

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 March 2024, at Welshampton Parish Hall, starting at 6.30pm

Formal Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs, Karen Bland (Chair), Michael Dinsdale, Andrew Haydon, Lawrence Houghton MBE, Kathryn Holland, Sheila Stringer, Chris Symes, Martin Withington, and Guy Wellsbury.

Shropshire Councillor: Brian Williams

Clerk: Carole Warner

Members of Public: None

34/24 Public Participation Period

None

35/24 Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Haydon and Symes (accepted).

36/24 Minutes:

The minutes of the Meeting held on 14 February 2024 were approved and signed following amending the time of the meeting to 6.30pm.

37/24 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.

None

38/24 Shropshire Council Member's Report

Cllr Williams summarised key points from Shropshire Council's annual report. He confirmed the Council would commence charging for the collection of green waste. A Councillor asked for clarification of the charge. Cllr Williams replied that had not yet been agreed.

Cllr Williams advised that the Council's expenditure would be focused on adult and children services. He warned that Town and Parish Councils may need to deliver services to compensate for the reduction of other services by Shropshire Council. Councillors questioned Cllr Williams on the range services which could be delivered by local councils and asked for clarification. Councillors were concerned with the responsibility and liability that would follow the delegation.

Clerk: Carole Warner,
Orchard Cottage,
Rowe Lane,
Welshampton,
Ellesmere, SY12 0QB
Tel. 01948 710672
email: clerk@welshamptonandlyneal-pc.gov.uk



Councillors commented that increases in percentage terms can be misleading and should be quoted in monetary figures as well; all residents should be clear where their council tax was being spent and whether a referendum to increase the tax should be held. A Councillor also commented that Shropshire Councillors were paid for their role and local councillors were not. A Councillor questioned the costs of the consultants commissioned by Shropshire Council and duplication of work by consultants and officers.

39/24 Development in the Parish

a. Decisions Received

- i. 23/05539/VAR Plot 7 Juniper Drive, Welshampton SY12 0FU
Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) of Application Reference Number: 17/03500/REM Date of Decision: 06/11/2019
Decision: Grant Permission.

b. Applications Received

The Clerk advised no applications had been received.

40/24 Parish Clerk's Report

a. Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed to hold the meeting on 10 April at 6.30pm.

41/24 Financial Matters:

a. Balances for information

Noted.

b. Outstanding accounts

The following accounts were approved:

C Warner	£740.55
HMRC	£102.32
Right Sort Ltd	£490.63

42/24 Climate Change, Sustainability and Biodiversity

Councillors who were members of the Group advised a meeting was to be take place the following week. There was a preference that meetings should be held in person. Projects already identified included making of bat boxes and of a nature focus. The re-wilding project was continuing.

43/24 Action Plan 2023/2024

The Chair advised that a review of data from the Whitchurch end of A495 VAS showed excessive speeds. Councillors discussed the merits of traffic calming measures and the 20mph limit introduced in Wales. Further discussion with the Police was to be considered.

44/24 Councillor Reports

a. Councillor Surgery

Councillors who attended the surgery were pleased to report that residents had taken the opportunity to meet with them and raise concerns. Comments raised by residents included:

- Planning: The inability of Shropshire Council to follow up on planning consent conditions and potential enforcement cases. Even with enforcement cases it did not appear Shropshire Council progressed them with any speed.
- Highways: The issues with road surfaces had not been helped with the number of incidents of flooding over the autumn/winter. Delivery drivers did not respect the country lanes and ditches were not being maintained. Lyneal was reported to have major issues with access which impacted tourism to the area and the mobile workers, eg hairdressers, who visited the villages.

Councillors discussed Highways issues in more detail including consistency of workmanship and quality control. It was noted that Shropshire Council should pay particular attention to the routes to Colemere as it was an advertised attraction of the county. In particular, Shropshire Council should review the surface of the car park and the road outside Colemere Church as both are in an appalling state. Councillors suggested additional litter bins around Colemere, particularly on the car park itself be requested. Shropshire Council should consider introducing parking charges in order to help maintain the site and pay for better signage and car park surface. Councillors also commented on the siting of the new post box in Welshampton.

It was agreed to provide feedback/updates from the surgeries in the next newsletter.

b. Spunhill Junction Improvements

The Chair advised a very positive meeting had been held with Shropshire Council Traffic Engineering Manager. He had confirmed the required improvements were a top priority. The design of the improvements was being prepared with work planned for the summer. He also confirmed the potential to review a 40-mph limit along the A528. Councillors commented on the dangerous bend (taped off with cones) along the A528.

c. Meetings attended

Cllr Holland reported on the Crowdfunding meeting and the Middle Marches conferences she had attended. Both had been very informative.

45/24 Parish Matters

Councillors discussed Shropshire Council's proposal to close 2 of its 5 re-cycling centres. One could be either Whitchurch or Oswestry. Councillors considered both centres to be busy with helpful staff. The proposed savings of £14k appeared minimal when compared to the need to encourage re-cycling. Closure could also increase the use of bins for landfill. One Councillor reported that Craven Arms residents had started a petition to keep their re-cycling centre.

The Chair advised she would seek feedback from the SALC networking meeting for Chair.

Cllr Williams was asked to talk to colleagues and ascertain what was planned and where refuse tracks would be diverted to the empty their collections.

46/24 Highways.

Cllr Houghton MBE reported on the poor condition of the south lane from Colemere. Farm contractors were also adding to the mud/debris on the lanes.

Cllr Houghton advised feedback had been received on infrastructure improvements which could be agreed under CIL Neighbourhood Funds and would email them to the Clerk.

47/24 Date of future meeting and agenda items: 10 April 2024 to start no earlier than 6.45pm

48/24 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 16 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the inclusion of personal/legal nature in the business to be transacted.

49/24 Planning Discussions

The Clerk updated Councillors on planning issues in the Parish.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed.....

Date.....