

MINUTES
CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING
held in Cardington Village Hall
on
Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Commencing at 8pm

Present:

C'llr Tonks (Chairman), C'llr Norris (Vice Chairman); C'llr Watkins, C'llr Davies; C'llr Seabury; C'llr Maydew;; C'llr Pennington; C'llr Rogers

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Acceptance of Apologies

Shropshire C'llr D Morris and C'llr Boulton both of whom are unwell.

The Chairman opened the meeting wishing everyone a very happy New Year.

1. Public Comments - Limited to 15 minutes

No members of the public attended the meeting.

2. Minutes Meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023

C'llr Watkins told the meeting that it is C'llr Pennington and not C'llr Davies who serves on the AONB (Item 18 of previous Minutes). The Clerk made the amendment which was signed by the Chairman. It was proposed by C'llr Watkins, seconded by C'llr Seabury and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes – Clerk to report for information only

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda.

4. Correspondence

The Clerk circulates all correspondence as it is received. This included the following:-

- Notice of Public Footpath Diversion (FP621 (Part) Parish of Cardington). This was forwarded to all Councillors on 9th November. The owner of the land was contacted and confirmed they were aware of the diversion. The Parish Council did not comment.
- Shropshire Council Briefing Note – Ash Die back grants available.
- PCC Budget Survey
- PCC Safer Roads Grants Round 21 Launch
- Coronation Community Orchard Scheme and other grants for trees.

5. Broadband Update

The Chairman told the meeting that he had asked for an update in December, he was given a new contact and to date he has not received an update. C'llr Norris told the meeting that work appeared to be very slow at Gretton and the vouchers will soon be out of date. The Chairman agreed to chase with this information.

The Chairman told the meeting that the landowner has agreed a new location for the proposed base station.

6. Finance

(a) Parish Council Bankers

The Clerk told the meeting that Barclays had still not opened a new account. The Clerk outlined the action she had taken to date, which involved hours on the phone trying to sort out the new account. Actions since the last meeting include the following:-

- 8th November the Clerk scanned and forwarded by e mail all the personal detail forms for all Councillors.
- 10th November Barclays sent a new typed out Appointment of Bankers form, this contained exactly the same information as the hand written form submitted. This required C'Ilr Norris and the Clerk's signature. This was signed, scanned and returned by e mail to Barclays on 13th November
- 14th November Barclays asked for more detail for the personal forms for C'Ilr Pennington, Maydew and Davies such as the time they had lived at their address and e mail addresses etc. All this information was returned by e mail the same day.
- 7th December Barclays requested information about the Executive Committee. The Clerk e mailed the list of Councillors taken from Shropshire Council web site and from the Parish Council web site and explained that they were elected Councillors and did not really constitute an Executive Committee.
- 14th December e mail from Barclays requested further information about the Executive Committee. In this e mail they assumed that all Councillors formed the Executive Committee.
- 20th December Barclays sent an e mail requesting the personal detail forms for C'Ilr Pennington and C'Ilr Maydew and these were forwarded by e mail on that day.
- 20th December an e mail stating that the following Councillors were requested to go into a branch to prove their identity, by taking either a passport or driving licence and a utility bill in their name less than three months old. The Councillors they were asking for this information are as follows:-
James Norris (He does bank with Barclays and this should not be necessary)
Clive Tonks
John Davies
Daniel Boulton
Christopher Maydew
Steven Pennington
Andrew Seabury
They have not mentioned Victoria Rogers (who does bank with Barclays) or Daniel Watkins (who does bank with Barclays)

In the meantime the Clerk has taken up an official complaint with Barclays (Complaint No. CRGQPGZ33H).

A further e mail was received on 31st December stating "considering the situation and timescales I will only require Mr Norris and Mr Tonks to provide their identification and verification documents to a local Barclays branch. The Clerk replied to question if Mr. Norris has to prove his identity as he is already a Barclays customer. The Clerk also questioned the need for C'Ilr Tonks to visit a branch as he visited the Branch in Shrewsbury mid 2023 to prove his identity for the account which was closed in October 2023. However, Barclays had confirmed that C'Ilr Tonks and C'Ilr Norris were required to visit a branch to prove their identity before the account can be opened. The Clerk handed them a letter from Barclays and a copy of the personal detail form they had previously completed to take to the bank which gave the bank staff instructions to prove

the identities. Both agreed to visit a branch as soon as possible.

