

**MINUTES**  
**CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON**  
**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
**at 8pm**

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

Shropshire C’llr Dan Morris

Mr A Wilde (Shropshire Council Highways Operation Manager) and Mr A Morgan (Interim Head of Shropshire Council Highways) attended for item 6.

Eight members of the public attended the meeting

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

Some members of the public present raised some highway issues (see Item No, 6).

The Chairman raised the concern of a member of the public, who was not able to attend the meeting, and was concerned about parking in the village when the “Cracker Event” was held. It was agreed that this event had taken place for a number of years and the community were very welcoming and pleased that the people taking part enjoyed Cardington and the surrounds. It was agreed that the organisers should be asked to respect the village hall and muddy boots were worn in the hall by walkers after the event. It was also agreed that the organisers would be asked to provide better marshalling in an attempt to alleviate any problems of random car parking in the village.

The Parish Council were asked if they wished to host a charity lunch to which they declined.

**2. Acceptance of Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from C’llr R Davies

**3. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

**4. Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019**

(Item 10) stated that C’llr Davies told the meeting that he had cleaned the war memorial. This should read C’llr Davies told the meeting that C’llr Pennington had cleaned the war memorial. The Minutes were amended. The Chairman signed the amendment and it was proposed by C’llr Norris, seconded by C’llr Roberts and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 now provided a true and accurate records of the meeting. The chairman then signed the Minutes.

C’llr Pennington told the meeting that John Holden from AONB was willing to come to the village hall to give a presentation to landowners. It was agreed that C’llr Pennington would make local landowners aware and arrange a date for the presentation.

**5. Correspondence**

The Clerk reported the following correspondence:-

- Weekly Newsletters from SALC forwarded by e-mail each week.
- Invitation for Chairman to be nominated for Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Forwarded to Chairman 19.12.19. Chairman did not wish to be nominated.
- SALC – funding Opportunities. Forwarded to all 10.12.19
- West Mercia Newsletter no longer being sent by e-mail can access via the West Mercia website
- Hazler Road, Church Stretton – road closure 30.3.20. Circulated to all 29.11.19

- Thank you e-mail from Brian Tripp. Thanking Parish Council for donation and saying Cardington Parish area raised £1,071.21p. Forwarded to all 17.11.19
- E mail from Shropshire council Re : bogus company offering car park lining. Forwarded to all 11.11.19
- E mail from Church Stretton Community Led Plan asking for the Parish Council's input. Forwarded to all 10.11.19 Chairman agreed to co-ordinate a response.
- Temporary Road closure Rushbury on 13.1.20. Forwarded to all 7.11.19
- B5477 road closure Ludlow Road, Church Stretton. 23.3.209 – 17.4.20. Forwarded to all Councillors 7.1.20

**6. Highway Issues – Andy Wilde (Highways Operations Manager) and Alun Morgan (Interim Head of Highways attended for this item.**

Andy Wilde and Alun Morgan attended and explained the new approach being adopted for highways work, which was a more proactive approach rather than the previous reactive approach to highway problems. 5-6 staff were now permanently travelling the network and had computers to log problem areas as they see them. They agreed that ditches were a problem which had not been managed in the past and the new highways team is looking to get this right and provide a better service.

A new Highways Management Team has been in place since June 2019 and it was recognised that the contractors, Kier, inherited an asset with a backlog of problems. In June 2019 a total of 7,800 potholes had been reported and not repaired and by October only 800 pothole repairs reported were outstanding. Half of the highway network inspections is now complete and they accept that there is a problem with rural roads. In the past the contractor had received defect and acted accordingly there was now a more controlled way of managing the programme of works. Officers are now working with Kier to refine the service and now have a much better working relationship with the contractor.

The key aspect going forward will be preventative maintenance as it is hoped problems will be reported early and remedies for preventative maintenance will be carried out with surface dressing and patching being the most cost effective solution. An effective material is now being used for pothole repairs which is more durable and flexible.

