

- Plan has now been passed to an independent examiner, who will assess the plan to see if it meets the basic conditions and decide if it can proceed to a referendum.
- d. Green Waste Charges. Shropshire Council will not consider a possible charge for green waste collections until more is known about the Government's plans for waste collections nationally. Defra is currently carrying out a review of waste collection policy in England. The outcome is expected shortly, following which any proposals to charge for this facility would be subject to consultation before any legislation is introduced.
 - e. Riverside Area. Shropshire Council has welcomed the Government's decision to award £18.7million funding to support the regeneration of Shrewsbury town centre. The successful bid will fund two complementary infrastructure and public open space projects, essential to realizing the ambitions of Shrewsbury's Big Town Plan. More information on this as the scheme moves forward.
 - f. Levelling Up Funding. There is disappointment that Shropshire Council's other 3 bids for levelling up funding were unsuccessful, particularly the bid to overhaul public transport across the county. Further opportunities for funding will be looked at.
 - g. Cost of Living. As prices continue to rise, a reminder that help is available for those in need. Members of the public can contact their local parish or Shropshire councillor, in confidence, to be directed to the appropriate agency or authority.
 - h. Trees. Shropshire Council has 200 trees available to be planted in public open spaces, please let your local councillor know of any areas where these can be planted.

202.22 Planning Committee. The February Planning Committee discussed 7 planning applications, supporting 5, one was withdrawn and one could not be supported. The Shropshire Homes application was withdrawn and an application in Habberley for replacement dwellings could not be supported as the house doesn't fit in with the surrounding properties and the Planning Committee agreed with the Conservation Officer's comments. The Neighbourhood Plan has been sent to the Planning Inspector and if the inspector passes the plan, the next step is a community referendum.

203.22 Statutory Business/Finance. The following statutory business was approved:

- a. Following a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was RESOLVED that approval be given for a payment of £60 for SALC training on community engagement for Deputy Clerk and £30 Freedom of Information training for the Clerk.
- b. Cllr Trow reported on the Internal Checks for Quarter 3 in 2022-2023. This is the second time she had met with the Finance Officer. All accounts were checked and balanced, samples of payments and online documents were taken. Look into booking the meeting room for future Internal Checks to provide privacy. Cllr Trow also mentioned the considerable amount of paperwork that the Finance Officer carried about and wished this matter to be taken to Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- c. Following a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was RESOLVED to approve the new pension contribution rate of 22.7% to Shropshire County Pension Fund.
- d. Following a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was RESOLVED to approve payment of £26 for Chancel Indemnity insurance on Hall Bank Open Spaces. Chancel indemnity insurance is purchased during the conveyancing process, by the buyer, and protects them from any future claims for repair.

- e. Following a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Heywood, it was RESOLVED to transfer £30,000 from CCLA account to Unity current account to cover payments for February and March 2023.
- f. Following a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Gregory, it was RESOLVED to approve a maximum budget of £600 for the annual streetlight condition survey.
- g. Following a proposal by Cllr Manning, seconded by Cllr Windows, it was RESOLVED to approve a payment of £1,147.07 for Pavilion Insurance for the year 1st March 2023 to 28th April 2024.
- h. Receipts totaling £12,981.20 were noted.
- i. Payment totaling £10,689.00 were noted.
Following a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Manning, it was RESOLVED that the receipts and payments totals were received.

204.22 Cost of Living Increases. Cllr Davies provided the following report from requests in January 2023 to Pontesbury & District Community Good Neighbours Scheme:

- 31 families attended a pop-up larder, noticeably there were more pensioners attending.
- £800 of food was donated by a local couple.
- The next pop-up is being held in March
- 21 prescriptions have been delivered
- 15 phone calls for help had been received, including the CGNS purchasing a fridge for a family from the hardship fund
- 45 people attended the Luncheon Club, with 15 people on the waiting list.
- The next Luncheon Club is on Friday 24th March.

The Chairman thanks Cllr Davies for the amazing work that the Community Good Neighbour volunteers carried out. Cllr Davies mentioned that they are in need of volunteers, as numbers are low, but that there is a real sense of fulfilment from volunteering with the Scheme.

205.22 Health and Safety Matters.

- a. Following a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was RESOLVED to continue with 'pay as you go' contract for health & safety support from Shropshire Council (Occupational Health) and to pay £100 for the retainer fee.

206.22 Pontesbury Hill Road.

A request from a resident had been received to reduce the speed limit for Pontesbury Hill Road from 30mph to 20mph. Cllr Hignett reported that Shropshire Council are looking at reducing speed limits, and discussions with the Police regarding accident statistics would need to be looked into. Shropshire Council are currently looking at introducing 20mph limits around schools and residential streets. Shropshire Council will look into the matter and put this road on the list with other areas who have request a 20mph limit. It was suggested that the residents of Pontesbury Hill Road may wish to start a petition for Shropshire Council to reduce the speed limit. Cllr Hignett will respond to the member of the public through delegated powers.

Pontesbury Parish Council would like a 20mph with the parish area and request that Shropshire Councillor Hignett raises the matter again with Shropshire Council, particularly the area around all schools.

207.22 Parish Council Budget Request.

A resident has submitted a request to put the 8-page budget statement in the April newsletter, unfortunately there is not enough space to include this in the Parish Newsletter. However, the Parish Council Budget can be viewed in the following way:

- Copies of the budget statement will be available to read in the Pavilion
- A link to the budget statement can be found online via the Parish Council website, and
- Access to the online budget statement can be made via any public PC in the Library.

208.22 Clerk's Report.

- Coronation Road Closure applications need to be submitted by 8th March 2023.
- Remove the flooding item from the Clerk's report/agenda.
- Platinum Jubilee tree has been replanted, alongside the planting of 4 more trees. (remove from Clerk's report/agenda)
- Trading Post lease is nearing the end of the process.

209.22 Parish Business. The Councillors reported the following matters:

- Cllr Trow asked how to get information on Tree Preservation Orders. Farmers are responsible for maintaining trees on their land, particularly against highways.
- Cllr Gregory has reported an abandoned car at Habberley.
- Cllr Davies reported that 2 residents in Bogey Lane have reported a tractor 'racing up and down' – residents need to report the matter to the Police.

209.22 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th March 2023 at Pontesbury Public Hall starting at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 1930

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: