

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting  
for Cardington Parish  
held on  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Present:-**

C'Ilr C Tonks (Chairman); C'Ilr A Seabury (Vice Chairman); C'Ilr S Pennington; C'Ilr J Norris; C'Ilr Maydew, C'Ilr McMillan; C'Ilr V Rogers; C'Ilr A Roberts; C'Ilr R Davies

C'Ilr Dan Morris

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies. All Councillors were present at the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018.**

It was proposed by C'Ilr Rogers, seconded by C'Ilr Davies and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018 provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Reports:**

**a. Chairman's Report – Cllr Tonks**

Very sadly due to ill-health Cllr. Tim Barker declined to take the Chair and later resigned from the Council whilst planning to leave the area. I therefore somewhat reluctantly found myself chairing the PC for a sixth year in succession but wish to again record our thanks to Tim for all the work he did on behalf of the community he served both as a County and Parish Councillor.

Following Tim's resignation we were pleased to welcome Mr. Andy Roberts who had stood unopposed for election following a request from ten members of the public.

We are all aware that following the financial crisis of 2008 successive Governments have continually adopted cost cutting strategies that have progressively impacted on Public Services. Adverse impacts are felt at local level most notably in the NHS and services funded by the County Council. Our Cllr. Dan Morris has kept the PC informed of the pressures and resultant service reductions that have been made and has also been helpful in advocating our priority needs. Dan arranged a visit to the Parish by our MP, Daniel Kawczynski, who besides meeting

residents informally met a number who had requested a specific conversation.

The PC was represented at a “Future Fit” meeting as part of the seemingly never-ending democratic process to determine the future of the NHS in the County. After some six years of costly debate it is hoped that words will soon be replaced by positive action including a £320m capital investment.

Following the severe winter of 2017-18 and in common with much of the country road conditions were further reduced to poor and in numerous places dangerous conditions. Grit bins which had been emptied due to usage during December 2017 were not refilled despite requests. Several representations were made and with the assistance of Dan Morris meetings were convened with the SC’s most senior management and with Cllr Steve Davenport who has the SC cabinet responsibility for highways. The PC was assured that the issues raised including the process for reporting defects, the total lack of response, the apparent lack of management of contractors and especially their sub-contractors, and a culture of poor productivity were recognized and being addressed. The PC was informed that the management team was to be reorganized with new appointments and aided by a new IT system from mid-2019 a new culture will be developed. More recently grit bins have been refilled and the local area has seen significant resurfacing. A note of appreciation has been forwarded to Messrs. Davenport and Brown which was appreciated by them.

The proposal to refurbish and enlarge the footbridge along the lane to Willstone has been a further source of frustration. After an extended period of consideration the PC was advised that CIL money could not be legally used and SC advised a process that would be at the PC’s expense and eventually lead to a quotation. It was pointed out that the SC process was entirely unjustifiable and more appropriate for a bridge over the River Severn or possibly the Amazon. Cllr. Steve Davenport accepted the criticism and undertook to find a resolution to the issue.

Having acquired the “Red Telephone Box” the PC extended gratitude to Jim and Sarah Noblet who had cleaned the box and painted the exterior. Thanks are also due to Cllrs. John MacMillan and Victoria Stokes for their work to fit out the box so besides being attractive it becomes a source of local information primarily for the many walkers and other visitors to village.

Throughout the year the PC has studied a range of planning applications, discussed the proposals with immediate neighbours and have not found cause to raise any objections although have on occasions forwarded comments.

In my report last year I drew attention to my concern that some 75% of the precept was unavoidably being spent merely on PC administration.

Questioning whether the community would believe that to be good value I sought to stimulate a debate as to whether the PC should be disbanded or the use of 75% of the precept on administration was regarded as the justifiable cost of local democracy. Given few members of the Public ever attend PC meetings and perhaps even fewer read PC papers the only debate that resulted was among Cllrs. The clerk informed us that we could not disband and if we all resigned SC would be obligated to hold an election. In the event no-one stood the SC would appoint a minimum number of Cllrs. to run the PC. Whilst there was some support for disbanding given the lack of our powers and our running cost it was felt on balance that the community would not support our duties being performed by appointees of the SC.

The website ([www.cardingtonparishcouncilshropshire.co.uk](http://www.cardingtonparishcouncilshropshire.co.uk)) now contains all Parish Council documents which are therefore available to anyone to view. To date no other group has taken up the opportunity to use the website and currently the original website run on a voluntary basis by David Elliott is still in operation.

I would wish to conclude by thanking my fellow Cllrs and particularly our clerk, Mrs Jennie Griffiths, for their support and moreover for all their efforts on behalf of the community throughout the past year.

The Chairman agreed to circulate the report to all Councillors.

**b. Financial Report – Clerk Mrs Jennie Griffiths**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 the Parish Council carried forward £14,724.85. This included the following sums:-

Balance of CIL Money £1,599.16  
Set aside for Church Wall £5,675  
Highways Maintenance Grant £2,262  
Burial fees £1,720  
Transparency Fund £1,298  
Actual p/c Carry forward £2,168.73

During the year the Parish Council reclaimed £108.26 VAT on 2017/18 expenditure.

The Parish Council also set a precept for 2018/19 in the sum of £4,500 and this was received in April 2018.

After payments tonight the Parish Council will carry forward £5,964.91 at the end of March.

This is made up of the following:-

Balance of CIL money £1,599.16  
Burial fees £1720  
Balance in Transparency Fund £1,248.03

Parish Council carry forward at the end of March 2019 £1,397.72

The movement in the Parish Council carry forward is £771.01.

When you look at this figure in isolation it would appear the Parish Council have overspent £771.01 again 2018/19 precept. However, there is £497.80 VAT paid in 2018/19 to be reclaimed in April. The Parish Council joined the SALC in 2018 in the sum of £193.27, paid an extra £90 for the church wall repairs and an extra £51 for the highways maintenance and other small sums which was met from the precept and the carry forward.

Income and Expenditure for 2018/19 will be explained in detail and a bank reconciliation presented to the Parish Council Meeting following this Annual Meeting.

The 2018/19 Accounts will be presented to the Parish Council at the May meeting, following the internal audit.

### **c. Shropshire Council – Cllr Morris**

Finance – Council Tax Precept. At Full Council on 28th February we agreed a 3.99% Council Tax rise for 2019/20. I know it's a difficult decision to raise Council Tax but it is important to protect vital services and deliver a balanced budget. The Police & Crime Commissioner is increasing their precept by 9.94% and Shropshire & Wrekin Fire Authority are increasing their precept by 2.99%.

County Councils Network – Fairer Funding Review. As members of the County Councils Network the CCN have been regularly updating me on the progress at a national level of the campaign for fairer funding from Government for the Shire Counties. The CCN are of the opinion that the current funding review for Local Government being undertaken by Central Government is likely to give a more favourable result to rural councils such as Shropshire and go some way towards redressing the heavy bias towards urban authorities. We continue to regularly lobby our local MPs to raise the issue of fairer funding with Government and explain the implications of the current funding imbalance on Councils such as Shropshire.

Corporate Support, Commercial Services & Economic Growth  
Economic Development – Future High Streets Fund. Shrewsbury and Oswestry could be set to receive a share of the Government's £675m Future High Streets Fund, with Shropshire Council agreeing to submit funding bids on behalf of both towns. After a number of towns across the county expressed initial interest in being put forward, a short proposal form was produced based on the criteria set out in the prospectus for the Fund and officers asked for proposals to be returned to the Council for consideration by a majority independent panel. It is a fantastic opportunity to be able to submit two bids to the Future High Street Fund and hopefully secure a share of the national funding

towards helping us to achieve our goals. To give Shropshire the greatest potential for success, it will be important to ensure that both bids meet the eligibility criteria of the Fund and are truly transformational in their proposals.

Economic Development – MIPIM. Shropshire is once again sending a small delegation to MIPIM in France, it is the world's leading investment event bringing together the most influential players from all international property sectors: office, residential, retail, and healthcare, sports, logistics and industrial. The Shropshire team will once again be part of a large Midlands UK delegation and will be giving two presentations. The first is Shrewsbury based, focusing on the Big Town Plan and town centre regeneration. The second will be promoting the Oswestry Growth Corridor and other investment opportunities across the county. The team will be targeting key companies and investors that have been identified as potential partners in helping to fulfil the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy.

#### Children & Young Peoples' Services

Children's Services – Looked After Children. The growth in demand for Children's Services has put renewed pressure on the Council to look for better ways of providing for children who cannot be placed with foster carers. Some of our Looked after Children have very complex needs and challenging behaviour. At present these children have to be placed in specialist private residential homes, sometimes far away from Shropshire. It's not right for the children or their families if they have to live in Devon or Scotland; and some of these homes are very expensive as much as £6,000 per week. Of course, our Social Work staff have to visit too – long and costly journeys. So now we are starting the process of providing places in our own residential homes for some of these children. The Council has agreed in principle that three homes should be provided locally. They will be much closer for the children, their families and our Social Work staff. Although the capital cost of buying three properties, adapting them and fitting them out will be significant and the running costs will be high there will be a saving of nearly £250,000 in 2019/20 – and this should increase as time goes by.