It is recognised and accepted that the Highways Team do not have the level of investment needed to solve all the problems and Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris, reminded the meeting that Councillors had voted to take £5M out of the highways budget for two years to help fund social care. The Highways Team therefore recognise that they have to work smarter to do more work with decreased finance from central government.

Andy Wilde told the meeting that the footbridge over the ford in Cardington was now with the structure team and it was anticipated that a fit for function footbridge would be erected within the next six months.

Andy Wilde answered questions from the members of the public concerning Shropshire Council's policy for grit bins. All bins would be replenished as necessary but no new bins would be provided unless requested and necessary. Salt is not left in piles on the verges as the salt leaches on to the land and kills vegetation.

Road marking and lack of white lining in the village was discussed and this will be reported.

Litter left on the highway, particularly McDonalds packaging, was discussed. Receipts found with packaging had been forwarded to McDonalds with the hope of being able to identify the culprit(s).

John Bellis has been appointed as the Shropshire Council Officer responsible for flood water on and off the highway. He was available to meet on site to discuss any problem areas.

Andy Wilde and Alun Morgan agreed carry out a site visit to any problem areas with members of the Parish Council. It was agreed that this meeting would be held before the end of February and Andy Wilde and Alun Morgan would provide the Clerk with some dates when they were both available.

The Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting. Andy Wilde and Alun Morgan then left the meeting.

## **7. Phone Kiosk update**

C’Ilr McMillan told the meeting that the information boards had now been placed in the kiosk. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to formally thank Jemma Gould and Tony Sheppard. The Chairman thanked C’Ilr McMillan for all the work he had carried out on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **8. Planning:**

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

- 19/04598/TCA The Fold, Cardington – fell 1 No Apple tree, pollard 1 No. Apple Tree and remove 3 overhanging branches within Conservation Area – circulated to all Councillors 17.10.19. Consent given 28.10.19

### **b. Any other planning matters including new applications received just before the meeting**

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 is shown as “Pending Consideration”

- 19/04944/TCA 4 Cardington – fell 1 No Silver Birch Tree within Conservation Area. Forwarded to all Councillors 11.11.19. Consent given 4.12.19
- 19/05173/TCA St James Cottage, Cardington – fell 1 No Ash Tree and replant with 1 No Silver Birch within Conservation Area. Forwarded to all Councillors on 25.11.19. Consent given 12.12.19
- 19/04993/FUL Annexe at Shootrough Farm – Erection of oak framed, double glazed orangery. Forwarded to all Councillors on 27.11.19 Application withdrawn 21.12.19
- 19/05237/LBC Court Farm, Gretton – installation of wood burning biomass boiler affecting a grade II Listed Building. Forwarded to all Councillors 11.12.19 The Clerk told the meeting this application is shown as “Pending Consideration”

## **9. Highways**

### **a. Environmental Maintenance Grant.**

C’Ilr Norris told the meeting that the contractor had started work but not yet forwarded an invoice. It was anticipated that all work would be complete and invoiced by the end of March.

The Clerk told the meeting that the cut-off date for Environmental Grant applications for 2020/21 is 13<sup>th</sup> March and all supporting documents (Parish Council Accounts and receipts for work carried out in 2019/20) should be provided by 17<sup>th</sup> April. This was discussed under Item 10(c) 2020/21 Precept when it was agreed that £1,250 would be added to the precept as matched funding and £1,250 would be applied for a 2020/21 Environmental Maintenance Grant. The Clerk would make the application and would be required to provide receipts for the work carried out in 2019/20

### **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. . (as reported in Item 6)

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

No other highway matters were reported.

## **10. Finance:**

### **a. Invoices to pay:**

Clerk salary plus Postage £339.55 Cheque No.100303

HMRC Tax due on Clerk’s salary £82.60. Cheque No. 100304

Information Commissioners Office, Data Protection Fee. £40. Cheque No. 100305

It was proposed by C’Ilr Roberts, seconded by C’Ilr Rogers 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 £10,103.56. The chairman then signed the Bank Statement and a copy of the bank reconciliation and bank statement.

**c Agree 2020/21 Precept**

The Clerk Circulated details of all expenditure for 2019/20 against the precept of £5,500 for 2019/20.

This showed a balance of £1,260.16. This is mainly due to the following areas of underspend in 2019/20:

Insurance	£12.00
Administration Costs	£17.84
Web site support	£175.00 (note costs taken from Transparency Fund
Donations	(50.00) (extra donation paid not paid in 2018/19)
Election Expenses	£200.00 (put aside for future election costs)
Cemetery/Grass Cutting	£210.00 (only £690 grass cutting expenditure 2019/20)
Training	£66.25
Kiosk	£100.00 (estimated underspend against precept of £300)
Contingency	£529.00

It was proposed by C'llr Pennington, seconded by C'llr McMillan and unanimously agreed that the 2020/21 precept would be applied for as follows:-

Insurance	£230
Village Hall	£ 45
Internal Audit	£ 50
Clerks Salary	£2526
Payroll Costs	£ 60
Office stationery/Postage	£150
Web Site Space/Support	£175
Donations	£ 50
Cemetery/Grass Cutting	£900
Training	£100
SALC	£195
Smartwater Kits	£1,073
Environmental Maintenance	
Matched Funding	<u>£1,250</u>
	£6,804

**11. Churchyard**

C'llr Norris and the Church Warden had met with a member of the public who wished to donate money to pay for the repair of the church gates in memory of his grandparents. No further contact had been received from the relative.

**12. We Don't Buy Crime – Smartwater – Consider joining scheme – depending on response from members of the public**

The Clerk has completed the application for 25% funding and free signage. This had been submitted on 13<sup>th</sup> November. The application has to be for 80% coverage, 161 kits to attract free signage. To date the Chairman has compiled a list of residences willing to take up the offer and this totals 96 households. 113 Households would be required to take up the kits to enable the signs to be erected.

The offer was received and after checking with the Chairman and all Councillors by e-mail the Clerk signed the acceptance which was returned on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The total cost of the kits is £1,431.12 and the Parish Council contribution is £1,073.34. The kits have been ordered and delivery is likely to be at the end of January. Tim Williams of West Mercia Police has suggested a date is set early in February to distribute the kits before signage can be discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Tim Williams giving either 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> February as suggested dates. When the date is agreed the Clerk will publicise on the web site, in the village newsletter and on village notice boards.

**13. Cardington Web Site**

Meetings are being held with members of the village hall committee and the PCC to agree a way forward for the present village web site to be amalgamated with part of the Parish Council website. It is understood that ICT Vision, who compiled the Parish Council website has been approached by members of the Village Hall Committee and the PCC.

**14. Shropshire Council Report.**

C'llr D Morris reported the following Shropshire council matters:-

- The housing report for a new school at Bowbrook had now been signed off
- He reminded the meeting that the Chatwall – Plaish road would be closed for resurfacing works.
- Full Council had met on 19<sup>th</sup> December and agreed full support for a feasibility study to introduce 20mph restrictions outside all schools. The study will be completed within 6 months.
- Full Council had also agreed to install LED lighting for all street lights. This will cost £6m and a £3 grant had been received.
- Full Council had agreed an ownership structure for the shopping units in Shrewsbury which was now held on shore rather than off shore.
- Pride Hill Shopping Centre has some empty units and is likely to change and be more leisure based.
- Occupancy in the Darwin Centre is good
- C’lr Morris agreed that the value of the asset for the shopping centres had dropped but was still nearing a 5% return on the investment which was in excess of that which would be achieved by investing the £50m in a bank account.
- Redevelopment of the Riverside shopping centre would be considered and perhaps also be more leisure based. With hotel chains interested in the area.

#### **15. Date of next scheduled meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

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

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May Annual Meeting followed by AGM

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November