**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 9th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. S.A. Beaman

 Mrs. H.M. Cains

 R.J. Cotham (Chairman)

 Mrs. E.M. Holding

 D. Hyde

 Ms L. Patel

 M.J. Plumb

 P.J. Wade

 B. Walker-Drew

Also present: Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris

 One member of the public

Apologies: Councillor D.A. Cook – personal reasons, Councillor K. Moseley – personal reasons,

The Chairman welcomed Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris to the meeting.

 **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

MINUTES of the meeting held on 11th September 2023, having been distributed to all

 councillors, were confirmed and signed.

As Shropshire Councillor Morris was unable to remain for the full meeting, he was invited to make his report.

131/23 **UNITARY REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Morris expressed disappointment the parish had not been receiving proper representation but hoped the forthcoming election for a Shropshire councillor for Alveley and Claverley would improve matters.

With regard to Shipley Quarry, the detailed design of the road improvements and signage on the A454 had been completed and sent to Kier for pricing. Kier had been asked to prioritise this work.

An update on various enforcement matters was given.

A substantial programme of data collection and feasibility work had been carried out to identify appropriate speed reduction measures that will deliver the greatest benefit to school communities. It was proposed a permanent 20mph speed limit will be introduced outside Claverley School. There will be an Engagement Strategy which will outline how Shropshire Council intends to engage with members, schools, towns and parish councils. There will be a detailed engagement plan and will be shared at the appropriate time as the schemes progress.

A ground-breaking agreement had been agreed with Herefordshire Council, Monmouth County Council and Powys County Council to form a Marches Forward Partnership to apply for funding from the Government on major projects that will benefit the Marches region.

Each council will retain its own identity and independence and continue to deliver services to residents and businesses as they do now, but will work together, as partners, where there is mutual benefit.

Shropshire Council had won the National Council or Local Authority of the Year 2023 at the National Energy Efficiency Awards for the efforts in tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions.

Shropshire Councillor Morris concluded his report by informing the meeting that Shropshire Council had reported it already expects to achieve over £34 million of the £51.4 million spending reductions it identified it needs to find this year. This is more than the combined savings it has delivered in the last three years and represents two thirds of the total it says it needs to find by next April. The Council’s first quarter financial monitoring report showed that £11m has already been banked, with high confidence that another £23m will be delivered before the end of the financial year. The Council has another nine months to confirm how it will deliver the remaining £17m required and expects the majority of this target will be achieved.

While this very significant progress towards the £51.4m target is good news, the report also warns that further, new pressures are emerging. Additional costs are projected from rising demand for adults’ and children’s services as well as extra costs associated with providing people at risk of becoming homeless with temporary accommodation. These new pressures are currently estimated to add a further £20.5m costs to the council during the current year and it must find new ways to reduce these or reduce demand for its services. The Council has longer to address these new demand-led pressures, however, given its improved General Fund ‘reserves’ position, meaning it has until March 2025 to offset these.

 The Chairman thanked Shropshire Councillor Morris who left the meeting with the member

 of the public.

 Before the meeting continued the Chairman informed those present of the sad news that

Andrew Nicholls had passed away. He had been a very valued councillor during the period 1987 to 2003 and had served as Chairman for 6 years.

 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

132/23 Claverley in Bloom

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

The sites on the Aston Lane bank had been marked where dead trees and shrubs needed replacing. A few plants from stock had already been planted and a list had been supplied of proposed new stock to be purchased. This will use the remaining amount of £118.47 which had been ring fenced for stock replacement in this area, together with an extra amount from CIB funds.

The Sunshine in a bag Special School Assembly held on 25th September had been a great success. The largest sunflower was 7ft. 11ins. Heather Winwood, a local artist, judged the excellent artwork and presented the CIB sponsored prizes to the winning children. She also gave a talk to the children about using their artistic talent and presented some of her own work.

The autumn plant sale took place on 7th October when the 3 local suppliers supplied good value autumn/winter stock on a sale or return basis. CIB estimate around 75% was sold. Lesle Writtle and Lisa Thomas were thanked for all their pre-sale work and the tea shop for promoting an offer of 50p off a hot drink with each purchase made.

The winter planting scheme stock was finalised at end of September. CIB cleared the majority of the summer planting on 23rd September which was earlier than usual due to the availability of helpers and the Pumpkin Festival. Retained stock will be used together with new plants purchased from Rushmere Nurseries.

 133/23 QEII Jubilee Field

Councillor Cook did not have anything to report.

 134/23 Shipley Quarry

As reported by Shropshire Councillor Morris, the detailed design of the road improvements and signage on the A454 had been completed and sent to Kier for pricing. Kier had been asked to prioritise this work.

 135/23 Street Lights

Councillor Hyde had been successful finding out why the Clerk had been unable to contact MSD Lighting and he had now made contact with Candela Traditional Lighting Ltd. who manufacture the columns and lantern for MSD Lighting. Details of the order had been forwarded to Candela and E.ON had been asked to confirm they had not received the columns

as MSD Lighting had informed the Clerk in May they were awaiting delivery to E.ON.

E.ON had submitted the quote for installing a new street light in Aston Lane which amounted to £2969.94 ex VAT. It was proposed by Councillor Cain, seconded by Councillor Wade and agreed by the Council to accept the quote.

136/23 Bonfire and Fireworks Event

The Clerk had applied to Shropshire Council for the Temporary Event Notice. Councillor Walker-Drew was organising the tickets. The float was discussed and two additional card machines would be purchased. There had been six sponsors for the event. Discussion took place about how the pedestrians would enter the field.

 **Action: Councillor Cotham would investigate.**

137/23 Defibrillators

Councillor Plumb reported that a response was awaited from the Brewery regarding Mr. Horton’s request for the defibrillator to be sited at The Plough Inn.

Councillor Beaman informed the meeting that the British Heart Foundation’s funding scheme had opened and she was making an application for funding for the defibrillator to be sited at Heathton/Draycott.

 138/23 Memorial to the late Councillor Parr

 Discussion on this matter was deferred.

 139/23 Raising profile of the Parish Council

 Councillor Cains was setting up a Facebook page.

 140/23 Request for dog waste bin

Jane Salisbury, Shropshire Council’s Dog Warden and Street Scene Support had informed the Clerk a bin could be provided at the entrance to Pipers Lane at an approximate cost of £430.00. The annual cost of emptying the bin would be £150.00 per annum.

It was proposed by Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Cains and agreed by the Council to place an order.

 141/23 Access to churchyard

 Discussion on this matter was deferred.

 142/23 **PLANNING**

Permissions

23/02462/LBC Erection of single storey front extension affecting a Grade II Listed Building

 The Blacksmiths, Newin House Farm, Upper Aston, Claverley for Mrs. Julie Wilkes.

23/03499/FUL Proposed double storey side extension, rear extension and front porch,

 Orchard Cottage, High Street, Claverley for Mr Andrew Turner

New Applications

23/03809/FUL Erection of single storey rear extension, 24 Danesbrook, Claverley for

 Mrs Debra Matten.

The Parish Council did not have any objections.

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.

 The Parish Council did not have any objections but in view of the increase in rural crime, the

 Parish Council suggested consideration should be given to locating the timber building

 nearer to the farm buildings for security reasons

23/04264/TCA Fell 5 Leylandii within Claverley Conservation Area, Saffron, Church Street,

 Claverley for Mr. Christopher Evans.

 The Parish Council did not have any objections and did not wish for a Tree Preservation

 Order to be made on these trees on the grounds of public amenity value.

Withdrawn

23/01726/FUL Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

 for the erection of agricultural buildings and operational development, Oak Farm,

 Claverley for Mr Gavin and Mrs Sonja Oakley.

 143/23 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Mick Thorrington would be checking over the lights and Councillor Cook was making arrangements for the eye bolts to be stress tested prior to the lights being put up on 26th November.

 The Clerk had spoken to the Revd. Garry Ward who informed her he was happy to provide

 the P.A. and music for the switching on the lights ceremony which will be held at 6.00 p.m.

 on Sunday, 3rd December (first Sunday in Advent).

 The School’s PTA had enquired about the possibility of the school choir singing a few

carols and selling mulled wine, mulled cider and a non-alcoholic version. The Parish Council agreed in principle but the PTA should put in place safety arrangements and should not sell beer or spirits.

 A name was suggested for a senior citizen to switch on the lights and the Clerk would ask

 Jo Derrer to nominate the youngest pupil.

Councillor Cotham was trying to source a Christmas tree.

**Action: Clerk to obtain permission from Shropshire Council to put up the lights and to put an appeal for a tree in the ‘Halo’ magazine.**

144/23 **PARISH MATTERS**

Gullies were still blocked along Aston Lane and the 8 gullies between the Lower Hopstone bridge to Rudge Heath were also blocked.

**Action: The Clerk to inform Shropshire Highways.**

The Clerk had been informed that Shropshire Highways will not be taking further action with regard to the section of collapsed wall outside Claverley Hall Farm as it was not considered the wall presented an unreasonable level of risk to the public highway.

**Action: Shropshire Highways to be asked to remove the barriers.**

There had been two recent incidents of trailers being stolen in the parish.

Wolverhampton and South Staff Car Club had organised a road rally on 18th November which will pass through the parish. Residents living near the route had been informed.

 145/23 **CORRESPONDENCE**

 Election of Councillor for Alveley and Claverley Electoral Division

Notification had been received that the election for a Shropshire Councillor to fill the vacancy following Elliott Lynch’s resignation will be held on Thursday, 19th October. As The Plough Function Room was unavailable the village hall will be used.

 Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review 2023

 Shropshire Council was undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places in

accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended). The Parish Council agreed with Shropshire Council’s proposal that The Plough Function Room be used as the Polling Station for the parish of Claverley.

 The Local Government Boundary Commission – Final Recommendation

The Local Government Boundary Commission’s final recommendation for electoral arrangements had been published. Claverley will be joined with Worfield, encompassing Worfield, Badger, Swancote and Stanmore, rather than with Alveley.

 Notification of road closures

Claverley to Upper Aston for carriageway repairs from Friday 6th October to Wednesday 18th October 2023 between the hours of 9:30am to 2.45pm. Works will be undertaken on weekdays only.

Long Common, Claverley from Monday,6th November to Tuesday, 17th November 2023 National Grid to install 2 joint holes in tarmac footway and 80m trenching in tarmac road for supply alteration. Road to be closed all the time.

146**/**23 **REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS**

 Village Hall Committee

Councillor Wade reported he had attended the meeting on 5th October. Approval by the insurance company for the work on the subsidence was awaited. Consideration was being given to replacing the windows. The fee for using the village hall as the polling station for the forthcoming election would help funds and there had been a few more bookings. The disagreement with the Tennis Club had gone to arbitration.

147/23 **CHEQUES**

Chq. no. 001821 Space Mobiles Ltd. – hire of portable toilets…………………….£228.00

 001822 E.ON Energy Solutions Ltd.

 alterations to column height………£210.00

 black out rear pane of lantern……. . £60.00 ………………£270.00

 001823 SSE - energy for street lights 02/09/23 to 02/10/23………………£186.58

 001824 Mrs. G.M. Price – Clerk’s salary for second quarter

 2023/2024 (weeks 14-26)………………………………..... .£879.13

 001825 HM Revenue & Customs - PAYE for second quarter 2023/24….. £46.60

 001826 Mrs. G.M. Price – reimbursement for cost of

 Broadband 07/07/23 to 06/10/23 …………………... £117.51

 001827 Float for Bonfire/Fireworks event……………………………… £2000.00

It was proposed by Councillor Walker-Drew, 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 9.30 p.m.

 Date of next meeting: Monday, 13th November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.