



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes

of the Ordinary Meeting

held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 25 July 2024 at Canal Central, Maesbury

Present:

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

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Approximately five members of the public

2012 Chairman's Welcome

a) Cllr Peter Richardson extended a warm welcome to those present. He advised members both he and the Vice Chairman had attended the Chairs' Networking meeting yesterday and the postponed Oswestry Area Committee meeting is now taking place on 29 July at Oswestry Town Council chambers.

b) Attendance at Parish Council Meetings

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that all are summoned to and not invited to attend Parish Council meetings. It is appreciated there may be times where commitments prevent Councillors from attending. However, there is a reasonable expectation that members will attend at least the majority of meetings. Cllr Martin Jones advised members that despite being involved in an accident he attend a Parish Council meeting the following week. If members are not willing to make the effort to attend, they should not stand. There are certain members who have a less than 1 in 2 average for attending. Members **NOTED** a member who is a Councillor with another Local Authority has a poor record of attendance.

2013 Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr Paul Milner

Cllr Chris Woods

2014 Police Report

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that the Police representative had sent apologies for not being able to attend although the latest report had been received. The Clerk had requested a specific update on an incident in Morda. The Police advised that was no further update only the information release to the media.

Cllr Peter Richardson read the following report:

Community priorities:

1. Speeding
2. Anti-Social behaviour
3. Drugs

Priority 1.

Speed surveys conducted:

Trefonen Road/Broomhall Lane junction – average speed 27.15mph

Main Road, Maesbury – average speed 28.17mph

We have emailed the Safer Roads Team to ask for their presence with the Speed Van/Bike in our area, specifically the Morda area. Awaiting reply – but we will continue to invite them into many of our 30mph areas

We have attended Trefonen School to help with the parking issues at drop-off and pick-up times.

RTC in Morda – 1 arrested for drinking driving. Excess speed was not mentioned

Road Rage incident in Maesbury – being dealt with.

Priority 2.

We have been dealing with an ASB incident in Trefonen. We have spoken to the victim and the persons involved, and their parents and school and put a stop to it.

There have been several incidents in one specific area of Morda, ranging from low-level to very serious. These are all being investigated or dealt with individually and we are working closely with outside agencies including Housing to look at the issues.

We have dealt with an ASB issue in Treflach but this was neighbour related.

Priority 3.

No drugs issues reported

Emerging trends - Requests for information - other.

We have dealt with a suspicious incident in Morda/Trefonen which was shared by the public on social media. This turned out to be a non-crime incident and was resolved.

One reported theft in a rural area near Trefonen – theft from a motor vehicle

One burglary/theft of vehicle reported in Morda area

Report of persons in the water treatment works – no-one located after search

Minor damage caused in Morda pre-school forest school area

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that “On your Areas” was a link to the Shropshire Star regarding the incident in Morda. Cllr Peter Davies advised of a crash on the Racecourse which included the loss of life. Members requested the reason this had not been included in the latest Police Report. Cllr Martin Jones requested the Safe Neighbourhood Inspect to be invited to attend the next meeting. Members **NOTED** the Police report.

2015 Shropshire Council Report

Cllr Joyce Barrow provided the following report:

“The Council has an interim structure following voluntary redundancy. There were over 200 requests. This is the first step in becoming a smaller organisation with fewer people overall and the starting point, implemented with immediate effect, is a reduction in the Senior Management structure. Some of the approved voluntary redundancy applications were from Senior Leaders, overseeing large business areas, including three Assistant Directors. These are Les Pursglove, Assistant Director for Health/environmental protection and Healthy Place, Tim Smith, Assistant Director for Commercial Services, Tracy Darke, Assistant Director for Economy and Place.

Cabinet approved Garden Waste subscription and agreed to keep all recycling centres open. An annual charge of £56 for the collection of garden waste from the kerbside and to keep all five recycling centres open. This follows consultation with the public, asking if they would be willing to pay a subscription. The plans have been put forward to help make £62 million. The recycling centres will close one day a week. The subscription will be from 1st October to 30th September. The closing days are likely to be a Wednesday or Thursday, the least popular days. From 1st October, anyone who has not subscribed, will not have their garden waste collected.

A booking service is to be implemented at the recycling centre, details to be given shortly.”

Cllr Joyce Barrow advised members that she has tried to prevent the introduction of charging for garden waste collection for the past five years and does not agree with the decision taken. Cllr Peter Richardson advised he had completed the survey, objecting to the charge and believes fly tipping will increase. Cllr Martin Bennett advised Shropshire Council had provided a significant response to the letter from the Parish Council and their decision seems to be against the Council's policies on well-being, healthy environment, economy and organisation and suggested the decision should have been evaluated against Policy rather than budgets. He commented on the probability of increased costs from dumping of waste, food waste service being withdrawn and then having to be reintroduced in 2026 and the costs for the booking system. He asked what other areas the Council have considered and noted the number of allowances paid to 74 elected Councillors totalling in excess of £1m. He asked whether she would support a system of reasonable and audited expenses and system of allowance related to members other income stream. A number of Councillors expressed concerns with charging and an unfair booking system. Cllr Barrow advised Powys and Wrexham Council charge and the introduction of a booking system is partly to prevent residents from outside of the area from using the facilities. Members noted Telford and Wrekin recycling facilities are to remain charge free. Cllr Barrow is happy for any comments to be emailed to her which will be shared with portfolio holders.

2016 Public Participation

A visiting non-resident commented on the green waste and she expressed a view that people will be burning rubbish which will be antagonistic and against the Council's anti-pollution carbon neutral policy.

A representative from Roger Parry Partnership, agent of Yarreal at Trefarclawdd Farm addressed members. He advised that having been through a process of public consultation with neighbours and objectors to the scheme, improvements have been made to hopefully address some of the concerns raised. A proposal is being put forward to expand the farm and this will be going through the planning process in due. He wished to communicate with the Council with another invitation to visit the farm. Cllr Peter Richardson advised the Parish Council welcomes a meeting, however as a legally bound body it has to ensure it is attended by the appropriate members of Council including the Clerk to minute the meeting with a record of the discussions. Local members of the community have been spoken to and some concerns addressed with restriction to some of the noise, slurry and traffic issues. There will be two additional sheds with slurry storage and surface water storage. This application is being taken forward now following Aca arm being brought back in hand. With 300 acres of land this will allow feed and slurry management. There have been discussions with Invest in Shropshire about what to do with the old traditional buildings at Trefarclawdd Farm. It is hoping to create some local jobs with the benefits of a modern working farm. Cllr Peter Richardson reiterated the Parish Council welcomes a meeting with representatives of the farm to discuss what is happening and what is in the best interest of the farm and the Parish. This is likely to be September / October 2024.

2017 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 June 2024 were considered for approval.

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

2018 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

2019 Dispensations

None requested.

2020 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None Declared

2021 Planning Matters

The following planning application was **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/01953/FUL Bank House, Craig-llwyn, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9BH	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling and associated works Decision: Grant Permission

b Planning Applications

The following applications were considered for comment:

24/00761/FUL Planning Inspector ref: APP/L3245/D/24/3344605 Appeal reference: 24/03273/REF The Coppie, Woolston, West Felton, Oswestry	Erection of part two storey and part single storey extension. Cllr Martin Bennett advised members the Parish Council previously supported this application on the grounds of affordable housing. However, in reviewing this application, it was refused “The proposal is considered not to be acceptable in terms of scale and insufficient justification submitted to support an extension of this scale in this instance in relation to affordable dwelling contrary to policy.” He agrees with officers that this should be refused. He provided further information regarding the property and affordability. He suggested the Council supports the refusal on exactly the same grounds and writes to the Planning Inspector in appropriate terms. Cllr Martin Jones stated the extension was too big and does not meet the criteria of affordable housing. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the same grounds and to write to the Planning Inspector in appropriate terms.
24/02474/FUL Lavender Cottage, Sweeney, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9EY	Erection of two storey workshop outbuilding Cllr Bob Kimber commented that the build is large and could easily be converted into an Air BnB. Cllr Martin Bennett commented that the plans showed space for twelve bicycles which suggested this will be a small business. Cllr Martin Jones stated the storage would be upstairs, 30 sq. metres with skylights. He felt this is not a bicycle workshop. Cllr Iain Campbell noted the drawing showed the bicycles will be stored vertically and thought further questions should be asked and sufficient justification provided. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the grounds of insufficient information / justification and size in proportion to the use as a Bicycle Workshop. It was AGREED for Cllr Martin Bennett and Cllr Iain Campbell to research Shropshire Council Policies to provide more material consideration to strengthen the Parish Council’s response.

<p>24/02663/FUL Pool Cottage, Morton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8BQ.</p>	<p>Erection of two storey and single storey extension to dwelling and relocation of a stable block.</p> <p>Cllr Iain Campbell advised members that in the preamble for this application it a listed building and that 100% of one of the evaluations will be completely invisible with the extension. It is classified as a Welsh Long House and there are concerns how the rear elevation will affect the tradition of Long Houses. Shropshire Council Planning Department pre assessment states this is complex application which it is not inclined to support it.</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the basis the size in not in keeping with the listed Long House and the impact on a heritage asset.</p>
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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
<p>24/02774/HRM Land East Of Penylan Lane, Trefarclawdd Farm, Trefarclawdd, Oswestry, Shropshire.</p>	<p>To remove a 12m section of hedgerow to create an access for farmland and movement of livestock on land east of Penylan Lane, Coed-y-Go</p> <p>Cllr Martin Jones advised members the Parish Council has previously stated it objections to the removal of ancient hedgerows and should be protecting TPOs and Hedgerows at all costs.</p> <p>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object. There was one abstention.</p>
<p>Planning Inspector ref: APP/L3245/X/24/3340122</p> <p>Warehouse Known As Unit 2, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton.</p>	<p>Application for a Certificate of Existing Lawful Use for the use of building and yard for B8 storage</p> <p>For Information</p> <p>Cllr Peter Richardson advised members the Clerk received two letters in short notice and this appeal will now be dealt with as a Planning Inspectorate Case. Change of Date 5 September 2024. Members NOTED this.</p>

2022 Clerk's Report

Cllr Peter Richardson referred members to item 1951b regarding the Clerk's letter to Helen Morgan MP requesting her to attend a meeting with other local Parish Councils and the Town Council to discuss cuts in service provision and the impact on Councils. All matters had been placed on hold due to the General Election. A response has been received with a suggestion for a Friday afternoon in September. He asked members for comments. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the report.** The Clerk will consult with all parties to agree a date.

2023 Financial Matters

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 30 June 2024 , balance of income received to date of £52,699.51 and gross expenditure to date of £33,964.30 and the forecasted outturn position be APPROVED.

Cllr Peter Richardson asked members whether they still wished to paper copies of the finance documents or were happy to review these in the electronic format.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that from September, finance papers will not be issued with the paper agenda, minutes and Clerk's report.

b)Bank Reconciliation

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 30 June 2024.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement to the 30 June 2024 be APPROVED.

c) Payments for July 2024

Members considered the provisional payments for July 2024.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the provisional payments for July 2024 be approved as follows:

Supplier	Details	Gross £
Scottish Power	Unmetered supply - 31/03/2024 - 30/06/2024	937.27
EE	Mobile charges 11/07 - 10/08/2024	14.81
HSBC	Bank charges - 30/05/2024 - 29/06/2024	8.00
A G Royce	Grounds Maintenance Works - 6/06/2024 and 20/6/2024	602.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter Cleaning July 2024	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter Cleaning July 2024	25.00
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Clerk's pay and allowances July 2024	1,532.88
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay July 2024	268.56
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Postage for agendas and associated papers July 2024 (actual)	31.50
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Annual Zoom license 5 July 2024 - 4 July 2025	155.88
EDG Ltd T/A Water Treatment Services	Water Testing -Samples, certificate and courier collection July 2024	318.00
Highline Electrical Ltd	Remedial light works - 27 Pole Brackets	5,594.40
Total		9,548.30

d) Zoom Subscription Renewal

Members provided retrospective **APPROVAL** for the renewal of the zoom subscription covering 5 July 2024 – 4 July 2025.

e) Members **APPROVED** the bank mandate changes for signatories to the Unity Trust Bank Account.

2024 August 2024 Recess – interim Arrangements

Members considered the following interim arrangements:

Finance

- Delegated authority to the Clerk for processing all invoices payable in August 2024
- Finance limit of £5,000 set on any individual invoices, above which the Clerk will seek Finance Committee approval
- Retrospective approval sought from Full Council at the September 2024 meeting

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to **APPROVE** the interim finance arrangements for August 2024

Planning

- Delegated authority to The Chairman for all planning applications / enforcements
- All members to forward any views, including support or objections to the Chairman by 24 August 2024
- Chairman to determine comments on applications which will be submitted to the Clerk by 31 August 2024.
- Retrospective approval sought from Full Council at the September 2024 meeting

Cllr Peter Richardson proposed to include delegation of planning application / enforcement to the Vice Chairman. He also proposed comments to be delegated to the Vice Chairman given his experience in planning matters.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to **APPROVE** the interim planning arrangements for August 2024 including delegation of planning comments to the Vice Chairman. Members **NOTED** arrangements are already in place for burials during the Clerk's absence for annual leave.

2025 Library Services for Oswestry Rural Parish (Cllr Richard Fowler)

Cllr Peter Richardson thanked Cllr Richard Fowler for his excellent job in rebooting the Parish Council social media Facebook page. There are administrators to the page to allow only approved comments to be posted. The upgrade ensures the site is secure.

Cllr Richard Fowler advised members that reviewing the Shropshire Council proposals for cost savings the library is the sixth least popular service to be protected and one of the most popular as a saving proposal. The responses are from people who do not use this service. The demographics of the Parish Council show an older population with a lot of isolated people. The current mobile library visits every two week except for Morda. As a minimum, an assurance of no further cuts in this service for the Parish is needed. Any reduction will effectively leave no mobile library service for the Parish and potentially a breach of statutory obligations under the 1964 Act. Cllr Martin Bennett gave an overview of the Library Service during his time as a Librarian. He feels a reduction in the service is a step too far. The Parish Council should oppose this vehemently. Cllr Peter Richardson stated it is not just a library as there are other things going on. Cllr Richard Fowler stated over the years Local Authorities have close libraries in rural areas. Local Communities have taken these over, run by volunteers and providing a better service. Members noted the library is accessed for free Wi-Fi, designated heat spot for the winter and a meeting place for people. Cllr Martin Bennett expressed there was on part of the proposal he did agree with. There is evidence the School Mobile Library Service should cease. He proposed that himself and Cllr Richard Fowler with input from other Councillors prepare a vigorous response ready for when the Library Service goes to consultation. Members **AGREED** for a suitable response be prepared. Cllr Joyce Barrow suggested any response should be sent to Cllr Cecilia Motley.

2026 Road Safety Working Group

a) & b) Members **AGREED** to defer both items until the September 2024 meeting.

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that whilst it had been agreed not to use zoom for Parish Council meetings the subscription has been retained to enable zoom pre agenda meetings to continue between the Clerk and Chair / Vice Chairman. He encouraged members of the working groups to make use of this.

Cllr Martin Jones as previous mentioned raised his concerns with the cutting of hedgerows and issues with pavements. He requested these should be made safe. Cllr Joyce Barrow advised that Shropshire Council write to landowners to request hedgerows are cut and where action is not taken. Members **AGREED** to write to Shropshire Council to request details of the plans in place to address overgrown hedgerows within the Parish. Cllr Joyce Barrow advised she had already raised concerns and the Clerk should contact The StreetScene Officer Juan Hernandez.

2027 Cemetery Working Group

Cllr Mike Weston advised members there had been no Cemetery Working Group meeting this month.

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members the person who requested the installation of a wooden cross memorial had emailed to advise they were unable to drill into the concrete plinth. Earlier in the week, he met with the Clerk to review the plot. There is no electricity supply to enable drilling. He proposed allowing the applicant to secure the memorial in concrete against the plinth already in situ.

It was PROPOSED, SECONED and AGREED to grant permission for the wooden memorial cross to be concreted in place against the plinth already in situ.

2028 Environment Working Group

a) Water Testing

Cllr Iain Campbell advised members that water testing in June had been voided due to issues with the courier service. The July testing has been completed and testing in two places have ceased to enable sample testing at Rhydcroesau and Osbaston. All areas tested are not fit for swimming when measured against the benchmark. Cllr Richard Fowler advised of a sign passed Weston Lane which tells people to drink out of the river. This is not an official sign and Cllr Peter Richardson suggested taking it down when he was passing next and to notify the landowner. The EWG meet earlier in the week and it was agreed to bring a report together with all test results to establish what is happening and to publish the entire set of results on the Parish website. The group will consider sharing the data with Water Authorities and Shropshire MPs. The group knows that other groups are aware of the formal water testing and have received invitations to meet. There are a number of questions regarding water storage on new buildings to prevent flooding. Grampian conditions have been adopted. After the August recess further update / plans will be shared with members.

b)Trefarclawdd Farm

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that the Council should have a proper invitation site meeting with representation from members of the EWG, Chair, Vice Chair, and the Clerk, especially in light of the proposed expansion plans.

c)Frankton Vyrnwy Connection

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that Green Gen Cymru has been granted its IDNO license. This allows Section 72 notices to be issued to gain access to private land to conduct surveys. These will be legally enforceable. Cllr Martin Jones advised of noteworthy is members of Welsh authorities and Councils who were shareholders or had partners with vested interests within groups working for or employed by Bute Energy. The Shropshire MP should be stating this will be Welsh Energy for Welsh people coming from England.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the Clerk to follow up on the letter with Helen Morgan MP requesting a Minister of Energy to attend a Public meeting.

d)PROW – Land North of Maesbury Wharf

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members that as far as he is concerned this matter has been resolved. The proper public right of way is still open to. It just need to check to ensure the sign stating no public access / public land has been removed.

2029 Consultation

Members **NOTED** the final Proposals on Shropshire Council Community Governance Review covering five areas within Shropshire.

2030 Correspondence

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members of the email received from the Police Crime Commissioner requesting Town and Parish Councils’ help to shape the future of policing in West Mercia by completing an online survey. Any responses should be sent to the Clerk prior to 5 August 2024.

2031 Date for Next Meeting

Members **NOTED** that the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 26 September 2024 at Rhydycroesau 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

2032 Planning Enforcement

Members **NOTED** a recent planning enforcement case.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.33 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The Chairman