

**MINUTES  
CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
held in Cardington Village Hall  
on  
7th January 2025**

**Present:**

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

Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

Shropshire C'llr D. Morris

Mr A Wilde, Head of Highways at Shropshire Council

31 members of the public attended the meeting for Item 8(a). 2 members of the public attended the meeting for Item 7(c) and 3 members of the public stayed for the duration of the meeting.

**Acceptance of Apologies**

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

The Police were hoping to attend the meeting for item 12. However, due to the weather conditions they had sent their apologies and sent a report to the Clerk. They hope to attend the March meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting. Item 8(a) was brought forward to the start of the meeting to allow Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris to leave as he had another meeting to attend. Also Andy Wilde from Shropshire Council left the meeting after this item was discussed.

**1. Public Comments Limited to 15 minutes**

A member of the public, who had contacted the Clerk requesting that the Cyprus tree in the churchyard is felled as it suffered damage in a recent storm and could impact on nearby properties, he explained that he thought the tree should be removed. The Chairman told the meeting that this would be discussed under Item 10

**2. Minutes Meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2024**

It was the proposed by C'llr Boulton, seconded by C'llr Pennington and unanimously

agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> 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 as listed below:

- Confirmed Police priorities for the quarter, being theft from farms, outbuildings and properties
- List of SALC training courses 2025
- SALC Weekly briefings
- Local Nature Recovery – Meeting in Edgton Village Hall 8.1.25. Circulated to all Councillors on 18.12.24
- E mail from Rights of Way Officer, Shropshire Council concerning Emergency Footpath closure in the parish. Received and forwarded to all Councillors on 13.12.24. A further e mail had been received on 1.1.25

and forwarded to all Councillors advising that the closure would be extended by a further six months.

- Fire Service Consultation received and forwarded to all Councillors on 21.11.24
- Shropshire Council Fly Tipping briefing note received and forwarded to all councillors on 11.11.24
- C'Ilr Watkins confirmed that he would attend the Planning Training session being held in conjunction with the CPRE on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The Clerk would confirm that he was attending. However, following the meeting C'Ilr Watkins sent an e mail to the Clerk saying he was unable to attend as he would be in London on that day.

## **5. Voneus Broadband Service and local Whatsapp Group**

The Chairman told the meeting that there had been problems with outages in the village. Some residents in the parish had expressed concern about service, particularly those residents still receiving the signal from masts. It is understood that Voneus may have lost the contract for further roll outs. The Chairman told the meeting that C'Ilr Heather Kidd had been raising issues with Voneus. The Clerk was asked to contact C'Ilr Kidd to add our concerns and question the likely impact of the contract loss on existing customers.

## **6. Finance**

### **(a) Accounts due for payment**

The following cheques were due for payment

- Clerk's salary, including back back to April 2024 as agreed at the November meeting plus expenses £573.68 cheque No 100026
- HMRC Tax due on Clerk's salary £139 cheque No 100027
- Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee £40 Cheque No 100028
- H Walters invoice for repairs to Church wall. £4,000 Cheque No. 100029

It was proposed by C'Ilr Boulton, seconded by C'Ilr Watkins and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

### **(b) Bank Reconciliation**

The Clerk circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts amounting to £17,018.24 (This would be less £4,000 with the invoice for the church wall repairs presented to the meeting tonight)

It was proposed by C'Ilr Watkins, seconded by C'Ilr Boulton and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation was then signed by C'Ilr Watkins.

C'Ilr Norris told the meeting that the tree which fell in the churchyard in the recent storm had been purchased and removed. £350 had been paid in cash and this was handed to the Clerk to deposit at the bank and would be included in the bank reconciliation presented to the March meeting.

### **(c) Agree 2025/26 Precept**

The Clerk told the meeting that the precept claimed for 2024/25 was £7,800 and for every additional £100 claimed for 2025/26 would show an annual increase of 45p per band D property and every additional £1,000 increase would show a £4.50 increase per annum. Likewise, for every £100 decrease in precept claimed would see a reduction of 45p per annum for a Band D property or a reduction of £4.50 for every £1,000 decrease.

The Clerk circulated a working sheet showing the precept claimed each year since 2019/20 and also showing the expected out-turn against the 2024/25 Precept. It was proposed by C'Ilr Davies, seconded by C'Ilr Boulton and unanimously agreed that the 2025/26 would be £8,770. this would be a £970 increase on the 2024/25 precept.

## **7. Planning**

### **(a) Decisions on previously discussed applications:**

#### 24/2805/FUL Unit 2, Holt Preen Manor Barns, Plaish

Conversion of a stone barn (Unit 2 barn) to 1 No. dwelling, including infilling of the mid section of the first floor of the curtilage of lusted building. This application was received on 13<sup>th</sup> August and forwarded to all Councillors. This was discussed at the September meeting when it was proposed by C'Ilr Seabury, seconded by C'Ilr Boulton and unanimously agreed that as the issues the Parish Council raised when commenting on a previous application which was refused, seem to have been addressed in the latest application the Parish Council would support this application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application was granted on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

#### 24/04186/AGR Land North of the Old Kennels, Plaish

Proposed erection of general purpose agricultural storage building. This agricultural application was received on 31<sup>st</sup> October and sent to the Parish Council for information only. This was forwarded to all Councillors on 31<sup>st</sup> October. This was discussed. In Item 1 Public Comments, at the November meeting when residents expressed concerns as they will be adversely affected by the application. At the November meeting it was proposed by C'Ilr Davies, seconded by C'Ilr Pennington and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would comment on this application and ask that as residents are affected by the proposals that consideration is given to this being a full application. The Planning Department agreed that prior approval was required and a new Agricultural application was submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> November and approved on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

#### 24/4174/FUL Plaish Park Cottages, Gretton

Erection of single storey extension and conversion of garage into hobby room and spare bedroom. This application was received on the day of the November meeting and forwarded to all Councillors. It was agreed that C'Ilr Seabury would arrange a site visit and forward agreed comments to the Clerk. Following this site visit the Clerk was instructed to post comments on the planning portal saying the Parish Council had no objections to the application. The Clerk told the January meeting that this application is shown as pending consideration".

### **(b) Applications considered between meetings using delegated powers**

No applications were considered between meetings.

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

#### 24/04813/FUL Court Farm, Gretton

Proposed Local Needs dwelling. The Parish Council had previously confirmed the local connection of the applicant. C'Ilr Norris declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room when this item was discussed. The members of the public attending the meeting explained that this was their application and outlined the plans. A site visit by Councillors had taken place earlier in the day. It was proposed by C'Ilr Seabury, seconded by C'Ilr Watkins and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objections and would support this application,

## **8 Highways**

### **a. Collapsed Culverts**

This item was discussed at the start of the meeting to allow Shropshire Councillor D. Morris and Mr Andy Wilde, Shropshire Council Highways to leave the meeting after this item was discussed.

The Chairman gave an introduction to the meeting and the members of the public present explaining the problems and the steps taken to try to resolve the problem. The Chairman explained that there were two separate sites where culverts have collapsed. The first being the damage to the culvert under the road from Cardington to Stone Acton. This was first reported and the Chairman has been in contact with Shropshire Councillor D.Morris and Shropshire Council Highways Department since

November. The road has been closed since November which is causing considerable disruption to residents, collections and deliveries and having a huge impact on local business resulting in additional costs with this road closed. Despite numerous requests by the Chairman the road closure had not been implemented to stop vehicles travelling towards Cardington only to be met by the collapsed culvert and having to reverse a quarter of a mile or so.

The Chairman had also made repeated requests to Shropshire Council to clear the debris fallen into the stream as this impedes the flow of water which during heavy storms could cause flooding to local properties.

Andy Wilde from Shropshire Council responded and told the meeting that his team will identify the location where additional road closure signs are needed and signs would be erected by the end of this week. He explained the financial restrictions on the highway budget and C'llr D Morris told the meeting that when he was elected in 2017 under 60% of the total revenue budget was spent on child and adult social care and now 80% of this budget was needed to provide this care which is a statutory duty. As a result other services, including highways are being squeezed.

Andy Wilde told the meeting that he was aware of the two structures in the Parish which have failed in recent heavy storms (this one and the one on the Ley Hills road). However, he explained that during the two recent heavy storms a total of twelve structures have failed and this has a considerable impact and has stretched the finite resources available. Climate change and recent storms are having an effect on assets which is putting an additional burden on real time funding.

Andy Wilde went on to explain that his team react to problems and deal with them as they see appropriate. They recognise that the collapsed culvert on the road to Stone Acton needs urgent attention and he told the meeting that before any work can commence in water courses there first has to be an ecological survey, which is Government legislation, and he confirmed that this work has already started. This could take a matter of weeks. He assured the meeting that he had adjusted the highways capital programme to allow this work to commence as soon as possible and he assured the meeting that he intended to fast track the work as he recognised the impact this was having on the Parish, It is anticipated that the work will be completed by the Spring and he agreed to keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

The collapsed culvert on the road to Ley Hills was then discussed. The Chairman explained that with two roads closed in the Parish the only route out to Church Stretton and the south was via Gilberries Lane and this road is in a very poor state and not designed or capable of taking the heavy use it is now forced to take. As this is now the main route from the Parish a request was made for this lane to be added to the routine gritting schedule and the blocked drain at the intersection with the main Church Stretton to Wenlock road is cleared as soon as possible as it is causing ponding, As a result of which causes the road to be impassable to light traffic and when iced over puts vehicles at serious risk of sliding downhill on to the main road carrying fast traffic. A member of the public offered to unblock the drain.

Andy Wilde agreed to instruct his team to inspect Gilberries Lane and look at solutions for the collapse on the Ley Hills road. A member of the public told the meeting that he may be able to help with temporary solutions to enable the Ley Hills road to be opened. His details will be passed to Shropshire Council.

Members of the public were then invited to make comments and many expressed frustration and concern at the amount of time it was taking to carry out these repairs and gave examples of how they or their local businesses were being affected.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to C'llr D Morris and Andy Wilde from Shropshire Council Highways for attending the meeting.

#### **b. Other Highways Matters**

- Problems on Gilberries Lane, now being the major route out of the area had been discussed in item 8(a)
- A large pot hole by the sub station on the road leading to Leebotwood was reported and would be reported on Fix My street.

- C'llr Boulton told the meeting that as many people as possible should report problems on Fix My Street as it was thought the more reports received may result in faster action. Where reporting potholes it was important that the depth of the pot hole was reported and photographed.

#### **c. Any further Highway Matters**

No other highway issues were reported

#### **9. Lord Lieutenants Garden Party - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The Chairman proposed that Mr Robin Maydew be nominated to attend the Garden Party. C'llr Rogers seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would forward this nomination.

#### **10. Church Wall Repairs**

C'llr Norris told the November meeting that this work had now been completed. Compliments had been received from local residents. C'llr Norris gave the invoice for the work to the January meeting and this was paid.

At the November meeting it was unanimously agreed that a quotation for the remaining stretch of wall, fronting the Parish Council part of the churchyard, would be obtained for consideration at the January meeting. C'llr Norris handed the quotation to the Clerk in the sum of £5,250. It was unanimously agreed that a decision to go ahead with further repairs would be deferred and agreed at a later date.

C'llr Norris handed the Clerk £350 in cash which was payment for the recent Yew Tree which had been damaged in the recent storm. The Clerk agreed to bank this cash the following day.

The tree the resident had asked to be removed from the churchyard was discussed. It was agreed that a site visit to establish the state of this tree and any works to remove it would be arranged.

The Chairman told the meeting that a resident had also expressed concern that the beech tree in the church yard could cause damage to local properties if this fell. It was agreed that this tree would also be looked at when the site visit is carried out..

The Clerk agreed to look at the Insurance schedule to make sure that the Church yard was included in the cover.

#### **11. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day Celebrations Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2025.**

The Chairman told the meeting that the History Group were planning to recognise the VE Day celebrations. C'llr Norris told the meeting that it may be possible to arrange a gathering of vintage vehicles. It was agreed that any decision would be deferred until the March meeting when it would be known if the Village Hall committee had any plans to celebrate VE Day.

#### **12. Update on local criminal activity**

The Clerk asked for an update on recent crime in the parish. The Police had supplied a report which was read out to the meeting.

#### **13. Shropshire Council Report**

C'llr D. Morris agreed to forward a report to the Clerk and the Clerk would circulate to all Councillors.

#### **13. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March (Annual Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting)  
commencing at 7.30pm.

The dates of the remaining 2025 meetings, as follows:-

13<sup>th</sup> May Annual General Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> July

2<sup>nd</sup> September

4<sup>th</sup> November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm