

MINUTES
CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON
Tuesday 3rd March 2020
Following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: C’llr C Tonks (Chairman); C’llr A Seabury (Vice Chairman); C’llr S Pennington;
C’llr C. Maydew; C’llr J McMillan; C’llr A Roberts, C’llr V Rogers

One member of the public attended the meeting

1. Public Session. Limited to 15 minutes

The member of the public did not wish to make any comments.

2. Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies were accepted from C’llr Norris, who is unwell and Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris who is away on holiday.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2020

It was proposed by C’llr Roberts, seconded by C’llr Rogers and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January provided a true and accurate records of the meeting. The chairman then signed the Minutes.

5. Correspondence

The Clerk reported the following correspondence:-

- Request from Broby family for memorial stone. The proposed headstone is honed grey marble and similar to a nearby headstone. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would contact Stretton Memorials confirming that the Parish Council had no objections to the proposed memorial.
- Weekly Newsletters from SALC forwarded by e-mail each week.
- Briefing on STWS Funding – 31st March at 5.30pm in the Shirehall. Sent to all Councillors 28.2.20
- SALC Information Bulletin. Sent to all Councillors 28.2.20
- West Mercia Police Crime Commissioners Road Safety Strategy. Sent to all Councillors 21.2.20
- Town and Parish Councillors Flood Support Information. Sent to all Councillors 20.2.20
- Flood Support Information. Sent to all Councillors 20.2.20
- Highways Emergencies and Flooding in Shropshire. Urgent telephone numbers. Sent to all Councillors 17.2.20
- Connecting Shropshire Broadband Programme Update – February 2020. Sent to all Councillors 17.2.20
- Smart Rural Event at the Shirehall 27.2.20. Sent to all Councillors 16.2.20
- Road closure Hazler Road, Church Stretton 16th – 20th March. Sent to all Councillors 5.2.20
- Rural Roadshow helping communities to develop homes. 5.2.20. Sent to all Councillors 31.1.20
- SALC January Bulletin. Sent to all Councillors 31.1.20
- Community Led Housing training course. Sent to all Councillors 22.1.20
- Road closure. STWA – Heath Coppice – Hollyhurst. Sent to all Councillors 21.1.20
- Climate Change workshop 10.2.20. Sent to all Councillors 17.1.20
- Invitation to get involved in community solar events in Shropshire 3rd, 4th and 5th February. Sent to all Councillors 16.1.20

6. Smartwater Update

The Clerk and PC Ram Aston had issued the Smartwater Kits in the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd February and again prior to this meeting. PC Ram Aston also agreed to attend the lunch at the village hall on 7th March to distribute more kits. It is hoped that sufficient will have been distributed to allow the signage to be erected in the Parish.

It was agreed that security and the erection of CCTV cameras in the Parish would be added to the Agenda for discussion at the May meeting.

7. Planning:

a. Decisions on previously discussed applications:

19/04827/FUL Lower Chatwall Farm – Installation of an E Classic 3200 Biomass Boiler to supply heat to existing agricultural building. The Parish Council had no objections to this application. The Clerk told the meeting this application was approved on 16.1.20”

b. Applications considered between meetings using delegated powers

- 19/05237/LBC Court Farm, Gretton – installation of wood burning biomass boiler affecting a grade II Listed Building. Forwarded to all Councillors 4.2.20. The Parish Council had no objections. The Clerk told the meeting that this application in pending consideration
- 20/00175 Shootrough Farm – Construction of Conservatory. Forwarded to all councillors 20.1.20 The Parish Council had no objection to this application. . The Clerk told the meeting that this application in pending consideration.

8. Highways

a. Environmental Maintenance Grant.

The Clerk told the meeting that she has submitted the application for the Environmental Maintenance Grant for 2020/21 in the sum of £2,500, with £1,250 matched funding being provided by the Parish Council.

It was understood that C’lir Norris had received the invoice from Mr. Parry for the Environmental Maintenance work 2019/20. Although he has carried out some of the work this is not yet complete. It was unanimously agreed that the account would be paid when the work was complete.

An email was forwarded by C’lir Dan Morris confirming that a commitment has been made by Alan Morgan and Andy Wilde to rectify the drainage problems in the Parish.

b. Progress on Highway Matters reported

It is understood that the repairs to the footbridge will be carried out and Shropshire Council have now designed a scheme for the works and the order will be placed with the County’s contractors and hopefully work will commence.

c. Any further highway matter to report

C’lir Roberts continues to report highway matters on the MYShropshire website.