After speaking to SALC the Clerk has investigated opening a account with alternative banks. However, not many banks will open Community Accounts. The banks contacted to date are as follows:-

- Halifax – will not open a community or a basic bank account for Parish Councils
- Lloyds – will not open new community accounts
- Nat West – do open community accounts. However, one of the signatories on the account have to have a personal account with Nat West. The Clerk did send an e mail to all Councillors on 14th December and those who have replied to date do not bank with Nat West
- TSB – No longer open community accounts
- HSBC – do open this type of account and the Clerk filled in an application form to open an account. To date there has been no response. C'Ilr Norris told the meeting that he does have an account with HSBC.

In the meantime the Clerk has the cheque in the sum of £16,583.93 from the account Barclays closed. This is dated 16th October and will need to be banked before it is out of date on 6th April.

As Barclays seem near to opening an account it was proposed by C'Ilr Seabury seconded by C'Ilr Norris and unanimously agreed that if Barclays open the account the Clerk will not pursue opening an account with HSBC at this time.

(b) Invoices to Pay

The Clerk told the January meeting that following cheques are due for payment:-

HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £108.60,
Clerk Salary and Expenses Oct/Nov £457.18.

The Clerk told the meeting that, to date, she had been unable to open a new bank account, as reported below.. Therefore the payments agreed at the November had not been paid, as follows:

Tax due on Clerk's salary £108.80,
Clerk Salary and Expenses Oct/Nov £473.23.
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £50

The Clerk told the meeting that she had spoken to SALC who had agreed to pay any outstanding accounts until the Parish Council can open an account, and invoice the Parish Council for payment made on their behalf as soon as an account is open. However, SALC can only make bank transfers and not issue cheques. It was therefore proposed by C'Ilr Norris, seconded by C'Ilr Seabury and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would request that SALC arrange a bank transfer to the Clerk for the salary amounts due at the November and January meetings in the sums of £473.23 and £457.18. The payments to HMRC and the Royal British Legion would have to wait until the new account is open and a cheque book received.

(c) Agree Asset Register

The asset register was last reviewed at the March, 2023 meeting. It was proposed by C'Ilr Pennington, seconded by C'Ilr Davies and unanimously

agreed that the asset register would remain at £743. This was then signed by the Chairman to agree the review.

(d) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the bank reconciliation at the November meeting, which showed a balance of £16,583.93 before the account was closed on 16th October. As payments could not be made after that date and the Clerk is holding the cheque payable to Cardington Parish Council in the sum of £16,583.93 the position remains unchanged.

(e) Agree 2024/25 Precept

The Clerk advised the meeting that in order to show a 0% increase in the Band D Council Tax charge the precept requirements for 2024/25 would need to be £7,323 compared to £7,260 in 2023/24. For every extra £100 claimed there would be an increase of 47p or £4,73 for every additional £1,000 claimed.

The Clerk had forwarded a working sheet with the Agenda for the meeting which showed the 2023/24 precept, and the estimated out-turn. After much discussion it was proposed by C'llr Davies, seconded by C'llr Pennington and unanimously agreed to apply a 7.5% increase given a precept of £7,800. This is an increase of £477 measured against the £7,323 and would result in an increase for the Parish of £2.24 for a band D property.

7. Planning:

(a) Decisions on previously discussed applications:

Request from resident to confirm local connection – Local Needs Housing application

The Clerk told the January meeting that she had written to the Housing Enabling Officer at Shropshire Council on 8th November to confirm the local connection, as agreed at the November meeting.

