**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 11th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. S.A. Beaman

 Mrs. H.M. Cains

 D.A. Cook

 R.J. Cotham (Chairman)

 M.J. Edwards

 Mrs. E.M. Holding

 Ms C.A. Holland

 D. Hyde

 K. Moseley

 Ms L. Patel

 P.J. Wade

Also present: Shropshire Councillor Colin Taylor, Mr. M.W. Thorrington (for part of meeting)

Apologies: Councillor M.J. Plumb - personal reasons, Councillor B. Walker-Drew - personal reasons

 **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

MINUTES of the meeting held on 13th November 2023, having been distributed to all

 councillors, were confirmed and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

166/23 Claverley in Bloom

 An update on Claverley in Bloom activities had been circulated to councillors.

A variety of shrubs had been planted on the Aston Lane bank together with an Amelanchier tree on the bank opposite the school entrance. The bank by Boundary Close had been planted with extra shrubs to complement those already in situ and a holly tree had been removed which was too close to its neighbour.

All shrubs pruned will grow back in a short space of time in better health which should improve the street scene for all. There will be a little extra planting on the bank during 2024.

A new event for Claverley in Bloom was a wreath making evening which was held at The Plough on 29th November which had been well attended. Deb Pullen from Fern and Feathers Flowers guided those present through the finer arts of wreath making. All foliage was locally sourced from around the village and Steve Jarrett supplied spruce from his Christmas tree field.

Deb, Steve, Karen, Lesley and Lisa were thanked for organising a fun and instructive evening.

 167/23 QEII Jubilee Field

Councillor Cook did not have anything to report.

 168/23 Shipley Quarry

Councillor Cotham reported a meeting had been held with Grahame French and signage should be installed in the New Year. It was anticipated the next meeting of the Liaison Committee will be held in the middle of January. Any questions should be submitted beforehand.

169/23 Bonfire and Fireworks Event

In Councillor Walker-Drew’s absence, Councillor Cook reported a profit of £5540.29 had been made. A request for suggestions as to how the profit could be used for community purposes had been made in the December issue of ‘Halo’.

 To enable Councillor Walker-Drew to update the bonfire plan councillors were asked to email him with any suggestions for improvements.

 170/23 Street Lights

The order for the 5 columns and LED lanterns from Candela had been delivered to E.ON.

171/23 Defibrillators

Councillor Beaman reported the replacement defibrillator had been installed. The defibrillator was in a lower position to enable disabled people to use it. It had been registered with the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Mr. Thorrington joined the meeting and the Chairman invited him to update councillors on the Christmas lights.

172/23 Christmas Lights

 Mr. Thorrington informed councillors the lamp holders were exhibiting signs of asset life expiry and he had to remove 5 lamp holders which were beyond repair. He suggested the time had come to consider replacing all 12 strings, lamps, plugs and sockets at a cost of approximately £3,000. If the Council proceeded to carry out the replacement some of the shorter strings could be adapted for use on the Christmas tree and one of the longer strings could have the lamps replaced with the incandescent type and be used to light the new pedestrian entrance for the village bonfire. The remaining strings and the lamps removed from the bonfire pedestrian string could be used for spares for both the Christmas tree and bonfire strings. Councillor Cook requested three quotes were obtained before a decision was made.

 The lights could be stored at the village hall to keep them dry.

 The switching on the lights ceremony was well attended and Lorita Parr and Arjun Kangura were thanked for switching them on. Unfortunately, the Rev. Garry Ward’s P.A. system was not working correctly but the School choir was much appreciated. Mr. Halford, Complete Driveways, was thanked for providing the barriers for pedestrian safety and Mr. Degg for transporting the Christmas tree.

 Councillor Cook suggested consideration be given to purchasing a P.A. system which could be used for future events and he offered to obtain some quotes.

 Mr. Thorrington was thanked for all his work in connection with the lights and he left the meeting.

. 173/23 Raising profile of the Parish Council

 Councillor Cains reported a Facebook page had now been set up and she would approve everything put on it.

 **Action: Parishioners to be informed in the next issue of ‘Halo’.**

 174/23 Access to churchyard

 Councillor Cotham and Councillor Cook had looked at the access to the lower churchyard. Councillor Cotham will be speaking to the Revd. Garry Ward.

175/23 Claverley Polling Place

 The Clerk reported that Shropshire Council had investigated the reasons why Mr. and

Mrs. Horton had declined the request from Shropshire Council to use the Function Room as a polling place and had received an apology from Shropshire Council. Efforts were being made to overcome the issues and Mr. and Mrs. Horton had been asked to reconsider the use of the venue as a polling place. In the meantime, a site visit will be made to the church to see if this would be an option as a venue.

 176/23 Royal British Legion - Remembrance

It was agreed to defer discussion on how to mark Remembrance Day to September/October.

177/23 **PLANNING**

 Permission

23/04051/FUL Erection of a timber building to house vending machines with farm produce.

 for sale, formation of associated car parking, Rookery Farm, Gatacre, Claverley for

 GB & MF Bryan & Son.

New Applications

23/04609/FUL Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling

 and timber outbuildings and installation of package treatment plant, Florence Cottage, Pear

 Tree Lane, Heathton, Claverley for Mr Peter Davenport.

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| The Parish Council objected to the application. The Structural Report was considered not fit for purpose and the pre-application advice had not been followed regarding the size of the proposed replacement dwelling. |

23/04833/VAR Variation of Condition Nos. 2, 4, 5 and 6 attached to planning permission

 22/02723/MAW dated 28 September 2022 - Land to the East of Sewage Works, Church

 Street, Claverley for Severn-Trent Water Ltd.