He was asked to report the following:-

- Chapel Lane – three blocked drains which are full of silt and need jetting
- Pothole at Comley on the road to Leebotwood
- Flooding on the highway Watling Street – Hollyhurst
- White lining on all junctions in the Parish needs replenishing

9. Finance

a. Invoices to pay:

Clerk salary plus Postage and stationery £348.94 Cheque No.100307

HMRC Tax due on Clerk’s salary £82.40. Cheque No. 100308

Smartwater Kits £1304.28. Cheque No. 100309

SALC affiliation fee 2019/20 £195.96. Cheque 100310

It was proposed by C’lir Seabury, seconded by C’lir McMillan and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

b. Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk circulated a copy of the bank reconciliation which after payment of the above accounts gave a

balance held at bank of £8,051.98. The Chairman then signed the Bank Statement and a copy of the bank reconciliation.

c Agree Asset Register

The clerk explained asset register totalling £743. It was proposed by C'llr Seabury, seconded by C'llr McMillan and unanimously agreed that the asset register totalled £743.

d. 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'llr Roberts, seconded by C'llr Davies and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would apply for an External Audit Exemption certificate.

10. Website

The Chairman told the meeting that the Village Hall Committee and the PCC were making good progress with the web site.

11. Shropshire Council Report.

C'llr D Morris provided the following report:-

At the full council meeting on 27th February, next year's Council tax increase was set at 3.99% for 2020/21, the average band D charge for 2020/21 will be £1443.62

Council members' allowances were set the same for 2020/21

Councillors approved the 2020/21 gross budget of £575.462m, including savings proposals in Shropshire Council's Financial Strategy plans for 2020/21 through to 2024/25. This includes almost £19m of savings proposals across all areas of the Council. This will produce a balanced budget for 2020/21 whilst retaining levels of reserves to provide some resilience for future years.

Government funding for Shropshire Council has fallen year on year, Shropshire taxpayers need to fund a greater and greater amount and proportion of the resources the Council needs to operate every year. In 2015/16 the Council set a net budget of £216m of which 55% (£119m) was funded by local Council Tax. Between 2015/16 and 2020/21 the amount raised by Council tax has risen by almost £45m and now raises £164m per year. The Council's net budget, however, has risen by less than £10m in these five years and now stands at £226m. As a result, Council Tax increases have not increased the amount the Council can spend in real terms; instead a marginally increased net budget is now funded at almost 73% by the local taxpayer.

The following 2 points perfectly highlight the council's financial constraints:

a) The proportion of the council net budget spent on Adult social care in 2015/16 was 44%, in 2019/20 it was 62%.

b) In London the average spend per resident is £601 per person, in Shire counties it is £240. the council have been lobbying our Westminster representatives very hard for a better settlement for Shropshire, Council Leader Peter Nutting has met Government ministers in Westminster and MP Daniel Kawczynski has pushed government ministers hard as well. At the full council meeting all members agreed that there would be full *cross party* efforts to get ministers to realise how tight our finances are.

Also at the full council meeting we debated development at the Tannery in Shrewsbury, combining the Oxon link road program with the North West relief road program, an Infrastructure delivery program for the Oswestry Growth Corridor, and matters around the SC housing company Coronavirus Developments.

The 6 week public consultation on the North West relief road starts on Monday 2nd March. There will be various drop-in events.

Chief Exec Clive Wright has left the council after nearly 8 years, interim Joint chief execs in

place are Karen Bradshaw and Andy Begley.

Councillors will be aware of the promise by Alan Morgan and Andy Wilde to follow up on their visit to the PC in January, they have recently reconfirmed that action has been taken and work is ongoing.

There have been well documented severe flooding issues all over the county, specifically relating to the river Teme and river Severn.

Storm Ciara and storm Dennis and the resulting floods have affected nearly 300 businesses, caused 350 houses to be flooded and caused 30 roads to be closed. 28 people were evacuated and found accommodation and about 2000 people have contacted the council with flood related queries

DEFRA Minister MP George Eustice visited Shrewsbury on Thursday 27th February. He was met by Shrewsbury MP Daniel Kawczynski, Council leader Peter Nutting and Director of Place Mark Barrow, all of whom were lobbying him for more Government support/funding to help with those impacted by the flooding, helping the council with the clear-up and looking at longer-term strategic schemes.

The Shropshire council flood helpline is 03456789006

The following link provides details of help (financial and otherwise) available for those affected by floods:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/2020-floods/after-a-flood-support-for-homes-and-businesses-affected-by-flooding/>

The portfolio holder for highways has announced free park and ride services from the weekend of 29th February for the next 2 weeks to try and help Shrewsbury town businesses following the recent town floods

I have been following up on requests to help clear the roads in Cardington from blocked drains, and the ongoing flooding issues by the Royal Oak.

Some parish councils like Corvedale who have a lot of watercourses in their rural parishes have set up flood action groups where people have embraced “Slow the Flow” self-help schemes. Perhaps Cardington PC would like to approach Corvedale and get some learnings from them. If that is something the PC would like to do I can arrange an introduction through Shropshire Cllr Cecilia Motley.

I have asked the public protection team at SC to investigate the site at Enchmarsh

12. Date of next scheduled meeting – Tuesday 5th May 2020 this will be the AGM

Dates for future meetings in 2020 will be as follows:-

Tuesday 7th July

Tuesday 1st September

Tuesday 3rd November

Before the meeting closed C’llr Pennington thanked everyone who had support the recent AONB presentation.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm