

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



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

PRESENT

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

Clerk of the Meeting: Nicola Young

Public present: Six members of the public were present

118.23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received J Pritchard and P Heywood

119.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations - None

120.23 Public Questions and Comments –

Six members of the public were present and made the following comments:

- a. Three members of the public made comments on the A488 junction improvements between Main Road and Minsterley Road/Hall Bank. The main comments were:
 - i. on the turning of HGVs and large lorries at the new narrower junction.
 - ii. the footpath along Hall Bank beside the brook is too narrow.
- b. One member of the public raised the matter of the speed limit in Asterley – there is no speed limit in the village and all residents have signed a petition to have a legal enforceable speed limit. The petition has been handed to Cllr Hignett, and the member of the public requested funding from Pontesbury Parish Council to assist with the cost of installing a speed limit.
- c. A further member of the public attended to discuss the request for funding for the Community Garden. PCEAG request £2,500 funding from Pontesbury Parish Council, which will be matched with funding from elsewhere.

1842 Cllr Sandells arrived

121.23 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting held on 9th October 2023.

122.23 Hall Bank Junction Improvements After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was proposed to bring forward Item 11 – Hall Bank Junction Improvements.

Cllr Hignett provided the following background information to the project:

- Historic reports of accidents from people exiting from Brookside
- Letters have been received on how dangers access to the Coop is
- Traffic is moving too quickly

- There was a meeting with Shropshire Council officers and it was agreed to put £40,000 of CIL funding aside
- There have been 3 years of meetings regarding this project
- Aim is to make the junction safe for pedestrians
- The work will alter the line of traffic with the aim to slow traffic down.
- Closing date for the consultation is 23rd November 2023.

The Council discussed the matter and will add the following comments to the consultation: In relation to the Hall Bank Junction Improvements Consultation, Pontesbury Parish Council make the following comments & suggested amendments:

- a. The bus stop and double yellow lines outside the Chemist's be removed and insert restricted parking (Main Road).
- b. The safe pedestrian crossing points indicated are not pedestrian crossing points.
- c. The Consultation has not been widely advertised and there has been a short period of consultation – the Parish Council request an extension to this consultation and that a Shropshire Council highways officer who is part of the planning team attend a public meeting in the Pavilion, to hear feedback from the community.
- d. There is a large Pontesbury parish hinterland that use the chemist and other facilities within the village of Pontesbury, therefore Shropshire Council are requested to advertise the consultation wider than just the village of Pontesbury.
- e. The whole of the one-way system being 20mph gives pedestrians priority.
- f. The give-way sign need to be changed to a STOP sign.
- g. Minor changes to curbing at the bottom of Main Road are required.
- h. The new planned junction from Main Road to Hall Bank/Minsterley Road, will hinder the turning abilities of HGVs.
- i. Why is there no alteration to the footpath at the bottom of Hall Bank – further information received that this is a separate scheme which has been approved by Shropshire Council and will remove the stone parapet wall, widen the pavement and install strong fencing alongside the brook.
- j. The Flooding Officer has advised the Shropshire Councillor that in Brookside, a raised section of the road will allow the water to go back into the culvert, pushing the water back into the brook and try to prevent further flooding.
- k. The junction provides a very tight turning for HGVs and lorries and therefore traffic will be increased.
- l. Within the village, the worst road for parking, visibility splays from minor roads joining Main Road is outside Connections/Post Office.
- m. There is no restriction on the junction, the red lines show double yellow lines.
- n. The Parish Council welcome a safe exist from Brookside.
- o. The Parish Council suggest that placing a junction with a tight turning circle for HGVs and lorries will place a burden/restriction on business along the A488 south-bound after Pontesbury.
- p. The Parish Council reiterate that we will organise a public meeting to discuss the Pontesbury Traffic Calming measures along Main Road, and request that a Shropshire Council Highway Officer provide the Parish Clerk with some dates.