The Parish Council did not have any objections.

23/04940/FUL Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

 for the erection of agricultural buildings and operational development (resubmission of

 application 23/01726/FUL) Oak Farm, Claverley for Mr and Mrs Oakley.

The Parish Council objected to the application as the scale and proportion of building works were disproportionate for the size of the site's agricultural output capacity and that it represented inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

23/04949/TCA Fell 3no Ash within Claverley Conservation Area - Village Hall & Tennis

 Courts, Church Street, Claverley for Mrs. K. Rouwenhorst.

The Parish Council did not wish to request a Tree Preservation Order on the grounds of public amenity value and did not have any objections to the felling of the 3no Ash trees.

178/23 **UNITARY REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Taylor informed councillors he was hoping to have a meeting regarding planning matters and would raise how planning application 23/00967/FUL for

12 affordable dwellings had been handled.

Councillor Cotham added he had tried to contact the Ecologist about obtaining a Protection Order on the hedgerow as the applicant’s Ecologist had supplied a misleading report and he had requested an independent appraisal.

179/23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

 Proposed amendment to Financial Regulations

The Clerk had submitted a draft of suggested wording to enable Direct Debits to be made in future which had been circulated to councillors. It was agreed by the Council to adopt this amendment which would allow SSE Energy Solutions to be paid monthly by Direct Debit.

Review of Salary Budget (Financial Regulation 4.4)

The Clerk exited the meeting for the review of the salary budget. On her return she was informed it had been proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor Cains and agreed by the Council to increase the Clerk’s salary by 7% from 1st April 2024. The Clerk thanked the Council.

Draft Budget for 2024-2025

The Clerk was preparing the draft budget for 2024/2025 and asked councillors to let her know if they had any projects they would like included.

The precept for 2024/2025 will be discussed at the January meeting when the Council Tax figures should be available from Shropshire Council.

 180/23 **PARISH MATTERS**

Councillor Holland reported a large sign on the grass verge of the B4176 was obstructing the view of motorists pulling out by The Boycott Arms. The Clerk had already reported this to Shropshire Council but nothing had been done to remove the sign. Councillor Cains offered to speak to the person responsible for putting up this sign and other unauthorised signs in the area.

It was reported there were potholes before the Wall Hill turn, outside the Kings Arms, by the Tennis Club and the road outside Irene & Ivy’s Tearoom was sinking. The 8 gullies at Lower Hopstone had not been unblocked and the barriers outside Claverley Hall Farm had not been removed. The road surface between Winchester Farm and Broughton continued to deteriorate and there was a lot of mud on the road.

**Action: Clerk to report these issues to Shropshire Highways.**

Two complaints had been received about the motor rally held on 18th November. There seem to be various irregularities in connection with the administration of the rally and not all properties on the route had received notice of it happening. Complaints had been made to the organisers and the police.

 181/23 **CORRESPONDENCE**

 Request for support of motion to SALC

Worfield Parish Council was seeking another Parish Council to second a motion “Should Shropshire Council support a change to the National Planning Policy Framework” which would be put to a future SALC meeting for consideration. Details of the proposed motion had been circulated to councillors for consideration. It was proposed by Councillor Hyde, seconded by Councillor Patel and agreed by the Council to second the motion.

**Action: Clerk to inform Worfield Parish Council.**

 Claverley Medical Practice

Some patients of Claverley Medical Practice had been informed that changes were being proposed for the Surgery and concerns had been expressed to some councillors. As the Parish Council had not receive any information about the proposed changes an invitation to be sent for a member of the Medical Practice to attend the January meeting to outline the proposals.

**Action: Clerk to invite a member of the Practice to attend the January meeting.**

 Notification of road closures

Unnamed road between A454 to B4176 Upper Ludstone - Monday, 8th January to Wednesday10th January 2024. Road closed all the time to allow Severn-Trent Water to carry out utility repair and maintenance works.

Unnamed Road, Lower Beobridge 12th February to 16th February 2024 to be closed between 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. for pre-dressing patching work.

**Aston Lane, Claverley 12th February to 16th February** to be closed between 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. for pre-dressing patching works.

High Street, Claverley, 29th February to be closed between 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. for safe access to Openreach underground structure for cabling works.

182**/**23 **REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS**

 Village Hall Committee

Councillor Wade attended the December meeting but did not have anything to report.

183/23 **CHEQUES**

Chq. no. 001837 The Plough Inn – beer for bonfire & fireworks event - £260.00

 refreshments for volunteers putting up Christmas

 lights £60.00 £320.00

 001838 Mr. P.A. Pickerill – purchase of 3 trees in remembrance

 of Rod Parr…………………………………………………… £134.40

 001839 Rudge Heath General Stores - wine, soft drinks, crisps, glasses,

 refuse bags for bonfire & fireworks event…………………… £952.73

 001840 Perry Electrical Services – fixing new defibrillator and connection.. £45.00 001841 SSE Energy Solutions - energy for street lights 03/10 to 31/10/23.. £185.20

 001842 Mr. M.W. Thorrington – reimbursement for cost of repairs and

 maintenance of Christmas lights……………………………... £197.54

 001843 At Hand Fire Protection - hire of fire extinguishers for bonfire

 & fireworks event……………………………………… …… £48.00

 001844 TFM – cable ties and signs for bonfire & fireworks event………... £98.91

 001845 Mrs. G.M. Price – reimbursement for purchase of

 black and colour ink cartridges £94.98

 stationery £17.46 £112.44

 It was proposed by Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Beaman and agreed by

 the Council to pass the cheques for payment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman wished everyone a happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

 Date of next meeting: Monday, 8th January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.