



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes

of the Ordinary meeting

held at 7 pm on Thursday 25 April 2024 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Martin Bennett, Cllr Peter Richardson, Cllr Martin Jones, Cllr William Jones, Cllr Steve Watts, Cllr Mike Weston, Cllr Chris Woods

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Approximately four members of the public

1934 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Martin Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members he was glad to be back particularly with some of the arising issues. He proposed wishing Cllr William Jones a happy 21st birthday for tomorrow and members offered their congratulations with a round of applause. In terms of engagements, he advised that a cheque had been presented to Hope House Hospice earlier in the week and an article will be written for the local press. In his capacity as Governor for Whittington and Morda Schools, Councillor of the Council and Morda & Sweeney Ward he has visited Whittington School and will be attending Morda Primary School tomorrow.

1935 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Iain Campbell

Cllr Bob Kimber

Cllr Paul Milner

Cllr Peter Davies

Cllr Jas Singh

Cllr Martin Jones advised members that Cllr Iain Campbell is in the Critical Care Unit following a serious motorbike accident. He sends his apologies and hopes to be able to attend next month. Cllr Martin Bennett sent best wishes on behalf of the Council and asked whether it was appropriate to send a small gift / get well card. Cllr Peter Richardson felt this was not something Cllr Iain Campbell would want.

Apologies were also received from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow.

1936 Police Report

a) Cllr Martin Bennett advised members PCSO Charlie Ironmonger had sent his apologies for not being able to attend

the meeting. He read the report from Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team.
07/03/2024 - Abandoned vehicles have been reported to Police and Shropshire Council
08/03/2024 - Road Traffic Collision, Trefonen Rd.
17/03/2024 - Road Traffic Collision on the A483.
17/03/2024 - Report of cable on the A483 and Highways had been made aware of a live cable.
17/03/2024 - Report of Traffic Lights out on the A483 and Highways had been made aware.
23/03/2024 - Theft of bank cards

Highway Incident – 2
Concern for Safety – 3
Other – 10
Assault – 3
Domestic – 3

Members **NOTED** the report.

1937 Shropshire Council Report

Cllr Martin Bennett read the Shropshire Council report provided by Cllr Joyce Barrow:

The river quality report and update will be going to my July scrutiny meeting, it's being delayed because the Environmental Agency and Natural Resources Wales launched a consultation a couple of weeks ago on the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme which Shropshire Council and Powys Council are also involved in so this would fit in well with the results from the consultation.

There is still time to apply for crowdfunding, Shropshire, a civic fundraising platform where community groups can get their projects funded by public and grant funding is currently open for applications until 15th May. You can bid for up to £10,000 and up to £29,000 from the Green Space and Active Travel fund.

The Council's Trading Standards team have been out and about trying to prevent local retailers from selling vapes and other age restricted goods to young people under 18. Over the last year, the team undertook 59 purchases across the county, 17 for alcohol, 36 vapes and six knives.

The consultation is live on Waste and Recycling, I would urge everyone to take part. There is also a consultation launched to support the decision on future of the Schools Library Service

1938 Public Participation

A member of the public reiterated concerns with the state of the roads from Trefonen, Aston and Whittington.

1939 Minutes

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 28 March 2024 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record. There was one abstention.**

1940 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.

None declared

1941 Dispensations

None requested.