123.23 Police Matters- PC Walters provided a written report which was noted.

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

- The Community Good Neighbours Group will no longer have a phone for residents to contact them from the end of November. The phone contract ends on 30th November 2023.
- The Community Good Neighbours Group had received £2,100 funding from the Coop Local Causes fund.
- 48 people attend the October Luncheon Club in the Public Hall and 5 lunches were delivered.
- 70 people have signed up for the Christmas dinner
- The Parish Council thanked all the volunteers for their continued support.

125.23 Shropshire Council Member Report Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett gave a verbal report including:

- Cross-Border Partnership – on 10th November Shropshire Council signed an agreement with three other English & Welsh local authorities. The partnership sees Shropshire Council join forces with Herefordshire Council, Monmouthshire and Powys Councils, to take on some of the big challenges they all share. They will work jointly to secure funding from both Governments and unlock investments for major projects in the Marches region. Covering 80% of the English/Welsh borderland, and with a total population of almost 750,000 the agenda includes:
 - Transport
 - Skills
 - Housing
 - Energy
 - Climate Change
 - Tourism
 - Digital Connectivity.
- Riverside/Smithfield – the first phase of the public consultation on the Riverside / Smithfield development finishes on Wednesday 15th November.
- NWRR – this project has secured planning approval, subject to conditions, at the last North Planning Committee meeting. A full business case will now be prepared, outlining the scheme and the up-to-date costings, for consideration by Shropshire Council next year, prior to submission to the Department of Transport. If approved, the work to build the road could start as early as summer 2025.
- Public Spaces Protection Order – Shropshire Council are holding a public consultation into dog fouling and the control of dogs in public spaces. Under the PSPO dogs would be excluded from play and sports areas. They would be required to wear a lead on the Public Highway. Enforcements Officers would also have the power to ask for a dog to be put on a lead where they are not under the control of their owner or are acting aggressively. The 8 week consultation runs until 21st December. Further details can be found on Shropshire Council website.
- Quarter 2 Finances – Shropshire Council have made savings or identified savings of circa £38m. It is likely that the Council will be £4m short on its £51m savings target at the end of the year (equating to 8% of the budget). However, in-year budgetary pressures are ongoing and likely to be around £20m.
- Shropshire Council On-Demand – People will be able to try Shropshire Council's new on-demand bus service for free from Monday 6th November to Saturday 2nd December, when the service is tested ahead of its full launch on Monday 4th December. This on-demand services replaces the 544 (Shrewsbury to Lyth Hill) and

546 (Shrewsbury to Pulverbatch) bus services, which are fully funded by Shropshire Council but have seen a reduction in passengers over time. Under the service, people will be able to book a journey by app or phone, choosing where they wish to be picked up and when and where they want to be dropped off. More details on the Shropshire Council website.

126.23 Planning

126.23.1 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 2nd October 2023.

126.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 2nd October 2023 which was **NOTED**, highlighting the Council's support for cross-subsidy planning application at the Hare & Hounds, but objecting to the Hare & Hounds garages. The NP Committee have agreed to remain for one year to monitor the impact of the Neighbourhood Plan.

127.23 Statutory Business/Finance

127.23.1 £5,906.72 income was **NOTED**.

127.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE £21,433.18 expenditure as listed.**

127.23.3 Q2 2023-2024 Bank Reconciliation was noted

127.23.4 Q2 Budget Monitoring Report was noted

127.23.5 Q2 Internal Checks report was deferred

127.23.6 After a proposal by Cllr Flether, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve 2023-24 NJC pay awards to be backdated to April 2023 and paid with November pay.**

127.23.7 It was noted that £10,250 will be received from Shropshire Council for the Thriving Children & Families project for a youth worker attached to St George's Church. Monitoring and feedback measure for auditing purposes will be put in place.

128.23 Other Registrable Interests – the majority of Councillors handed in their ORI forms.

129.23 Shropshire Council Request for Potential Sites for Woodland Creation.

Councillors were requested to let the Clerk know of any potential sites within the parish for woodland creation.

