

**PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Council**  
**Held at Mary Webb School**  
**At 7.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**PRESENT**

Cllr D Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr N Hignett, Cllr A Hodges, Cllr S Lockwood, Cllr N Lewis, Cllr B Morris, Cllr D Jones, Cllr P Bradbury, Cllr C Sandells, Cllr C Robinson, Cllr R Martinali, Cllr D Gregory, Cllr J Pritchard, Cllr B Morris and Cllr P Heywood

**IN ATTENDANCE:** None

**CLERK:** Debbie Marais

**Eleven members of the public were present.**

**161.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**162.19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - None**

**163.19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

1. A resident of Pontesbury happy to see that the council were discussing climate change emergency and wished to encourage them to hold a public event on this topic.
2. Resident of Pontesbury wished to encourage the parish council to consider carefully conditions on planning applications before them particularly in relation to;
  - Impact on surrounding properties
  - Conditions to ensure roads and drainage infrastructure are built first to avoid the road conditions seen on Minsterley roadCllr A Hodges noted comments for consideration at planning committee meetings
3. Resident of Pontesford wished to raise concerns that the speed limit in Pontesford is not being observed by drivers. This means that traffic coming onto the main road from Back Lane and other side roads are at risk. Wished to see flashing 'watch your speed' signs installed
4. Resident of Pontesbury wished for an update on the smartwater project mentioned at a previous meeting. Cllr D Fletcher replied that this had been considered at a recent Finance & General Purposes Committee but then deferred to research the costs to the parish council
5. Two further local residents raised concerns about speeding traffic through Pontesford
6. Cllr D Fletcher read out a letter from a young resident of Pontesford about a climate change awareness event she is organising in the village on 29 March 2020.
7. Clerk made council aware of five further written representations about concerns over speeding traffic throughout Pontesbury

**164.19 MINUTES OF COUNCIL -** The minutes were submitted and circulated as read. It was proposed by Cllr D Gregory and seconded by Cllr P Bradbury and **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

**165.19 POLICE MATTERS –** An update newsletter from the Safer Neighbourhood Team had been received and was **NOTED**. Cllr D Fletcher wished to note that the majority of the higher numbers of ASB incidents related to one household.

Cllr D Gregory stated that the anti-social incident at the sports pavilion had been satisfactorily resolved.

#### **166.19 COMPLAINTS ABOUT SPEEDING IN THE PARISH**

A number of activities were outlined that had been or could be initiated by the parish council including a request submitted to Shropshire Council for an area-wide 20mph limit to be in place from Nag's Head to Minsterley Road and working with local policing team to carry out vehicle speed spot-checks. Community speedwatch have been out in village too. Cllr R Evans reported that the Shropshire Council cabinet member for Highways would ensure that Shropshire were represented at the regional community speed partnership. It was proposed by Cllr N Hignett and seconded by Cllr J Pritchard and **RESOLVED to APPROVE setting up a working party of five councillors to investigate speed calming measures that could be employed in the village and report back to a future council meeting.**

#### **167.19 CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

Following a discussion about various measures that could be taken forward, it was proposed by Cllr N Hignett and seconded by Cllr J Pritchard and **RESOLVED to APPROVE the following;**

- 1. Pontesbury Parish Council supports the declaration of a climate emergency**
- 2. Pontesbury Parish Council supports the setting up of a working group to draw up a detailed action plan in pursuit of ensuring the council and parish are carbon neutral by 2030. The working group would include parish councillors and local residents.**

**168.19 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT** – Cllr R Evans gave a verbal report, including the following issues, which was **NOTED**.

- In light of SC expecting an overspend by the end of this financial year there is currently a spending freeze
- The SC financial strategy for 2020-21 will be published shortly
- The ombudsman has said that the SC decision to not pay post-19 travel costs was unlawful
- Decisions about the date by which SC should be carbon neutral are on the cabinet agenda for December
- Kier/WSP performance is tabled for the December cabinet meeting

Cllr D Gregory raised the flooding between Asterley/Malehurst and asked what the response time should be following a report of flooding.

Cllr A Hodges reported flooding at either end of Cruckton which was felt to be due to ditches and gullies not being regularly cleared.

#### **169.19 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

i) The minutes from planning committee meetings held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were received and **ADOPTED**.

ii) Cllr A Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee, gave a verbal update which was **NOTED**. There had been a reduction in the number of planning applications during 2019 compared to 2018.

#### **170.19 STATUTORY BUSINESS/FINANCE**

##### **a) Receipts**

i) Newsletter advert receipts - **£539.05**

ii) Savings account interest - **£42.15 NOTED.**

**b) Payments for Approval**

It was proposed by Cllr J Pritchard and seconded by Cllr P Heywood and:

**RESOLVED: That the below payments are APPROVED for payment and the bank signatories INSTRUCTED to sign the Cheques/authorise payments online.**

Woodmatters	Felling of silver birch on School Green	310.00	0.00	<b>310.00</b>	<b>B/P208</b>
Lanyon Bowdler	Payment for searches for The Pavilion	783.33	0.00	<b>783.33</b>	<b>B/P244</b>
Evelyn Griffiths	Public toilets cleaning - November 2019	200.00	0.00	<b>200.00</b>	<b>B/P245</b>
Parish Clerk	Expenses -11 November - 8 December 19	219.21	0.00	<b>219.21</b>	<b>B/P246</b>
Parish Clerk	Salary for December 2019 (payable 19/12/19)	1684.43	0.00	<b>1,684.43</b>	<b>B/P247</b>
Shropshire Council	Pension payment for Clerk December 2019	539.56	0.00	<b>539.56</b>	<b>B/P248</b>
HMRC	NI and paye payments qtr 3 2019-20	1445.04	0	<b>1445.04</b>	<b>B/P249</b>
Lawrence Direct	various stationery in Nov 2019	6.38	1.28	<b>7.66</b>	<b>B/P250</b>
Shropshire Council	Contribution for Poles Coppice management	1500.00	0.00	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>B/P251</b>
MI & TEM Pritchard	Ground maintenance November 2019	193.33	38.67	<b>232.00</b>	<b>B/P252</b>
New Era Printing (previously Creative Digital)	December 2019 newsletter	330.00	0.00	<b>330.00</b>	<b>B/P253</b>
Parish Clerk	Reimbursement for desk riser	99.99	20.00	<b>119.99</b>	<b>B/P254</b>
Woodmatters	Play area hedge annual maintenance	195.00	0.00	<b>195.00</b>	<b>B/P255</b>
SALC	SALC 70th birthday meal for Cllr R Evans	28.50	0.00	<b>28.50</b>	<b>B/P256</b>
Highline Electrical Ltd	Streetlight repairs in November 2019	518.75	103.75	<b>622.50</b>	<b>B/P257</b>
Pontesbury Public Hall	Room hire 7/10/19, 6+4+21/11/19 November	56.00	0.00	<b>56.00</b>	<b>3000042</b>
Cllr D Fletcher	Allowance for 2019-20	240.00	0.00	<b>240.00</b>	<b>3000044</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>8,513.22</b>	

c) It was proposed by Cllr D Fletcher and seconded by Cllr J Pritchard and **RESOLVED to APPROVE £119.99 to reimburse Clerk for purchase of new desk riser to alleviate back pain.**

d) It was proposed by Cllr P Bradbury and seconded by Cllr D Gregory and **RESOLVED to APPROVE £28.50 for SALC AGM dinner for Cllr R Evans**

f) It was proposed by Cllr N Lewis and seconded by Cllr P Bradbury and **RESOLVED to APPROVE £195 for annual cut of hedgerow at play area by Woodmatters**

g) It was proposed by Cllr R Martinalli and seconded by Cllr D Gregory and **RESOLVED to APPROVE £1500 contribution for 2019-20 for Shropshire Council towards management costs for Poles Coppice.**

#### **171.19 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PERSONNEL MEETING ON 21 NOVEMBER 2019.**

a) It was proposed by Cllr D Fletcher and seconded by Cllr J Pritchard and **RESOLVED to APPROVE £75 for additional half-day training for Clerk with SDH accounting to cover accounts associated with The Pavilion.**

b) It was proposed by Cllr A Hodges and seconded by Cllr N Hignett and **RESOLVED to APPROVE adoption of the following employment policies as prepared by Clerk;**

- **Equal Opportunities policy**
- **Training and Development Statement**
- **Dignity at Work policy**

**The new policies will be available through the parish council website.**

**172.19 COMMUNITY HUB 'THE PAVILION'/PONTESBURY LIBRARY UPDATE – A** verbal report from Cllr D Fletcher was received and **NOTED.** The following points were included;

