



*"Not for self"*

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

---

Minutes

of the Ordinary meeting

held at 7 pm on Thursday 28 March 2024 at Trefonen Village Hall

---

**Present:**

Cllr Peter Richardson (Acting Chairman), Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr Martin Jones, Cllr William Jones, Cllr Steve Watts, Cllr Iain Campbell, Cllr Paul Milner,

**Clerk to the Council:**

Kathryn Lloyd

**In attendance:**

Approximately four members of the public

**1906 Chairman's Welcome**

Cllr Peter Richardson welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised he was the acting Chairman in Cllr Martin Bennett's absence. At a pre-meeting held earlier in the day to review the agenda, Cllr Martin Bennett advised he was feeling better and appeared happier in himself. However, he sends his apologies that he is unable to attend this evening. For openness and transparency, he insisted members be aware that late last night his elderly mother had a fall at home and has been hospitalised. He is conscious he has not attended the past three meetings and as a public servant is very unhappy about this. The Chairman wished Cllr Martin Bennett's mother a speedy recovery.

**1907 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Martin Bennett

Cllr Jas Singh

Cllr Joyce Barrow

Cllr Peter Davies sent apologies via text. However, The Clerk did not read this until after arriving home from the meeting.

**1908 Police Report**

a) Cllr Peter Richardson advised members PCSO Charlie Ironmonger had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the Parish Council meeting and read the latest Police report provided by Oswestry Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team.

10/02/2024 – Criminal Damage done to property. No CCTV or witnesses.

16/02/2024 – Wingmirror damage of a packed vehicle.

18/02/2024 – Vehicle damage has been caused overnight.

Highway Incident – 4

Concern for Safety – 1

Other – 3

Assault – 2

Domestic – 4

### 1909 Shropshire Council Report

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members the Annual Report for Conservative Members had been provided by Cllr Joyce Barrow and circulated by the Clerk. He proposed not reading out the three page report.

### 1910 Public Participation

None

### 1911 Minutes

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 29 February 2024 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record. There was two abstentions.**

### 1912 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

### 1913 Dispensations

None requested.

### 1914 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None Declared

### 1915 Planning Matters

a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**

<b>Planning Application Details</b>	<b>Planning Proposals</b>
24/00279/FUL The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4LT	Erection of a covering on an existing silage store and all associated works  Decision: Grant Permission
23/01360/FUL Plot 1, Waen Lane, Maesbury Marsh, Shropshire	Erection of detached dwelling, garage and installation of package treatment plant  Decision: Grant Permission

<p>24/00086/LBC East Farm, Crickheath, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8BP</p>	<p>Demolition of brick wall and repair/ replacement of decayed historic timber frame to south gable end with new oak frame (apart from both corner posts which require repair), reinstatement of close studding to ground floor south gable and glazed panel in former door aperture, all infill panels replaced with hempcrete infill (panels finished with lime wash inside and out), removal of failed brick infill panels within first section (adjacent to south gable) on both the east and west elevations and replaced with hempcrete infill (panels finished with lime wash inside and out), removal of failed brick infill panels within first section (adjacent to south gable) on both the east and west elevations and replaced with hempcrete infill panels (panels limewash on inside and out) removal of plaster board ceiling and provision of insulation in roof to create a bathroom at first floor in the south gable end room.</p> <p>Decision: Grant Permission</p>
---	---

## b) Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered for comment

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
<p>24/00820/FUL The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4LT</p>	<p>Demolition of existing rear extensions attached garage and removal of static caravan, Proposed Rear extensions, sunroom and detached garage. Re roofing and associated external works. Replacement of existing septic tank with Treatment plant.</p> <p><b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object on the basis of the size and proportion of the extension in relation to the original size of the property.</b></p> <p><b>In the event approval is given, the Parish Council requests a condition on the garage, in that the space over the garage should only be used for storage.</b></p>
<p>24/00927/AGR Llanforda Ucha Farm, Llanforda, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7HJ</p>	<p>Erection of agricultural straw storage building extension, access track and all associated works</p> <p><b>It was PROPOSED,SECONDED and AGREED not to comment</b></p>
<p>24/00987/LBC Woodhill, Woodhill, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire</p>	<p>Minor internal and external works to upgrade bathrooms, rooflights, soil pipe etc on a Grade II building.</p> <p>Members <b>AGREED</b> not to comment</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.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
<p>24/00445/FUL Trefarclawdd Farm, Trefar- clawdd, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9DE</p>	<p>Covering of a consented slurry separator</p> <p>Decision: Grant Permission</p>
<p>23/05465/FUL 9 Kingfisher Way, Morda, Shropshire, SY10 9PB</p>	<p>Extension to side and rear of dwelling</p> <p>Grant Permission</p>

Cllr Martin Jones advised members of an email exchange between the Clerk and Planning Enforcement at Shropshire Council. The Clerk had raised concerns regarding a static caravan at Waen Farm. He read the response from Shropshire Council. Cllr Peter Richardson **AGREED** to submit an enforcement request.