130.23 Community Garden Project – the report from the Community Growing Group was noted. The Council have the following questions regarding the £2.5k funding requested for Community Garden Project:

1. Request a drawn plan of the area
2. How will the group access the area to deliver heavy items – ie, compost!
3. Who will carry out the grass cutting?
4. How will PCEAG raise the match-funding?
5. Please could Council have a copy of the detailed costings.
6. Council PCEAG Community Garden Volunteers also join up with the Pavilion garden, ie, maintain and use some beds for community garden projects?

Cllr Neville Lewis proposed that the funding be taken from the Allotment CIL allocation.

131.23 Health & Safety matters – None

132.23 Pavilion Committee

132.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Davies, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting on 18th September 2023**

132.23.2 A written update report was circulated and noted by all.

133.23 Parish Council Strategic Plan 2023-2026 Council considered the updated Strategic Plan, which will influence the budget and staff workload. The Plan was noted.

134.23 Freedom of Information Scheme – After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the updated FOI Scheme.**

135.23 D-Day Celebrations – A Working Group will be set up to progress the celebrations, which will include a beacon in each ward of the parish. Working Group members are: Cllrs Duncan Fletcher, Nick Hignett, Sharon Davies, Amy Brookes, Michelle Trow. The WG will initially be Councillors only, but with the aim of non-councillor members joining. The Deputy Clerk was requested to put an advertisements for non-councillor members in the December issue of the Pontesbury Parish Newsletter.

136.23 Poles Coppice

136.23.1 The Poles Coppice Management Report was noted.

136.23.2 After a proposal from Cllr Sandells, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED that the request for funding of £2,000 for 2024-2025 be APPROVED.**

136.23.3 It was approved to earmark £350 for the Poles Coppice open day which will take place in Spring 2024.

137.23 Payment to Shropshire Council Library Service

137.23.1 Payment of £14,000 to Shropshire Council Library Services for 2023-2024 was approved as previously agreed. This money will be offset by £3,500 received from Friends of Pontesbury Library.

137.23.2 Payment of £14,000 to Shropshire Council Library Services for 2024-2025 was approved. This money will be offset by £3,500 received from Friends of Pontesbury Library. Clerk to write to Friends of Pontesbury Library.

After a proposal by Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Evans, it was **RESOLVED that the payment mentioned in paragraphs 137.23.1 and 137.23.2 above be approved, all in favour.**

138.23 BT Phone Removal Proposal - After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Fletcher, it was **RESOLVED to OBJECT to the removal of the BT Phone Box with the same comments as the previous year.**

2004 Cllr Brookes left the meeting

139.23 Hall Bank Open Spaces Working Group – three Councillors will be on the working group, including Cllr Lewis, Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Windows. The Deputy Clerk was requested to put an article in the Newsletter requesting members of the public to get involved.

140.23 Clerk's Report

A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted.

141.23 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

- Cllr Hignett railings and a gate were damaged by an RTC, the items are still in the Shropshire Council Highways store.
- Cllr Sandells Rea Valley Flooding – leaky dams have blocked bridges.
- Cllr Evans A complaint had been received from a resident in Pound Lane, a car had overturned due to excessive speed. The signage is obscured by hedging.
1. The Clerk is requested to chase up the request for a Quiet Lane & copy in Andy Begley, Mark Barrow and Lezley Picton.
2. The Clerk is requested to request Shropshire Council remove hedging.
- Cllr Jones Did not notify ‘fixmystreet’ about the over-hanging trees on Hall Bank. Verge project – completed all areas to be cleared in Pontesbury Parish, now awaiting seeding. Next clearance will be March 2024.
- Cllr Hodges During the October flooding at Cruckton Bridge, 100m of the road was impassable, the problem lies with water coming down the bank and culverts get blocked up. All the silt that the flood water brought is now either side of the culvert – levels of the brook are higher than the road. The problem is where Yockleton Brook meets Rea Brook and it is requested that John Bellis, Flood Manager meets with Councillors.
The Clerk had sent out a message asking Councillors to send in the areas which were flooded in October.

142.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th December 2023 in the Pavilion, Hall Bank, starting at 6.30pm. Please note return to winter start time

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: