

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of Council
Held at Habberley Village Hall, Habberley
At 7.30pm on Monday 10th July 2017

PRESENT

Cllr D Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr J Pritchard (Vice-Chairman), Cllr R Evans, Cllr N Hignett, Cllr A Hodges, Cllr N Lewis, Cllr S Lockwood, Cllr R Martinali, Cllr B Morris, Cllr S Picken and Cllr C Sandells

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr P Nutting – Leader of Shropshire Council and Mark Blount, Country Parks and Heritage Sites Team Manager from Shropshire Council

CLERK: Miss Kate Davies

Four members of the public was present.

127.17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Gregory – On holiday
Cllr D Ryder – On holiday

128.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr N Hignett declared an interest in agenda item 9.3 – (15/05576/OUT | Outline application (to include access) for mixed-use development to include residential, provision of a retail unit, new day care centre, community building and public green space | Land To The North Of Hall Bank Pontesbury – reconsultation) on the basis of a perceived issue of bias by virtue of being a shop owner in Pontesbury.

Cllr J Pritchard declared a personal interest in agenda 6 – Poles Coppice as he has land located next to it.

129.17 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

The minutes were submitted and circulated as read. Following a correction to 126.17 to correct the venue of the next meeting from Cruckton to Habberley it was proposed by Cllr B Morris and seconded by Cllr N Hignett and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th June 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

130.17 CLLR PETER NUTTING, LEADER OF SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL

Cllr Nutting addressed the meeting to provide information on the recent changes in leadership at Shropshire Council following the Local Councils Elections. He gave the meeting details of his priorities which include plans to improve economic development. Cllr Nutting gave details of a new consultation on increasing car park charges and suggested other services which could be charged for in the future. The meeting was given an update on Shropshire Council finances and consideration on seeking a better return on earmarked

reserves and plans to improve the financial situation by the end of the four year term. Cllr Nutting advised that he wishes to keep the swimming pool in Shrewsbury Town Centre and a new library strategy has just gone out to consultation.

Councillors and members of the public had the opportunity to ask Cllr Nutting questions.

131.17 POLES COPPICE

Mark Blount, Country Parks & Sites Team Manager at Shropshire Council addressed the meeting and gave an overview of the work which has taken place at Poles Coppice and gave an overview of the future plans which Shropshire Council hopes will be on a partnership basis. Following questions about health and safety at Poles Coppice Mark gave an over view of the inspection regime and advised that the quarry face is inspected by a specialist company every five years and this is due to take place soon.

Mark Blount answered questions form the Councillors and following a discussion it was

RESOLVED to liaise with Shropshire Council and Minsterley Parish Council in order to continue to form a Poles Coppice Liaison Committee.

132.17 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A member of the public asked Cllr Nutting about recycling targets and waste services.

A member of the public asked Mark Blount for further information on the costs relating to Poles Coppice.

Cllr Nutting and Mark Blount were thanked for their time and they both left the meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns about speeding tractors in the Parish and provided details of a recent collision near Habberley. He advised that he had been in contact with the local Police team. He suggested that Police speed checks should be undertaken and volunteers could assist with this.

133.17 POLICE REPORT

The report from the Police, which had been previously circulated, was **NOTED**. The meeting was advised that Pontesbury Police Station was now being used as the base for another Safer Neighbourhood Team. It was confirmed that PC Jon Summerfield would be retiring at the end of August. The Clerk was asked to write to PC Summerfield (with copies to Inspector Hancox and the Police Crime Commissioner) to express the Parish Council's appreciation for the work that he had done in the Parish.

134.17 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT

Cllr N Hignett gave a report which included information about the proposed Digital Transformation project at Shropshire Council, which will begin next April. It is hoped that this will improve communication between departments for the benefit of employees and members of the public. A consultation is to take place on the proposed sale of the Pitch and Putt course and it is hoped that some of the sale proceeds would be used to improve the existing golf course at Meole Brace. Shropshire Council has approved the construction of

two student halls at the Tannery site in Shrewsbury to be completed by September 2018 and which will improve facilities for the University campus. Information about the Library strategy consultation and the implications for Pontesbury library was made reference to.

135.17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes from planning committee meeting held on 5th June 2017 were received and **ADOPTED**. Cllr A Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee, gave a verbal update which included information on recent planning applications and decisions.

Cllr N Hignett had declared an interest in the planning application for Hall Bank and left the meeting.

136.17 PLANNING APPLICATION

15/05576/OUT | Outline application (to include access) for mixed-use development to include residential, provision of a retail unit, new day care centre, community building and public green space | Land To The North Of Hall Bank Pontesbury – reconsultation

The Parish Council was asked to consider draft comments prepared by the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED: That the following comment be submitted to the Shropshire Council Planning Authority:

Pontesbury Parish Council supports the proposed relocation of the retail unit so that it is grouped together with the other non-residential elements providing that there are parking spaces to service them. The Parish Council maintains its strong support for a footpath inside the hedge bordering Hall Bank but requires clarification concerning the maintenance of this hedge and confirmation that the bus shelter/stop is retained or rebuilt. The Parish Council continues its support for a community hub as an important component of the development. Not only will its suggested position help the newcomers on Hall Bank to integrate with the existing community it will also help the Parish Council to discharge its extra anticipated future responsibilities. Therefore it is reasonable to expect the planning authority to assist with this as part of the outline application agreement in the form of planning conditions to ensure the integration of the new residents/homes with the existing community. Although only indicative, the Parish Council is concerned at the removal of the open space next to the community hub. This site has a special significance: it is linked to the nursery, hub and shop, it breaks up the residential element and least, it provides a unique elevated viewpoint to appreciate the surrounding landscape.

Cllr N Hignett returned to the meeting.

137.17 MAY 2017 ELECTIONS

The meeting was advised that no one had come forward from Cruckton Ward to be considered for co-option.

RESOLVED to continue to look for interested residents and consider the vacancies again at September's meeting.

138.17 JOHN CAMPION, WEST MERCIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO WEST MERCIA FIRE AND RESCUE GOVERNANCE

The Parish Council considered this consultation and it was

RESOLVED to make the following response: Pontesbury Parish Council does not consider that this is a consultation of any substance and lacks necessary detail. The Police and Fire Service must remain as two separate organisations and be run independently. Democratic control must not be removed.

139.17 MAP BOARDS

The Parish Council was asked to approve the reimbursement of the cost of the materials used to install the map board in Pontesbury. The volunteers were thanked for the excellent work and all agreed how good the map board looked.

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Mr R Martinali – Reimbursement of £114.81 for materials from Travis Perkins (Invoices provided). Chq no – 2846 and Friends of Pontesbury Hill – Materials. £40.00 Chq no – 2847

140.17 STATUTORY BUSINESS/FINANCE

a) Receipts

- i. Newsletter advert receipts - **£50.00**

NOTED

b) Payments for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr R Evans and seconded by Cllr S Picken and:

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

- i. Creative Digital-Newsletter printing - July issue - £340.00 – Chq no 2833
- ii. Highline Electrical Ltd-Street light monthly maintenance and repairs - £234.60 – Chq no 2834
- iii. Greenfingers Groundforce Ltd - Ground maintenance - £231.40 – Chq no 2835
- iv. Mrs D Williams - Elastic bands for newsletters - reimbursement - £9.94 – Chq 2836
- v. JDH Business Services Ltd - Internal Audit Fee - £177.60 – Chq no 2837
- vi. RH Cambridge (Storage) Ltd - Photocopying costs for three months - £54.74 – Chq no 2838
- vii. Information Commissioner-Data protection registration renewal - £35.00 – Chq no 2839
- viii. The Web Orchard.com-Website hosting for 12 months - £228.00 – Chq no 2840
- ix. Cruckton Village Hall-Room Hire - £13.00 – Chq no 2841
- x. Shropshire Council-Room Hire at Mary Webb School - £240.00 – Chq no 2842
- xi. K Davies - Parish Clerk-Salary for July 2017 - payable 31/7/17 - £1,119.10 – Chq no 2844
- xii. K Davies - Parish Clerk-Salary for August 2017 - payable 31/8/17 - £1,119.10 – Chq no 2845

It was proposed by Cllr R Martinali and seconded by Cllr N Hignett and:

RESOLVED that in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and its habitants.

xiii. Shropshire Council - 1st instalment (1 of 4) for contribution to Pontesbury Library- £2,073.75 – Chq no 2842

141.17 INTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT

The Internal Auditor's report for the financial year 2016/17 was considered and the report was **NOTED**. It was proposed by Cllr R Evans and seconded by Cllr J Pritchard and:

RESOLVED to make the following responses:

- i. **Issue 1: This is noted. The specific legal power used was Section 137 which gives Councils the power to incur expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorised**
- ii. **Issue 2: Noted**

142.17 PLAY AREA SAND

Four quotes for sand for the play area were considered. It was proposed by Cllr R Martinali and seconded by Cllr N Lewis and:

RESOLVED to accept the quote of £450 + VAT from Boys and Boden and Nigel Pugh's quote of £215 for which includes £65 for the hire of a mini digger to move the sand.

143.17 REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO USE SCHOOL GREEN

The meeting was advised that the Clerk, in liaison with the Chairman, has approved a request from Rea Valley Scouts to use School Green for promotional event.

NOTED

144.17 APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF PRINTER FOR PARISH CLERK

Various prices and estimated printing costs for printers were considered. It was proposed by Cllr D Fletcher and seconded by Cllr A Hodges and:

RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the purchase of a Samsung ProXpress Multifunction Laser Printer at a cost of £357.32 (inc VAT) from Printerland.co.uk

145.17 PONTESBURY LIBRARY STEERING GROUP

A verbal update was received from Cllr D Fletcher and Cllr R Evans which included details of the Library Strategy Consultation which will be considered at September's meeting.

NOTED

146.17 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Not available.

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

- i. The meeting was advised that Minsterley Parish Council had requested permission for a bench to be installed half way along the cycleway.
- ii. The bus shelter at the Minsterley end of the village is very dirty.
- iii. There is still a problem with overhanging branches by the telephone lines at Whitwell Lane.
- iv. The grass has not been cut back to the side of the footpath through the Station Yard play area as per the specifications.
- v. There is a loose drain cover in Cruckmeole.
- vi. Additional complaints have received about inconsiderate parking by The Plough, Pontesbury which has meant that the milk tanker has not been able to get through.

7.30pm on 11th September 2017 at Mary Webb School and Science College.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

Signed
Chair

Date