



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes

of the Ordinary Meeting

held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 24 April 2025 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Martin Bennett, Cllr Bob Kimber, Cllr Martin Jones, Cllr Iain Campbell, Cllr William Jones, Cllr Steve Watts, Cllr Mike Weston, Cllr Richard Fowler, Cllr Jaz Singh

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Seven members of the public

2204 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Martin Bennett extended a warm welcome and advised Cllr Peter Richardson is unwell and he would be acting Chairman.

On behalf of Cllr Peter Richardson, he thanked members for their service over the past four years. He also thanked Cllr Steve Watts and Cllr Paul Milner, who are not standing for re-election, and noted appreciation to Cllr Chris Woods, who resigned in February 2025.

2205 Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr Peter Richardson - Illness

Cllr Peter Davies - Work commitments

Cllr Joyce Barrow – Family commitments

2206 Police Report

The Chairman advised members the Clerk had circulated the latest Police report. Councillor Iain Campbell raised concerns with the quality of its contents. Councillors also expressed their concerns with the unacceptable response from the Neighbour Team to the Clerk. This followed an email request for further details on the death of a cyclist. It was suggested The Council raise a formal complaint. A Councillor stated he received the "West Mercia Matters" email which advised Anti-Social Behaviour and similar issues should be reported to the Parish Council. Councillor Martin Jones expressed his concern over the limited presence of Police at meetings over the past 18 months. It was suggested the Industrial Estate, having access to major roads, would serve as an ideal site for a combined hub for Fire, Police and Ambulance Services. This could be funded through the sale of current premises.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to write to all Services regarding this suggestion. There was one abstention.

Members **NOTED** the report.

2207 Shropshire Council Report

There was no report from Cllr Joyce Barrow.

2208 Public Participation

A member of the public advised members he was the applicant of the last planning application detailed on the agenda. He circulated a photograph to all members of the barn to be converted. He advised this would be for his own personal use and advised there were no local squash facilities. The Chairman thanked him for his comments and advised this would be considered under planning.

2209 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 March 2025 were considered for approval. The Clerk advised the minutes of 27 February 2025 stated the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 28 May 2025. This date should have been agreed as Thursday 29 May 2025. Members approved the revised date.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the minutes be **APPROVED and ADOPTED** as a true record.

2210 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members were informed they are personally responsible for deciding whether they should disclose an interest at this meeting. Members were also reminded they should not make decisions with a closed mind and must declare a bias and not vote on matters where their decision could be pre-determined.

2211 Dispensations

None received

2212 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared

2213 Planning Matters

Members **NOTED** the following applications.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
25/00702/FUL Trefonen Hall, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9EB	Construction of cattle shed adjacent to existing farm buildings Decision: Grant Permission

b Planning Applications

To **CONSIDER** and **APPROVE** a response to the following planning applications:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
25/01196/FUL Olive House, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8JB.	Erection of two storey rear extension and first floor extensions over existing footprint, bay and porch to front elevation. Councillor Martin Jones reported that this property was recently sold. Several trees have been removed. The plan remains within the existing footprint, and no objections or issues have been raised. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
25/01396/OHL Llynclys To Maesbury Marsh.	<p>11kV Overhead Electricity Distribution Line Rebuild</p> <p>Several Councillors advocated for the cabling to be rebuilt underground, aligning with a consistent approach for future applications. However, one Councillor argued that it would be financially impractical, while another indicated this was a standard system.</p> <p>Vote : Support 6 ; Against 1; Abstention 1.</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application with a preference for cables to be underground.</p>
25/01315/FUL Unit 4 The Barns, Top Farm, Woolston, West Felton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8HY	<p>Change of Use of agricultural building to squash court for personal use</p> <p>Councillor Martin Jones advised members he had viewed this application via the Planning Portal and there have been no objections. With no squash facilities locally there is no reason not to support this.</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application due to insufficient facilities being available locally. There was one abstention.</p>

NOTE: Planning applications not listed above that are received after the issue of this agenda and included on Shropshire Council's website will also be considered to meet response timeframes

2214 Clerk's Report

Members reviewed a written report from the Clerk regarding actions taken after decisions made at previous council meetings.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the report.

2215 Financial Matters

a) Members considered approval of the Final summary Income and expenditure, balances, and Outturn Position at 31 March 2024/25, subject to internal audit.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 31 March 2025 of income received of £59,306 and gross expenditure of £74,208.55 be APPROVED. Members NOTED and APPROVED the outturn position for 2024/25.

b) Bank reconciliation

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 31 March 2025.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement at 31 March 2025 totalling £215,177.14 be APPROVED.

c) Bank Reconciliations for cash position at 30 April 2025

Members considered the bank reconciliation at 31 March 2025 for the cash book position at 30 April 2025

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement at 31 March 2025 for the April cash position be APPROVED.

d) Provisional Payments for April 2025

Members considered the following provisional Payments for April 2025:

Supplier	Details	Gross £
EE	Mobile charges	15.71
HSBC	Bank charges - 30/03/2025 - 29/04/2025	8.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter Cleaning April 2025	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter Cleaning April 2025	25.00
ICCM	Corporate Membership - 01 April - 31 March 2026	105.00
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Clerk's pay and allowances April 2025	1,541.87
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay April 2025	359.85
Shropshire Council	Pension Contributions - Employees / Employers	487.04
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Postage for agendas and associated papers (Actual)	33.45
WTS Edge Ltd	Water Testing -Samples, certificate and courier charges April 2025	318.00
Total		2,953.92

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the provisional payments for April 2025 be approved.

e) The Chairman reported the Environmental grant of £750.00 received from Shropshire Council in 2024/25 has been fully spent in accordance with the terms of the grant. The Clerk will complete and submit the required paperwork.

2216 Environmental Grant 2025/26

Members **NOTED** Shropshire Council will continue the Environmental Grant for 2025/26. Members **AGREED** for the Clerk to apply once details have been released.

2217 Risk Management

a & b) The Chairman proposed deferring the annual risk assessment to the May 2025 meeting so inspections of the Council's assets can be incorporated. Members **AGREED** with this proposal.

2218 Election Update

The Chairman advised that for the first time in 110 years an election has been called for the Parish Council. Members **NOTED** the contested ward for Morda with Sweeney. Cllr Martin Jones observed that not all vacancies in uncontested wards have been filled.

2219 Coed y Go Speed Restriction

The Chairman extended his congratulations to all individuals involved in the Coed y Go speed restriction project. Members **NOTED** that the order to reduce the speed limit in Coed y Go from 60 mph to 40 mph has been issued and will take effect from 17 April 2025.

2220 Cemetery Working Group

Councillor Mike Weston advised members the current pathways are almost full. The best way is to increase the existing pathways and introduce new ones. Two quotes have been received and he requested these be placed as an agenda for consideration at the next meeting. He confirmed the materials will be the same as those currently in place. Members **ACCEPTED** the report and **AGREED** for the quotes to be an agenda item.

2221 Environment Working Group

Councillor Iain Campbell asked members to agree the last set of results from the Sewage Works. He proposed the Parish Council write to Severn Trent with the figures to express concerns and request an explanation.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for a letter to be sent to Severn Trent with the results requesting an explanation.

Councillor Martin Jones noted that there are 600 homes yet to be constructed, all of which will contribute effluent to the Sewage Works. He is currently awaiting permission for a short film and a talk by Fergal Sharkey to be released. Once received, these will be made available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Richard Fowler proposed sharing the results through local media once the election was over. Members **AGREED** the report.

2222 Possible closure of Oswestry Post Office

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members the Post Office will be franchised, although no date has been announced. The Clerk at Oswestry Town Council received a private and confidential response from Post Office which has not been disclosed.

2223 Social Media

Councillor Richard Fowler informed members that an update report had been circulated. Members **NOTED** the report.

2224 Website

Councillor Richard Fowler informed the members that if he is not elected in the upcoming election, another Councillor will need to take responsibility for this. The Chairman advised that co-option is available.

2225 ECO4 Grants Scheme

Councillor Martin Jones informed the members that he is awaiting a response from Shropshire Council regarding suppliers. The ECO4 Grant Scheme is being administered differently with strict limitations on what is available. He will provide additional information on where and how to apply when known. Members **ACCPTED** the report.

2226 Correspondence

a)Members **NOTED** emails of thanks from Rhydydroseau Village Hall Trustees, Hope House Childrens' Hospice, Shropshire Union Canal Society and Moreton Playing Fields Committee following recent grant awards.

2227 Consultations

a)Members **NOTED** the Vyrnwn Frankton Connection deadline to submit feedback is **Wednesday 16 April 2025**.

2228 Date for Next Meeting

Member **NOTED** the next meeting will place on Thursday 15 May 2025 at Rhydydroesau Village Hall from 7.00pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 29 May at Trefonen Village Hall.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it will be PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present

2229 Staffing

The Clerk advised members of the initial Rate of the Employers Pension contribution rate as determined by Mercer Actuarial Report. Due to the confidential nature of the report, this will only be shared with the Finance Committee. Members **NOTED** this.

2230 Planning Enforcement

Councillor Martin Bennett reminded members of the potential breaches which have been shared with Shropshire Council Planning Enforcement. Since 2022, there have been numerous complaints and violations. He read an email received from the Environment Agency which advised of an imminent inspection. A Councillor made reference to water testing conducted close to the site. Concerns were expressed regarding the Planning Officer involved in multiple approved applications and whether there in an investigation. Several examples over permissions and lack of enforcements at Maesbury were shared.

Members **NOTED** the Environmental Agency response.

It was suggested members consider this matter post-election to agree away forward. Members may wish to consider enquiries to deal with any legal issues and for this to be placed as an agenda item under a Part II.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the water testing results to be shared with the Environmental Agency.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7:55 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The Chairman