- Complex legal issues associated with the transfer of the building will mean that this will not take place until at least the end of January 2020.
- There will be a photoshoot with Co-op on Friday 13 December to celebrate the planters and benches in the outside area, which were funded by Co-op. Any Councillors are welcome to attend.
- a) It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr P Bradbury and Clerk to work with Shroptech to develop a website for The Pavilion to promote all activities and events that will take place in the building.**
- b) It was proposed by Cllr J Pritchard and seconded by Cllr S Lockwood and **RESOLVED to APPROVE the quote of £1064.25 from Allied Westminster for insurance cover for The Pavilion**
- c) It was proposed by Cllr J Pritchard and seconded by Cllr N Lewis and **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr R Evans, Cllr N Hignett and Clerk to finalise and sign the transfer document for The Pavilion from Shropshire Homes and the lease/licence with PCC and Shropshire Library Service**
- d) The job description for a cleaner/caretaker for The Pavilion was deferred to the January full council meeting
- e) It was proposed by Cllr N Hignett and seconded by Cllr C Sandells and **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Clerk to set up refuse and nappy bin collections for The Pavilion**
- f) It was proposed by Cllr J Pritchard and seconded by Cllr P Bradbury and **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr R Evans, Cllr N Hignett, Cllr D Jones to negotiate utilities contracts for The Pavilion**
- g) Cllr N Hignett and Cllr D Fletcher would ask for contributions towards The Pavilion from parish councils and other organisations in the Rea Valley area
- h) It was proposed by Cllr J Pritchard and seconded by Cllr N Lewis and **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Cllr D Fletcher, Cllr R Evans, Cllr N Hignett, Clerk to purchase additional items for The Pavilion and update budget at January meeting**

**173.19 PLAN OF ACTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE GRANT – This** was deferred to the January 2020 meeting.

**174.19 UPDATE ON HALL BANK JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS** – a verbal report was received from Cllr N Hignett and **NOTED**. Shropshire Council Highways Officers would attend the January 2020 council meeting to discuss plans for improvements to the junctions which included beneficial changes to the original plans drawn up by the previous company. Cllrs would be able to view the plans before the meeting. Cllr D Fletcher requested a site visit before the January meeting. Cllr N Hignett would organise this and an evening meeting to view the plans. Cllr D Fletcher wished to record thanks to Cllr N Hignett for taking this forward.

**175.19 SITING OF AN ADDITIONAL DEFIBRILLATOR** – Clerk reported that Rea Valley First Responders were willing to donate a defibrillator for The Pavilion and for Cruckton Village Hall. It was proposed by Cllr N Hignett and seconded by Cllr J Pritchard and **RESOLVED to APPROVE £208 for Ben Morris Electrical to connect both defibrillators. An advert would be put in the village newsletter to ask residents if they would like to contribute towards the £900 costs for the boxes for the defibrillators.** Further first aid/defibrillator training will take place early in 2020.

**176.19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**  
The following correspondence was received and noted.

From	Subject and summary information
SALC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repairs to church property – NALC update</li> <li>Funding opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy</li> <li>News in brief including funding update</li> <li>Shropshire Council provisional view on 75BT boxes to be removed</li> </ul>
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hoax calls poster</li> <li>SNT newsletter November 19</li> </ul>
Shropshire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ed Andrews wanted to thank Pontesbury Parish Council for agreeing to continue with £1500 towards management of Poles Coppice</li> </ul>

An article would be put in the village newsletter about the hoax calls

**177.19 CLERK'S REPORT**

A verbal report from the Parish Clerk on outstanding matters, and action taken, since the last Council meeting was received and **NOTED**.

a) It was proposed by Cllr D Jones and seconded by Cllr N Lewis and **RESOLVED that councillor's email addresses would be removed from the parish council website. Cllr R Evans and Cllr N Hignett's Shropshire Council email addresses would remain.**

b) It was proposed by Cllr J Pritchard and seconded by Cllr N Lewis and **RESOLVED to APPROVE the printing of the newsletter by New Era Printing which had formed from the previous newsletter printers Creative Digital.**

**178.19 PARISH BUSINESS**

The following was reported at the meeting and the Clerk was asked to report to the responsible bodies.

- Bollard and Hall Bank sign which had been damaged/removed. Cllr N Hignett had reported this
- Cllr P Bradbury wished to see refuse bins sited at both ends of the Minsterley-Pontesbury cycleway. Clerk had approached Shropshire Council as part of the Environmental Maintenance Grant. Having a bin at the Minsterley end of the cycleway would be raised with Minsterley Parish Council

- iii. Blocked drain in Well Lane in Plealey. Cllr R Martinali would report and liaise with Cllr R Evans
- iv. Road sweeping was needed on Pound Lane, Cllr R Evans would follow up
- v. An update on remedial work to the footpath between Hall Bank and the play area was requested. This was discussed by F&GP at meeting on 4/12/19. Clerk investigating costs.
- vi. Concerns about dog fouling on Linley Avenue/Terrace and by schools
- vii. Lighting requested for the Minsterley/Pontesbury cycleway for when more pupils using it to walk to Mary Webb School from Minsterley
- viii. Cllr D Fletcher wished to thank all of the councillors and Clerk for all their hard work throughout 2019 and to wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas

### **179.19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

7.30pm on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Mary Webb School.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

**Chair**