**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 11th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. S.A. Beaman

 Mrs. H.M. Cains

 R.J. Cotham (Chairman)

 M.J. Edwards

 Mrs. E.M. Holding

 K. Moseley

 Ms L. Patel

Also present: Shropshire Councillor Colin Taylor, PC Rikki Loftus -Bridgnorth SNT,

 Mr. P. Pickerill – Tree Warden, six members of the public

Apologies: Councillor D.A. Cook – work reasons, Councillor C.A. Holland – personal reasons,

 Councillor D. Hyde – work reasons, Councillor M.J. Plumb - personal reasons,

 Councillor P.J. Wade - personal reasons, Councillor B.Walker-Drew – work reasons

 **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

MINUTES of the meeting held on 12th February 2024, having been distributed to all

 councillors, were confirmed and signed.

32/24 The Chairman welcomed PC Loftus to the meeting. PC Loftus reported there was extra policing in the parish following the spate of sheep and lambs being shot. Recently three cars had been stolen and there had been two burglaries. He stressed the importance of reporting anything suspicious to West Mercia Police by telephoning 101 or reporting online at [www.westmercia.police.uk](http://www.westmercia.police.uk). If an immediate response was required dial 999. He would let the Clerk have the email address to contact the Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhood Team.

 Councillor Cain asked about communication with West Midlands Police. PC Loftus said there was an exchange of information between the two police forces. Information was also passed on to Neighbourhood Watch.

 PC Loftus informed the meeting the Bridgnorth Safer Neighbourhood team will be holding a crime prevention event at The Plough on Friday, 5th April between 2.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. when police officers will be available to offer crime prevention advice and guidance.

 The Chairman thanked PC Loftus for his update and he left the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended.

33/24 **PLANNING**

Permission

24/00014/FUL Proposed replacement porch & first floor rear extension, Dormers and

 Orchard Cottage, High Street, Claverley for Mr. Andrew Turner.

New Applications

24/00405/FUL Change of use of equestrian land to private dog training use, Pointers Rest,

 Heathton, Claverley for Nic Preston.

The Parish Council pointed out the application was retrospective as the land was already in use for dog training. The Parish Council objected to any overnight kennelling. The 6ft fence was not in keeping in the Green Belt. As there was no screening with the adjacent pasture field, livestock will be stressed by dogs exercising. If permission was granted there should be a condition that only one client should be on site at any one time as traffic exits on to a bend in the lane which is dangerous.

24/00301/FUL Erection of detached stable block/machine store, creation of hardstanding,

 land to the south of Heathton House, Pear Tree Lane, Claverley for Wolohan

The Parish Council objected to the application as the amount of stabling proposed was considered excessive for the acreage and the equestrian building would be out of scale and character and in a more prominent position so affecting the openness of the Green Belt.

For the size of the site the machinery required would comfortably go through a 3.25m eaves building so the proposed height was out of scale and proportion. There was already a building on site suitable for machinery storage.

If permission was granted, the existing stables should be demolished once the replacement stables were constructed, and the development building classed as equestrian and not agricultural.

24/00534/TCA To coppice to ground level 3no. Common Hazel and 1no. Birch (and plant

 additional hedgerow stock) within Claverley Conservation Area, land east of Kings Arms

 Court, Claverley for Mr Paul Pickerill.

The Parish Council did not have any objections and did not wish to request a Tree Preservation Order to be made on these trees on the grounds of public amenity value.

24/00585/FUL Erection of single storey living accommodation ancillary to main house,

 Maesteg, Church Street, Claverley for Mr Jack Nethercott.

The Parish Council did not have any objections.

24/00980/TCA To fell 1no. Conifer within Claverley Conservation Area, Highcroft, Church

 Street, Claverley for Mr. N.P. Brooker.

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 tree.

The members of the public left the meeting.

Shropshire Council had informed the Parish Council that the person who had asked the Parish Council to confirm a strong local connection to be eligible for the “Build Your Own Affordable House” scheme had met the policy criteria.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

 34/24 Claverley in Bloom

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

A committee meeting had been held on 4th March when the draft constitution had been one of the items discussed.

The trough at Heathton will not be planted in the foreseeable future due to on-going issues at the site.

The winter quiz which had been held on 21st February had been successful. A Spring wreath making event will be held at The Plough on 20th March. Keith and Karen Horton were thanked for their support.

The annual highway litter pick was held on 3rd March when approximately 22 bags of assorted rubbish and large items which had been fly tipped were taken to the Bridgnorth recycling centre.

Paul Pickerill, the Tree Warden, informed the meeting he was preparing a constitution for Claverley in Bloom. He will be getting more feedback regarding his proposal to replace the Maple trees on the Aston Lane bank by the school. He had obtained a quotation which amounted to £975.00 plus VAT to crown lift the lower branches and take out the dead wood and was trying to establish ownership and who was responsible for the maintenance. The tree by the Plough’s car park was overhanging the footpath.

He had noticed some trees on the lefthand side of the road near Sandford Hall were in a dangerous condition.

**Action: The owner of the property to be asked to attend to the trees.**

35/24 QEII Jubilee Field

 There was nothing to report.

 36/24 Shipley Quarry

Councillor Cotham reported that because of excess speed of some motorists, some residents at Shipley were having trouble pulling out of their properties on to the A454. There had not been any progress regarding the signage. Shropshire Councillor Taylor reported that Gemma Lawley was chasing Keir about the signage.

 37/24 Bonfire and Fireworks Event

As further information from some of the applicants was awaited, it was agreed to defer making a decision on which suggestions to fund.

 38/24 Christmas Lights

 The quotations for replacing the Christmas lights were awaited.

 39/24 Defibrillators

Councillor Beaman reported she had collected the two defibrillators which had been donated by the Jet Singh Trust.

**Action: Clerk to send a letter of thanks.**

The Old Gate at Heathton had agreed to one of the defibrillators being sited there and a site will be found for the second defibrillator.

West Midlands Ambulance Service had notified Councillor Beaman the defibrillator in the Lychgate had been taken out of the box on 17th February but had been returned unused.

 40/24 Claverley Parochial Church Council

Councillor Patel confirmed she will be able to attend the Parochial Church Council meeting on 13th March when the future of the Halo magazine and repairs to the Lychgate will be discussed.

From discussions Martin Elcock had with the Diocese about access to the lower churchyard the Diocese was not enthusiastic about the suggestion.

Councillor Beaman had met Ian Seedhouse regarding the proposed handrail which was originally going to be fixed on the lefthand side. He suggested the rail be fixed on the righthand side at a cost of £594 including VAT.

 41/24 **UNITARY REPORT**

 Shropshire Councillor Taylor had been asked what would happen if someone supplied false

information when making a planning application. He informed the meeting there would be serious consequences.

 42/24 **REVIEW OF ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SYSTEM OF INTERNAL**

**CONTROL AND RISK ASSESSMENTS**

Councillors reviewed the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal control and risk

assessments. Mr. Butler, the internal auditor, had reported after his internal audit there were no outstanding issues to bring to the attention of the Parish Council and, as previously, the accounts were presented in a professional and very orderly manner. Risk assessments would continue to be undertaken when required. Councillors resolved not to make any alterations to the system of internal control.

 43/24 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

 Draft Budget for 2024-2025

Discussion was deferred as the Clerk was awaiting further information about the likely cost of

some items in the budget.

 44/24 **PARISH MATTERS**

Councillors were concerned that as part of Shropshire Council’s cost cutting, whereby there would be a charge for emptying green recycling bins and the possible closure of two recycling centres, there would be a substantial increase in fly tipping. Councillor Patel also expressed concern regarding the future of the mobile library.

Councillors reported there were bad potholes especially by Three Dwellings cottages, Little Bank Farm and Ludstone. Pedestrians were finding the pavement between the turning to The Wold and Griffiths Green difficult to use as some of the hedges were overgrown and the bank was encroaching on to the pavement. The drain opposite Boundary Close and the culverts at Lower Hopstone were blocked.