23/04750/TCA – No. 25 Cardington

To remove 1 No. Grand Fir (T1) and 1 No. Silver Birch (T2) within Cardington Conservation Area. This was discussed at the November meeting when it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman, C'llr Tonks and C'llr Boulton would have delegated powers to visit the site and make any comments to the Clerk if they agreed comments should be posted on the planning portal. The Clerk told the January meeting that, following the site visit, she had been instructed and had posted comments on the planning portal on 12th November to say “ following a site site visit when accompanied by the applicant and the tree surgeon, the Parish Council support this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that the decision dated 1st December showed the decision as “Consent by Right - Trees”

23/04752/TCA – The Rectory, Cardington

To remove 1 No. Douglas Fir (T1) and 1 No. Sycamore (T2) within Cardington Conservation Area. This was discussed at the November meeting when it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman, C'llr Tonks and C'llr Boulton would have delegated powers to visit the site and make any comments to the Clerk if they agreed comments should be posted on the planning portal. The Clerk told the January meeting that, following the site visit, she had been instructed and had posted comments on the planning portal on 12th November to say “ following a site site visit when accompanied by the applicant and the tree surgeon, the Parish Council support this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that the decision dated 1st December showed the decision as “Consent by Right - Trees”

(b) Applications considered between meetings using delegated powers

23/04853/FUL Red House Farm, Longville

Erection of a replacement dwelling. This application was received and forwarded to Councillors on 17th November. A previous application had been withdrawn. Councillors had attended a site visit for the previous application and are familiar with

the site. After the Councillors had consulted the Clerk was asked to support the application making the following comments, which were posted on the planning portal on 24th November:-

“Cardington Parish Council support the application for a replacement dwelling at Red House Farm. They appreciate the need to improve local housing to meet modern levels of comfort, access and insulation - leading to healthier homes with lower energy use. The Parish Council agree in this instance that a replacement dwelling is the best way to achieve this as the existing farmhouse is not of the best construction and is of no architectural merit. This support is for a replacement dwelling not an additional dwelling and they would ask for a condition to be applied to any permission saying that the original dwelling is to be demolished on completion of the new dwelling”

The Clerk told the January meeting that this is shown as Awaiting a Decision.

(c) Clerk to report any other planning before matters including any new planning applications received just the meeting.

No other applications have been received

8. Highways

a. Highway Maintenance Scheme : Update

C'llr Norris confirmed that J Dale was carrying out the environmental maintenance work.

b. Progress on Highway Matters reported

The following defects were reported at the May meeting:-

- C'llr Boulton had previously reported that the Scarlet Oak Tree opposite the Pub in Cardington seems to be in a poor state. It was agreed at the September meeting that some of the dead branches would be cut back in the hope that this would stimulate new growth. C'llr Norris confirmed that this work had been carried out.
- C'llr Norris had previously reported that the hedges on either side of the road leading to Chatwall were now overhanging at the top and meeting in the middle of the road making a tunnel for road users to pass through. The hedge on the road from Ley Hill to Chatwall was leaning over into the highway for approximately a 400 metre length of the roadway. The Clerk reported this to Shropshire Council on 11th September, and did not receive any feedback, and contacted Shropshire Council again on 27th October. Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris agreed to chase this up. The Clerk had contacted Shropshire Council again in December but to date had not received a reply. It was proposed C'llr Norris, seconded by C'llr Davies and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would write to the landowner and contact Shropshire C'llr Dan Morris.

c. Any further Highway Matters

C'llr A report was received of deep pot holes and blocked drains on the bank at Enchmarsh. It was agreed that C'llr Boulton would be asked to report this on FixMyStreet,

It was proposed by C'llr Norris, seconded by C'llr Davies and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would write to the landowner who had constructed a dam in the stream which resulted in flooding by the Royal Oak, to ask him to clear the obstruction. .

The Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council to ask when gullies would be cleared in the Parish.

9. Church Wall – Future Repairs

It was agreed at the September meeting that quotes would be obtained from suitably qualified contractors.

Two quotations which were presented to the November meeting. The quotations were for re-pointing a section of the church wall from the top gate to approximately halfway towards the lower gateway totalling 40m² (25 metre lineal section of wall) and replace any damaged or missing stones. This work would be funded from burial fees held by the Parish Council, as reported in Item 6 above. .

At the November meeting it was agreed that the lesser quote provided by Mr. H Walters would be accepted and the Clerk had written to instruct him to commence work in the spring and liaise with C'Ilr Norris before commencing work. The Clerk had also written to the unsuccessful tenderer thanking him for the quote but advising that a lower estimate had been accepted.

10. Local Crime and Police Liaison

The Clerk told the meeting that the PCC John Campion had agreed to attend the March meeting. He had asked for details of specific incidents the parish Council wish to discuss. These will be provided prior to the meeting.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had received an e mail from the CSO Lyn Birch asking for dates for the 2024 Parish Council meetings. This has been forwarded.

The Clerk forwarded an e mail on 16th November which gave the results of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioners Survey.

11. Shropshire Council Report

C'Ilr D Morris is unwell and unable to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting he circulated the following report:-

I note the meeting with the PCC John Campion for 5th March 2024 at 730, and I am pleased that he will now be attending in person.

Shropshire Council's Strategic Licensing Committee is due to debate whether the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2023-2027 should be changed to permit the display of the Union Flag on taxis (hackney carriages) and private hire vehicles and for the purposes of promoting any private hire operator business or any business offering taxi or private hire vehicle services. The committee meeting will be held on 11 January 2024 at 10am. If anyone wishes to attend the committee meeting in person, they can do so at Shirehall in Shrewsbury, and there will also be the opportunity to watch/hear the proceedings online via the livestream. Anyone wishing to submit a public question in relation to this matter must do so in no more than 250 words and must ensure the question is submitted to Shropshire Council no later than 5pm on 5 January 2024.

Following weeks of public consultation this autumn, the first in a series of planning applications for the Smithfield Riverside regeneration project in Shrewsbury is now submitted. Led by Shropshire Council and its development manager, Rivington Hark, Smithfield Riverside is the ambitious regeneration project set to transform the area between the River Severn, Darwin Centre, Roushill and Raven Meadows in Shrewsbury town centre. The first of four 'phase one' planning applications has now been submitted. Funded by almost £19 million of Levelling Up money from UK Government, the plans, if approved, would see the demolition of the Riverside shopping centre and former Riverside medical practice. This would pave the way for key enabling works, clearing the site and creating a landmark new public park adjacent to Roushill – helping to

breathe new life into the area, creating a green and attractive public meeting place, and improve biodiversity in the town centre.

Shropshire Councils adult social care small preventative grant fund will be open for applications in January 2024 for grants of up to £4,000, for community-based organisations in Shropshire that support wellbeing and independence. The council will be looking to grant fund activity supporting residents to remain independent and physically and mentally well, with the aim to prevent avoidable admissions into hospital or from reaching a crisis. Funding will be available for activity to be delivered between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. It is aimed at voluntary organisations and community groups working in Shropshire, and for those wishing to start up new initiatives. All applicants will need to demonstrate how their proposed activity supports The Shropshire Plan. Eighteen organisations were awarded grants in 2023, totalling over £40,000.

Shropshire Council has welcomed the announcement by the Marches LEP that conditions for securing LEP funding for the planned Oxon Link Road in Shrewsbury have been met. This will secure £4m of funding towards the costs of the Oxon Link Road which would connect the A5 to the planned North West Relief Road, which, along with the Oxon Link Road, secured planning permission in October subject to conditions. The Oxon Link Road will help enable the Shrewsbury West Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) which is proposed to be mixture of new homes and businesses at Shelton on the outskirts of Shrewsbury.

Shropshire Council's budget plans remain unchanged after the Government confirms the financial settlement for local councils on Monday 18 December 2023. The announcement confirmed a 6.5% increase in funding, which will be delivered through a 4.99% increase in council tax (which includes a 2% adult social care precept), government grants and business rates. For the average home in Shropshire (Band D) this equates to £1.57 increase in Council Tax per week.