1942 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None Declared

1943 Planning Matters

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
23/04776/REM Land Off Mile End Roundabout, Oswestry, Shropshire	Approval of all reserved matters (appearance, access arrangements, layout, scale, and landscaping) pursuant to hybrid planning permission 21/01334/EIA for the development of two secondary roads (Roads 2 and 3) off the main spine road, and associated works and infrastructure Decision: Grant Permission
23/05108/FUL Henblas, Rhydycroesau, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9BD	Conversion of outbuilding to holiday let. Decision: Grant Permission
24/00645/FUL Pen-Y-Dyffryn Hall Hotel, Rhydycroesau, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7JD	Proposed Single Storey Side Extension To Form Dining Room Decision: Grant Permission
24/00647/LBC Pen-Y-Dyffryn Hall Hotel, Rhydycroesau, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7JD	Proposed Dining Room Extension. Proposed adjustment of an existing sash window to form an access to the extension Decision: Grant Permission
24/00441/TPO Land Opposite Acorns, Waen Lane , Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8JD	To remove branches and dead wood overhanging the property 'Acorns' (approx. 10 percent reduction) from 1no. Oak protected by the Shropshire Council (Land adjacent to Waen Lane, Maesbury Marsh, Shropshire) TPO 2015 (SC/00235/15) Decision: Grant Permission
24/00681/OHL Trefarclawdd Farm, Trefarclawdd, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9DE	Installation of an additional wooden pole into an existing overhead power line Decision: Objection OHL/Circular Notification

Cllr Martin Jones expressed concerns with application 24/00441/TPO and advised the Parish Council had objected to this application. He stated the house had been built in the wrong location, orientation, size, and access, and questioned how Shropshire Council planning had allowed this. He noted the hedgerow had been removed at the back of the site / property. Cllr Martin Bennett suggested noting the planning decisions in a) and communicate the Council's grave concerns over approval of this planning application despite the Council's views and no active enforcement.

Cllr Peter Oichardson provided a history of the site advising the Parish Council had objected strongly to the first application. Approval was granted for four plots all of which have not conformed to the original planning application. A re-application had to be submitted and retrospective approval granted. The second property referred to as the Embassy. This was not built to scale. There was a suggestion of engaging a Planning consultant to challenge the decision. Cllr Peter Richardson and Cllr Martin Jones both felt this would be a waste of money.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write to Shropshire Council raising concerns with approval of this application and to invite a planning officer to the next meeting to provide an explanation for the reasons in reaching this decision.

b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment:

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/01292/FUL Field East Of The Hollies, Middleton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4LU.	Change of use from agriculture to secure dog walking and exercise field. Cllr Peter Richardson stated this was due to diversification and proposed no comment. Members AGREED not to comment.
Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/01420/FUL Bwlchgywynt, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry, Shropshire	Conversion of outbuildings and tool shed to annex ancillary to the main dwelling Members AGREED not to comment

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.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/01571/HHE 4 School Lane, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9DY	Erection of a single storey rear extension to semi detached dwelling. Dimensions 4.30m beyond the rear wall, 2.80m maximum height and 2.50m high to the eaves. Cllr Peter Richardson stated this was within permitted development size. Members AGREED not to comment
24/00820/FUL The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4LT	Demolition of existing rear extensions attached garage and removal of static caravan. Erection of proposed rear extensions, re-roofing and associated external works. Replacement of existing septic tank with Treatment plant. Decision: Grant Permission

1944 Clerk's Report

Members **NOTED** a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at previous council meetings. Members **AGREED** for all completed items to be removed.

1945 Financial Matters

Members considered for approval income and expenditure, balances, and final Outturn Position at 31 March 2024. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 31 March 2024 and the balance of income received to date of £56,983.34 and gross expenditure to date of £61,1546.75 be APPROVED.**
Members NOTED the final outturn position for 2023/24 of £230,151.

b)Bank Reconciliation

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 31 March 2024.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement to the 31 March 2024 be APPROVED.

c) Bank reconciliation to 31 March 2024 for April 2024 cash book position

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 31 March 2024 for April 2024 cash book position

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement to the 31 March 2024 for April 2024 cashbook position be APPROVED

d)Payments for April 2024

Members considered for approval the following provisional payments for April 2024:

Supplier	Details	Total Amount £
EE	Mobile charges	14.81
HSBC	Bank charges - 29/02/2024 - 29/03/2024	10.00
A G Royce	Tree survey works Trefarclawdd Cemetery/ Trefonen Cross Cemetery/ Chapel Lane / Triangle at Coed y Go	525.00
A G Royce	Grounds Maintenance Works	602.00
Scottish Power	Electricity charges 31/12/2023 - 31/03/2024	937.27
TEEC	Website amendments	108.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter Cleaning April 2024	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter Cleaning April 2024	25.00
Shaw & Sons Ltd	Register of Burials book	246.00
ICCM	Corporate Membership - 01 April - 31 March 2025	100.00
Open Space Studios CIC	Office Room Hire - 19 March 2024	10.00
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Clerk's pay and allowances April 2024	1500.67
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay April 2024	263.96
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Books of First Class Stamps (4*1 & 8*2)	29.00
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Postage for agendas and associated papers	23.20
		4,454.91

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the provisional payments for April 2024 be **APPROVED**.

e) Members considered the use of the Environmental Grant of £1,500 for 2023/24. The Clerk had provided a summary and detailed costings for the Grounds Maintenance Contract which confirmed the grant had been fully spent and in accordance with the grant terms.

1945 Environmental Grant 2024/25

Members considered the Environmental Grant application 2024/25 for £1,500 from Shropshire Council.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** for the Environmental Grant application 2024/25 for £1,500 be submitted to Shropshire Council.

1946 Risk Management

a) Members considered the risk assessment inspections of the council's assets. The Clerk confirmed all inspections had been completed. Several minor repairs / maintenance have been identified and a headstone inspection at Trefarclawdd Cemetery is required. These will be taken forward by an action plan.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to **APPROVE** the risk assessment inspections of the Council's assets.

b) Members considered the Annual Risk Assessment reviewed and updated by the Clerk.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to **approve** the Annual Risk Assessment.

1947 Outcome of Casual Vacancy – Sychtyn Ward

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members the casual vacancy had been advertised following the resignation of Cllr Roger Jones. There has been no call for an election and the vacancy will be advertised through Co-option. Members **NOTED** this.

1948 Environmental Working Group

a) Water Pollution

Cllr Martin Jones advised members the plan had been to collect water samples with representatives of Montford Bridge and Up Sewage Creek in attendance. However, due to Cllr Iain Campbell's accident the deadlines were missed. There is no water testing this month. He proposed two additional tests will be performed at Rhydycroseau and by Morton Ley Farm at the bridge, unless Councillors have water courses with the Parish they wish to have assessed. Given its importance, water Testing will continue next year. Cllr Mike Weston offered to step in to cover during Cllr Iain Campbell's absence. Cllr Martin Jones advised he will speak with Kinnerley Parish Council, attend their next meeting, and provide an update. He also reported that a farmer from Montford Bridge had stopped growing potatoes due to the level of phosphates on the land having an adverse effect. Members **NOTED** the report on Water Pollution

b) Trefarclawdd Farm

No update

Cllr Mike Weston asked if a meeting had been agreed with Trefarclawdd farm . The Clerk confirmed a letter had been sent which the representative had acknowledged receipt of. The Clerk is waiting for details of proposed dates.

c) Vyrnwy Frankton Connection

Cllr Peter Richardson provided a detailed update to members on the Vyrnwy Frankton Connection meeting he attended at Pant which had been arranged by Helen Morgan MP. Around 180 people were in attendance. There was no representation from Green Gen / Bute Energy. The First presentation was given by a resident from Crickheath who will be severely affected if the project proceeds. Threatening letters have been issued regarding enforcement and access to land. It was noted , access to land cannot be gained without a Network Operations License. This has not yet been granted. Concerns were raised around expected disruption lasting 5 years, falls in house prices, no compensation, mobile / broadband connection issues, loss of visual amenity and costs for routing underground can be cheaper. The second presentation by Campaign for Rural Wales (CPRW) covered National Grids plans for five windfarms and plans by Green Gen to sell the license to other providers to build. This was followed by a questions and answers time from the audience. Helen Morgan MP summarised:

- To strategize and lobby the Minister responsible for making the decision
- Investigate Green Gen vs. Sven / National Grid
- To note the strength of feeling by local people

Cllr Martin Jones asked how the Independant Network Operation License was obtained, and Cllr Peter Richardson advised the company applied to Government . Helen Morgan MP has given her full support for this scheme to be underground.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write to Helen Morgan MP to advise the strength of public opinion and to invite the Minster responsible for the decision to visit the area. To arrange a venue to accommodate as many people as possible.

It was **NOTED** members supported the Protest Group.

1949 Cemetery

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members a request had been received from a resident to allow a wooden cross on a grave in Trefarclawdd Cemetery . Cllr Mike Weston asked if this had already been installed as he had seen a wooden cross lying on a grave in the newer part of the cemetery. He also wondered why given the concrete platform being in place for headstones. However, he expressed that permission should be granted. Members discussed this and there was a suggestion a wooden cross maybe due to financial constraints. Members felt a period of twelve months was appropriate

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for temporary permission to be granted for the installation of a wooden cross for an initial period of twelve months.

1950 Newsletter

a) Cllr Martin Bennett advised members of the suggestion as a Parish Council it produce a newsletter in September / October for all properties within the area. Alerting people that the Parish Council exists and draw attention to elections next year. Two newsletters have previously been produced for Morda & Sweeney Ward by Cllr Martin Bennett and Cllr Jaz Singh. A draft copy has been produced which should be published in the next few months. Cllr William Jones will provide an article on Water Pollution and Cllr Steve Watts an article on Road issues. Cllr Peter Richardson suggested the Council plan for it and felt some articles in the draft version were relevant across the Parish . Cllr Martin Bennett advised he had made enquires with The Royal Mail being able to deliver leaflets for the Morda & Sweeney Ward for an estimated cost of £75 although his practice is to 'walk the ward' and deliver by hand as a way of meeting people and being made aware of emerging issues.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to plan for a Parish Council newsletter.

1951 Shropshire Council Service Provision Cuts

a) Cllr Martin Bennett noted that since the agenda was prepared a number of additional consultations have been put in place . This includes the future of The Schools' Library Service and the Empty Homes Function. The Local Plan Inspector has asked for a consultation on the draft policy of Housing Provision for Older People. There is also the Additional Sustainability Appraisal of the draft Shropshire Local Plan, updated Housing & Employment Topic Paper and updated Green Belt Topic Paper. Cllr Martin Jones felt Shropshire Council were not taking responsibility for the mismanagement of the Council. He stated there was the plan for a loan of £28m for an unnecessary swimming pool.

Members expressed it was difficult to assess all the consultations with so many being published at the same time. Members **NOTED** the consultations.

b) Cllr Martin Bennett advised members there had been a reasonable response from Parish Councils in the area to a meeting to discuss cuts in Service provision and impact on residents and local parishes. . SALC issued a note earlier which Cllr Martin Bennett read to members. This included details of a number of meetings with Town Council Clerks. Cllr Peter Richardson suggested as a priority the Parish Council contact Helen Morgan MP asking her to attend a meeting in September 2024 to discuss the service cuts and impact on the Parish Councils and Town Council in the local area and to note a positive response from local councils for this has been received. Also, to note the offer from Oswestry Town Council to host this proposed event.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write to Helen Morgan MP to ask her to attend a meeting with other local Parish Councils / Town Council to discuss the cuts in Service Provision and impact on Councils.

1952 Correspondence

a) Cllr Martin Bennett advised members of a resident's concerns / dissatisfaction regarding Shropshire Council's completed road works along Ball Lane, Maesbury. There was a brief discussion and Cllr Martin Jones advised members of his conversation with a Highways repairman conducting repairs on B4396.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the Chair to write to the resident regarding the works and to raise concerns with the responsible Authority Shropshire Council through Fix my Street.

1953 Consultations

a) Cllr Martin Bennett advised members of Shropshire Council consultation on the introduction of an annual charge for garden waste collection and the future operation of the council's five household recycling centres from 9 April to 20 May 2024 .

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to write to Shropshire Council to raise concerns with the proposals on garden waste and recycling centres as part of the Public Consultation.

b) Members **NOTED** the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, Transformation Programme

1953 Date for Next Meeting

Members **NOTED** that the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place on **Thursday 23 May 2024** 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

1954 Planning Enforcement

There were no planning enforcements

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.00 pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____