**Action: Clerk to report the above to Shropshire Highways.**

Councillor Moseley drew the councillors’ attention to the ‘Kill Your Speed’ sign at Pattingham.

Councillor Edwards suggested owners of hedges should be reminded that the cut off date for cutting hedges was 1st March.

 45/24 **CORRESPONDENCE**

 Residential Exception Site, Ashford Bank

TC Homes Contracting Ltd. had informed the Parish Council that in the Section 106 agreement it was stated public open space on the site could be offered to the Parish Council to own and maintain and had enquired whether the Parish Council would be interested.

**Action: Clerk to inform TC Homes the Parish Council did not wish to take up this offer.**

Reports had been received that construction lorries were passing through the centre of Claverley rather than accessing the site via Aston Lane. The Clerk had informed

Mr. Charnley who had apologised and said that all suppliers had been instructed to use Aston Lane and they had been informed that if they do not follow these instructions TC Homes will stop using them.

Councillor Cotham had met the owner of TC Homes on site regarding the hedge and he had offered to take cuttings.

 Public Space Protection Order – Dog Fouling and Stray Dogs

Shropshire Council was proposing a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which would enable the Dog Warden service to issue fixed penalty notices to those who fail to clear up after dog fouling. Dogs would also be excluded from play areas and sports areas and would be required to wear a lead on the public highway.

As part of the consultation Town and Parish Councils had been asked to complete a survey which had been circulated to councillors and to be returned by 15th March. Councillors had been asked to let the Clerk have their comments to enable her to fill in the consultation document.

 Cross border application to add a public bridleway in the parishes of Bobbington and

 Claverley

Staffordshire Council had informed the Parish Council that an application had been made by the British Horse Society for two bridleways at Gatacre. As the application routes form one continuous route, Shropshire County Council had delegated their powers to Staffordshire County Council to determine both applications. Any comments/evidence should be submitted by 6th April.

**Action: Councillor Cotham will study all the documents and prepare the Parish Council’s response.**

 SALC Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee

As the Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee meeting was being held on the same night as Claverley’s meeting it had not been possible for a councillor to be present to second Worfield Parish Council’s motion ‘Should Shropshire Council support a change to the National Planning Policy Framework’. It will be noted at the meeting that Claverley Parish Council was seconding the motion.

 Notification of road closures

Unnamed road between Claverley& Farmcote will be closed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm

on 15th March in order for Openreach to access the network to carry out pole test

Aston junction to Ashford Bank junction -10th April to 11th April 2024 to be closed between 9.30am to 4.00pm for Multevo carriageway repairs to include kerbing, signposts and iron works. Completion of 200m2 required. PLEASE NOTE THAT WORKING TIMES ON ASTON LANE/GRIFFITHS GREEN AND ASHFORD BANK WILL BE 09:15 to 14:45 DUE TO THE PROXIMITY TO CLAVERLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

 46**/**24 **REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS**

 Village Hall Committee

Councillor Wade had been unable to attend the March meeting so he did not have anything to report.

 47/24 **CHEQUES**

Chq. no. 001855 Claverley Village Hall Management Committee – hire of

 hall for meetings 2023-2024…………………………………. £162.00

 001856 Claverley Parochial Church Council – contribution to

 maintenance of the churchyard……………………..£1500.00

 contribution to costs of producing ‘Halo’ in 2024…. £150.00 £1650.00

 001857 Mrs. G.M. Price - reimbursement for:

 renewal of McAfee LiveSafe subscription …… …….. £44.99

 renewal of Microsoft Office 365 subscription…………£59.99

 reimbursement for cost of Broadband

 07/01/24 to 06/04/24…………… …………… £117.51 £222.49

 It was proposed by Councillor Moseley, seconded by Councillor Cains and agreed by

 the Council to pass the cheques for payment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

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

 Date of Annual Parish Meeting – Monday, 22nd April 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall