

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 August 2022, at Welshampton Parish Hall, starting at 7pm

Formal Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Michael Dinsdale (Chair), Karen Bland, Andrew Haydon, Kathryn Holland, Lawrence Houghton MBE, Sheila Stringer, Chris Symes, Guy Wellsbury and Martin Withington.
Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams
Clerk: Carole Warner.
Members of the Public: 2

104/22 Public Participation Period

A resident referred Councillors to the Annual Financial Report 2021/22 issued to residents and advised the subtotal of receipts for the year was wrong. It was the subtotal of 2020/21. He questioned the competency of the Secretary or Treasurer who had prepared the accounts. When adding up the receipts the figure was clearly wrong. The resident commented on the budget quoted in the document for 2022/23 and it was clear a deficit would occur which was greater than the contingency reserves. He questioned whether planned expenditure would be possible if grant income was not forthcoming during the financial year.

The Chair advised the residents comments would be responded to during the meeting at the appropriate agenda item.

105/22 Apologies for absence:

None

106/22 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022 were approved and signed.

107/22 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a. Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, whether or not the Interest is entered in the Register of Members' Interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.
- b. To consider any requests for Dispensation**
None
- c. **Members were reminded that they are required to declare any acceptance of gifts and hospitality.**

It was agreed to bring forward item 8c

108/22 Annual Financial Report 2021/22

The Clerk referred Councillors to the resident's letter as well as his comments in the public participation time. The Clerk thanked the resident for spotting the typing error and this would be corrected. With respect to the Budget, the Clerk referred to the heading which was Budget and Res

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C/fwd. The expenditure figures included earmarked reserves which were expected to be spent this financial year. The 'deficit' was a transfer from the Council's earmarked reserves. The contingency reserves were not impacted.

The Clerk explained that the accounts were audited both internally and externally and that should give Councillors reassurance that the levels of reserves, both earmarked and contingency, were checked. With respect to grant income, the clerk explained that the Council's income was primarily the precept. She assured the resident that a full written response to his letter would follow.

109/22 Shropshire Council Member's Report

Cllr Williams advised that the head of Development Control was to retire at the end of September. Although the Assistant Director would take responsibility a vacancy was expected in the short term. Cllr Williams advised that the household waste and recycling collections days were to be changed.

110/22 Development in the Parish

a. Decisions Received – to note

- i. 22/01368/VAR Development Land South Of B5063, Welshampton, SY12 0FU
Proposal: Variation of Condition No.s 1 (approved plans), 4 (Bus Stop), 2 and 5 (Landscaping) attached to planning permission 17/03500/REM dated 6 November 2019
Decision: Grant Permission
- ii. 22/01542/FUL Land Opposite Brooklyn, Hampton Wood, Ellesmere
Application for a purpose-built replacement stable block with additional hay loft and office-space at first floor
Decision: Grant Permission

b. Applications Received:

- i. 22/03009/FUL Glendale, Lyneal, Ellesmere, SY12 0LG
Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of single storey front extension
It was resolved to support the application.

111/22 Parish Clerk's Report

a. West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Town and Parish Council Survey 2022

The Clerk advised the deadline for the survey had now passed. However, the Local Policing Community Charter had been relaunched. The Clerk advised she would follow the implications of this with the local Inspector including whether the Police Constable position had been filled following the retirement of the previous incumbent. The Chair asked that follow up on Police action against vehicular anti-social behaviour had taken place.

b. SC/SALC Joint Working Group

Councillors noted the minutes of the latest meeting of the Group of which the Clerk was a member. The Clerk advised she had been asked to join a SALC working group on Emergency Planning, and she hoped that through this group she would identify improvements to the Parish Council's plan

c. CIL Local project

The Clerk advised that the formal start date of the Parish Council's project had been 1 April 2022. She had not received any progress report and she would follow up.

d. Safeguarding Statement

The Clerk explained that Town and Parish Councils had started to publicise their Safeguarding Policy. She explained due to the Council not owning public buildings the Council was not in the same situation. However, she would prepare a statement for consideration by the Council to clarify the position.

112/22 Financial Matters:

a. Balances for information

Noted

b. Outstanding accounts

The following accounts were approved:

C Warner	£641.20
A Russon	£555.00
C Warner	£601.65
Right Sort Ltd	£447.58
SALC	£95.00
Shropshire Council	£200.00
Highline Electrical Ltd	£31.20

113/22 Climate Change, Sustainability and Biodiversity

a. Meeting 19 September

Cllr Bland advised that preparations for the event on 19 September were in progress. Three speakers had been booked. A postcard invitation would be sent to every household, facebook posts would be placed and posters put up around the parish. It was agreed to consider inviting the local MP and Shropshire Council's Cabinet Member.

b. Working Group

Cllr Bland advised the group would be meeting with a resident on August 23rd to hear his presentation. Councillors were invited to attend.

114/22 Action Plan 2022/2023

a. Updates

The Clerk advised that with the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans had not been so popular to produce, and the Community Resource organisation no longer supported them. It was felt that consultation with the community was essential for the Council to act on its behalf and therefore a consultation would take place in spring 2023. The Clerk would circulate old questionnaires for Councillors to review.

The Clerk advised the Council's Performance Review was due having not been carried out in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid impacting the Council's activities. The last Review together with a training analysis would be circulated.

General discussion took place about the management of Colemere by Shropshire Council. The Council considered the management to be extremely poor and areas were being neglected. This was very disappointing considering additional accessible pathways were being installed. Councillors considered Shropshire Council were not keeping the site up to the standards required of the national designations. The Clerk offered to organise a meeting with Shropshire Council officers but further action may be required following the outcome of the meeting.

115/22 Councillor Reports

Cllr Holland reported on the planning training she had attended over 3 sessions which covered all aspects of planning including pre-application negotiations and Neighbourhood Plans. She had also attended the session on Fighting Climate Change held on 25 May.

116/22 Parish Matters

a. Rural Art Hub

The email was noted, and it was agreed to support the Hub in appropriate ways rather than financial.

b. Colemere tree

Cllr Withington had reported a damaged tree on the public space by the phone box and notice board. Shropshire Council had been made aware and officers were researching the ownership of that area.

117/22 Highways.

Cllr Withington reported that weeds were penetrating the recent re-surfacing of the land from Spunhill to the A528.

General discussion took place regarding the importance of regular mowing of verges to allow visibility.

118/22 Shropshire Council Consultations

a. Shropshire's Draft Economic Growth Strategy 2022-2027

General discussion took place regarding the strategy. The Clerk asked Councillors to provide written feedback so a response could be submitted.

b. Draft Empty Homes Strategy

General discussion took place regarding the draft strategy. Councillors considered the Strategy to be one of best in content to achieve its purpose they had seen/read in some time. The policy framework, processes to identify empty homes, initiatives, and enforcement activities were sensible, balanced and realistic. The Clerk was requested to forward the Council's comments to the officers involved.

119/22 Date of future meeting and agenda items: 14 September 2022

120/22 Resolved: That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the item of business numbered 17 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the inclusion of personal nature in the business to be transacted.

103/22 Enforcement Cases

The Clerk updated Councillors on the current enforcement cases.

The Chair, Cllr Dinsdale, declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Date.....