#### Adult Services, Public Health & Social Housing

Adult Social Care, Public Health & Social Housing – National Awards Nominations. We proud of the hard work of all the teams across Adult Social Care, Public Health and Housing. This has been recognised nationally by five projects for the prestigious LGC (Local Government Chronicle) Awards. The five nominations are: adult safeguarding enquiry cards entered for the Community Involvement category, team of team social prescribing entered for the Public Health category, The Broseley Project entered in the Future Places category, 2 carers in a car entered in the Health & Social Care category and the Integrated Community Services Team has been entered for the Team of the Year award.

Adult Social Care – Recruitment Drive. Building on previous successes we have launched a further drive to increase recruitment and retention of social workers. Shropshire Council is taking part in the national every day is different when you care recruitment campaign. The campaign showcases how rewarding a career in social care can be and the opportunities available to embark on a new career in the sector. ASC continues to be a big draw on the Council budget, for 2019/20 the cost has increased by £8m alone.

#### Highways

A difficult past 12 months but there is light at the end of the tunnel. The full restructure will be in place by June 1st. I am pleased that Steve Davenport has put his head above the parapet so to speak and been out to visit parishes. Still lots of work to do, but we will see the improvement continue especially with the digital transformation programme.

### **5. Parochial Charities/organisations:**

#### **a. Village Hall:**

C’lir Davies reported that the village hall continues to function well and is regularly used by various groups. The appeal for the clean-up had received an excellent response. It was suggested that the Village Hall should ask for contributions from local residents who use the car park. C’lir Rogers told the meeting that there is a box for donations if residents wish to leave a donation for using the car park.

#### **b. Cardington Charity**

C’lir Pennington thanked the Trustees and the Secretary who ensure that the Charity works very well. The one property still had the same tenant and the Reading Room has a new tenant. The Young Farmers continue to meet at the Meeting Room and do a lot of fund raising for local and National Charities. C’lir Pennington listed the donations that had been agreed during the year totalling £5,635. C’lir McMillan told the meeting that this was an excellent result for such a small parish.

### **6. Electors Questions/Public Comments (limited to 15 minutes)**

One elector told the meeting that she thought the Parish Council did a grand job and she was pleased to see the Charity work continuing.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8pm.

**MINUTES**  
**CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON**  
**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
**following Annual Parish Meeting**

**Present:** C’Ilr C Tonks (Chairman); C’Ilr A Seabury (Vice Chairman); C’Ilr S Pennington; C’Ilr J Norris; C’Ilr Maydew, C’Ilr McMillan; C’Ilr V Rogers; C’Ilr A Roberts; C’Ilr R Davies

C’Ilr Dan Morris

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

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

The members of the public attending the meeting did not wish to make any comments.

**2. Acceptance of Apologies**

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

C’Ilr McMillan declared an interest in the planning application for Shootrough Farm.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

It was proposed by C’Ilr McMillan, second by C’Ilr Seabury and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**5. Correspondence**

- Letter sent to the Broby family 10.1.19
- Meeting in the Silvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm to discuss the new look Place Plan for Church Stretton area. The Chairman will attend the meeting.
- Deadline for Expressions of Interest for CIL funding now extended until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. The Parish Council did express an interest in applying for CIL funding to cover the cost of repairing the footbridge over the Ford at Cardington. Shropshire Council agreed to provide a scheme of works and costings, but to date this has not been received. It was agreed that Steve Davenport had given an indication that Shropshire Council would carry out this work and the Parish Council would not submit an expression of Interest in CIL money.
- Fundamentals for Councillors Training – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm at the Shirehall. C’Ilr Roberts is booked on this training.

**6. Phone Kiosk update**

C’Ilr McMillan told the meeting that a local resident had agreed to do the artwork and the refurbishment of the box to provide local information is on-going.

**7. Planning:**

**a. Decisions on previously discussed applications:**

18/05181/FUL Church Cottage, Cardington – Erection of a two storey rear extension together with internal alterations and erection of garden room – Parish Council had no objection. This application was granted on 18.2.19

- 18/05510/FUL Manor Farm, Cardington – Erection of stable block and a tractor stone. – Parish Council commented on this application. This application was withdrawn on 22.1.19
- The Malsters Tap, Cardington – replacement of all windows to a grade II Listed Building – Parish Council did not comment on this application. This is still shown on the web site as pending consideration.

**b. considered between meetings using delegated powers:**

- 19/00618/FUL Lower Chatwall Farm, Chatwall – installation of E class Biomas Boiler – circulated to all Councillors 13.2.19. It was proposed by C’Ilr Seabury, seconded by

C’llr Tonks and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

- 13/03524/ FUL Annexe at Shootrough Farm –Removal on Condition No. 8 attached to planning permission 13/03524/FUL dated 1.11.13 to allow for residential usage. Forwarded to all Councillors 28.2.19. Cllr McMillan declared a personal interest in this application. It was proposed by C’llr Norris, seconded by C’llr Seabury and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

**c. Application received just before the meeting.**

- Request to confirm Local connection. Letter from Peter Richards and Co, Property Consultancy asking the Parish Council to confirm Mr. Tom Lewis local connection. It was unanimously agreed that Mr. Lewis met many of the requirements for the local connection and the Clerk would reply to this effect.

**8. Highways**

**a. Maintenance scheme: update.**

Richard Parry has now carried out the highway maintenance work and the account will be paid tonight.

**b. Progress on Highway Matters reported**

Shropshire Council have not given any feedback on the matters reported.

**c. Any further highway matter to report**

The following matters were reported:-

- Water ponding on the road at the top of the long bank as you leave Gretton travelling towards Plaish. The ditch was cleared by the contractor carrying out the highway maintenance but has been filled in again.
- C’llr Tonks reported a deep pothole by the Wenlock Edge Inn. Although not on our Parish he was reporting on the “My Shropshire” web site.
- Deep pot hole outside the property know as Kings Lynn

C’llr Dan Morris suggested that logging defects on MyShropshire was a very efficient way to report highway problems and there was a clear trail shown on the web site to follow reports through to a conclusion. It was agreed that the Clerk would register on the site to report problems.

**9. Finance:**

**a. Invoices to pay:**

- The Information Commission Data Protection Fee was due for payment on 21st January. The Chairman agreed that this should be paid. Cheque No. 100280 was prepared in the sum of £40
- Clerk salary Jan/Feb/March, totalling £495.19 plus £11.58 postage. Cheque No. 100281 was prepared in the sum of £506.77.
- HMRC Tax due on Clerk’s salary £123.80. Cheque no.100282 was prepared in the sum of £123.80
- R Parry Highway Maintenance Work £2,314 plus £462.80 VAT totalling £2776.80. Cheque no. 100283 was prepared in the sum of £2,776.80. The Clerk told the meeting that the £2,296.96 grant had been carried forward into this financial year. Therefore the work was £51.04 over the grant allocated and this would come from the precept.

It was proposed by C’llr Seabury, seconded by C’llr Davies and unanimously agreed that the above accounts would be paid.

**b. Bank Reconciliation**

The Clerk circulated the bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank of £5,964.91 after payment of the above accounts. This sum includes £1,599 balance of CIL money; £1,720 burial fees; £1,248.03 balance in the transparency fund and a Parish Council carry forward at the end of March totalling £1,397.72. The Clerk still had to reclaim £462.80 VAT paid.

**c. Agree application for External Audit Exemption Certificate**

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had an internal audit in the sum of £50 and this was built into the precept. As Parish Council expenditure does not exceed £25,000 the Parish Council can apply for an External



Audit Exemption. They can, of course, opt to have an external audit but if they do they will have to meet the cost. This was discussed when setting the precept and no allowance was made for an external audit. It was proposed by C'lr McMillan, seconded by C'lr Davies and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for an External Audit Exemption certificate.

**10. Shropshire Council Report.**

**C'lr Dan Morris reported the following:-**

- Church Stretton Place Plan – a meeting will be held 30 April. The Chairman will attend.
- Shropshire Council have now set the Council Tax level at 3.9% increase which is the maximum increase they can impose. There is an increase of 3.94 for West Mercia Police and a 2.99% increase for the Fire Authority.
- Shropshire has been promised an increase in police officers.
- Green waste collections are being examined and green waste collections may possibly cease
- Shropshire Council are lobbying Shropshire MP's to get extra funding for Shropshire under the Fairer Funding Review.

**11. Date of next scheduled meeting – Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.16pm