A consultation has now launched on Council plans to reduce what it spends while delivering on the priorities in The Shropshire Plan and bring its budget into balance to become a modern, efficient and sustainable council. In the current financial year the council has already identified £41m towards the current spending reductions target of £51.4m, mainly by changing how the council deliver services. However, this hasn't stopped a rising tide of demand for social care for the most vulnerable adults and children in Shropshire, which already accounts for around £4 of every £5 spent. It means that the council still need to find further ways to reduce its spend by around £50 million next year. This is in spite of us proposing to raise council tax by 4.99% as the Government's own funding calculations expect us to. The challenges are made harder because of some of Shropshire's unique characteristics. For example, it costs more to run many services in such a large and sparsely populated county. Shropshire also has a larger older population than many other places in the UK, a group that is only getting bigger as people live longer and, often, need more social care support. Feedback from the consultation will inform the final budget proposals which will come back to Full Council in February. The consultation is available at www.shropshire.gov.uk/budget24 and runs until Sunday 28 January 2024.

Shropshire Council has been successful in its application for £3.4m of funding from the Government to help rough sleepers gain access to accommodation. The Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP) funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC), aims to

address gaps in specialised supported accommodation for those with a long history of sleeping rough and with complex needs, by funding accommodation with high levels of support. Working in partnership with housing and support providers, the council will oversee the creation of 42 units of supported housing across three schemes for single people with a history of rough sleeping and longer-term support needs; as well as younger people aged 18-25 at risk of or experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping. People will stay in this accommodation and receive personalised support until they are ready to take the next step to independent living.

Shropshire Council's new on-demand bus service was officially launched Monday 4 December 2023, initially in two zones, and with plans in place to expand the service on a zone-by-zone basis. It follows a four-week period in which people were able to try the service for free. Operated by Shropshire Council, Shropshire Connect On-Demand has replaced the 544 (Shrewsbury to Lyth Hill) and 546 (Shrewsbury to Pulverbatch) bus services which were fully funded by the council but have, over a period of time, seen a reduction in passengers. It's also providing links to the new residential developments at Oteley Road in Shrewsbury, not currently served by public transport.

20mph speed limits are set to be introduced outside selected Shropshire schools from next year, as part of the first phase of a Shropshire Council programme. In 2020, the council approved my backbench motion to council for the development of a programme for introducing 20mph speed restrictions, where existing highway conditions suggest it would be appropriate to do so. A programme of data collection and feasibility work got under way in May 2021 – following the disruption to traffic caused by the pandemic – at all council-maintained schools and academies that do not currently have a mandatory 20mph speed limit. The data collected for each school has been used to determine locations where a 20mph speed restriction could deliver benefits and what type of 20mph speed restriction would be most appropriate. A forward programme of design and delivery work has been developed, and the council will now start to carry out engagement with the first batch of schools, as well as the local councillors whose divisions the schools fall in. Following this, engagement will be carried out with local communities to seek their comments.

More than 100 Shropshire schools and colleges have now taken up Shropshire Council's offer of a free pedestrian salt spreader and salt, to treat icy pavements near their school during spells of wintry weather. The first to take up the invitation was Castlefields Primary in Bridgnorth, who have been using their spreader (named Spready Mercury following a school competition) since last year. Since the start of 2023 a further 100 schools and colleges have requested a spreader and salt. Each school has received a spreader, and will also get one tonne of salt.

Grant funding has allowed more than £300,000 to be invested in projects reducing Shropshire Council's carbon footprint and increasing energy efficiency. The Sustainable Energy in Public Buildings (SEPuBu) programme, led by Herefordshire Council in partnership with Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council, and supported by the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, has enabled the installation of over 1.68m kWhs of new renewable energy generation capacity and an annual decrease of 509 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

12. Natural Landscapes

C'Ilr Pennington told the meeting that the AONB had been re-branded and is now

known as Natural Landscapes. He told the meeting that they would continue to push for the "Shropshire Hills" identity as opposed to National Park status. Only a few representatives on Natural Landscapes are Parish Councillors and C'llr Pennington is the only farmer.

It is anticipated that funding may be available for Acton Scott to reopen and it was agreed that this would be good for the local economy.

13. Date of Next scheduled meeting

Tuesday 5th March. The Annual Meeting will commence at 7.30pm and John Campion the PCC will attend this meeting and the item will be first on the Agenda. This will be followed by the Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk circulated dates for the remaining 2024 Meetings, which have been forwarded to the village hall bookings, as follows:-

Tuesday 30th April Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 2nd July

Tuesday 3rd September

Tuesday 5th November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40pm