### 1916 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.

## 1917 Financial Matters

Members considered for approval income and expenditure from February 2024, I & E Balances to date, and financial outturn position to 31 March 2024. The Clerk advised of a couple of minor changes made since finance papers had been issued including an increase for postage charges detailed in the provisional expenditure for March 2024. Also, the electricity works scheduled by Highline Ltd have not been completed and expected costs of £13k included in the forecasted outturn position will not be incurred in 2023/24 financial year. A revised forecasted outturn position is estimated in the region of £228k.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 29 February 2024 and the balance of income received to date of £56,432.25 and gross expenditure to date of £60,398.50 be APPROVED.**

**Members NOTED the revised financial outturn position for 2023/24.**

### b)Bank Reconciliation

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 29 February 2024.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement to the 29 February 2024 be APPROVED.**

### c)Payments for March 2024

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

Supplier	Details	Gross £
EE Limited	Monthly Mobile Charge 11 March - 10 April 2024	13.73
HSBC	Bank Charges 31 January - 29 February 2024	8.00
Mark Evans	Bus Shelter Cleaning 1 March 2024 (Morda, The Terrace, Trefonen, Treflach)	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus Shelter Cleaning March 2024	25.00
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Clerk's pay and allowances March 2024	1,531.23
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay March 2024	252.90
EDG Ltd T/A Water Treatment Services	Water Testing -Samples, certificate and courier collection March 2024	318.00
ICCM	Attendance at ICCM Cemetery Management and compliance online training course - 5 & 6 March 2024	168.00
Trefonen Village Hall	Hire of Hall January - March 2024	90.00
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Reimbursement - Book of 8 First Class Stamps	10.00
Kathryn Lloyd (The Clerk)	Reimbursement - Agenda & associated documents March 2024	25.00
Unity Bank Trust	Bank Charges - 05/12/2023 - 04/03/2024	18.00
		<b>2,519.86</b>

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

The Clerk advised members that due to the Easter Bank Holiday the above payments had been processed earlier in the afternoon.

## 1918 Cuts in Service Provisions by Shropshire Council

Councillor Peter Richardson asked members to consider the cuts in Service Provision by Shropshire Council as a result on the 2024/25 budget setting process and the impact on the Local Community within the Parish. He asked whether any members had viewed Cllr Lezley Picton's video. He commented that after Adult/ Childrens Social Care there would be no funding left. It was noted there was a proposal to cut SEN Transport affecting a vulnerable Group of society. The impact will be reduced services such as Highways, grounds maintenance. Cllr Martin Jones commented that residents are outraged regarding the potential closures of recycling centres. The minimal savings of £14k for closure is nothing compared to the potential costs for removing fly tipping. Members thought there had been a back track on this. He also voiced concern that the Riverside Development in Shrewsbury should not be used to house Council staff and instead should be used to generate income. Cllr Iain Campbell suggested staff should be housed on the Industrial site and fundamental questions should be asked. Members noted a Council Tax increase of 4.99%. Cllr Steve Watts stated the Council's own Healthy Environment Strategic Objectives which are part of the Shropshire Plan 2022 – 2024 included *"Better household recycling centres and an improved waste collection service will result in more household waste being reused or recycled."*

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for The Clerk to email Cllr Joyce Barrow to seek clarification on whether Shropshire Council has backtracked on the recycling closures and that the Oswestry facility will continue to operate.**

b) Cllr Peter Richardson asked members to consider what actions can be taken to reduce the impact of Shropshire Council Service cuts by working with Oswestry Town Council and neighbouring Parish Councils. He advised this had been discussed at length with the Chairman last week who is concerned that due to impending cuts and reduction in services, with parishes working in different ways, they may be fragmented and isolated and that by organising an open, voluntary meeting with other Parish Councils and Oswestry Town Council (OTC) and Helen Morgan MP, it will provide the opportunity to discuss any concerns affecting each Parish and hopefully lead to an agreed joint working plan.

Cllr Martin Jones agreed more local interaction is required and expressed it will not be like the Chairmans' meetings. It was suggested to plan well in advance and for the meeting to take place within three / four months depending on Helen Morgan MP availability. It was noted that the Oswestry Area Committee meet every three months but there has been no representation by OTC since the end of the face to face meetings. The open invitation will include all those attending the OAC.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the Clerk to email the Clerks' Group and the OAC Group to ascertain interest and then plan for this event.**

#### **1919 Grant Requests**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members of a grant application received from Hope House Hospice, Morda requesting financial support of £2,000 towards the purchase of two postural chairs. He read out the details including the source of other donations. In line with the Grant Policy a total amount of £500 is available. Cllr Martin Jones noted only £500 had been donated by Wem Town Council. He suggested, on this occasion as an exception, the Council could increase the grant award. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to award £750.00 and request a photograph opportunity for Council publicity. Member AGREED that in the event grant funding is available towards the end of 2024/25 the Hospice may submit another application for consideration.**

#### **1920 Risk Management**

a & b) Cllr Peter Richardson proposed to defer the risks assessments inspections of the Council's assets and the annual risk assessment to the April 2024 meeting. This is to allow any outstanding inspections to be completed. Members **AGREED** to this proposal.

#### **1921 Appointment of Councillor(s) to Working Groups and Finance Committee**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members the appointment to vacancies on working groups for Road Safety and the Environment and Finance Committee had been deferred due to a low turnout of Councillors at the previous meeting. A fourth member of the Finance Committee is required for contingency purposes to cover in the event of absence. Cllr William Jones volunteered to be a member of the Finance Committee. The Clerk will check the Terms of Reference of the Road Safety Group to confirm membership.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to appoint Cllr William Jones to the Finance Committee. Members AGREED for the other positions to remain vacant and where it becomes an issue will be revisited.**

#### **1922 Tony Cheetham Community Service Award 2024**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members of the Community Service Awards which have been in place to recognise Councillor Tony Cheetham who passed away whilst in active Council service. He noted another member, Councillor, Tony Milner also passed away during active Council service. He proposed for it to be renamed the "Tonys' Awards" to recognise both Councillors. He felt the family of Tony Cheetham should be consulted prior to this and Cllr Bob Kimber volunteered to do this.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to launch the "Community Service Award 2024" which will be renamed "Tonys' Award" if agreed by the Cheetham family.**

#### **1923 Annual Parish and Annual General Meeting Date**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members of a request from the Clerk to change the agreed date of the Annual Parish and Annual General Meeting to accommodate an annual holiday. There were three workable solutions to enable this; bring the meeting forward one week, postpone by a week or seek a local Parish Clerk to attend and minute the meeting.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to bring the meeting forward by a week to a revised date of 23 May 2024. A notice will be published on the Parish website as soon as possible.**

## **1924 Environment Working Group**

### **a) Water Pollution**

Cllr Martin Jones provided members with an update, advising the latest test results had been received. These had been performed at the usual locations and showed pollution. Whilst there had been slight improvements at Candy Lane and Croeswyn Lane, the results for Trefarclawdd Farm and the Sewage works were poor. He read all the test results and advised that Cllr Peter Davies had requested a test for Rhydycroseau.

He advised Helen Morgan MP had contacted him having heard about the water testing. She had recently visited the sewage works and noted the overflow was clear. He showed a picture of the overflow during testing, which was black. He also advised that Morda Brook had been recategorised to Morda River and assessed as being one of the most polluted rivers in the UK. He also advised Upsewage Creek is looking for funding from their Parish.

Cllr Iain Campbell stated that during 2023 there had 1,782 spills. The testing has been successful, but never expected test results to be so poor. The Council has used official laboratories, with tests conducted within set parameters to ensure traceability throughout the process. He stated a Freedom of Information request should be made to Severn Trent for their test results. The provider will be supplying further sample bottles for ongoing testing. He recalled Cllr Joyce Barrow had received the first set of test results to share with Shropshire Council and there has been no update. At the same time, he asked with the new building work on the roundabout at Mile End whether Grampian conditions will be adopted.

### **b) Trefarclawdd Farm**

Cllr Iain Campbell advised members a recent meeting had been held with the owner of the land. Refer to minute reference 1931.

### **c) Vyrnwy Frankton Connection**

Cllr Martin Jones advised members that Helen Morgan MP is happy to offer her support. There is a meeting in Pant in April 2024 and suggested one for ORPC, Maesbury and West Felton. The MP saw no reason the connection cannot be completed underground.

## **1925 Road Safety Concerns , Morda**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members a request had been received to note the increasing concerns by Morda residents regarding speeding and anti-social driving in the area, particularly on the B5069, Weston Road and Trefonen Road and read out the proposals.

Cllr Steve Watts advised he had been approached by several local residents and a petition is circulating at Morda & Sweeney Village Hall and the Shop following a recent accident. Cllr Martin Jones reminded members that PCC John Campion has a fund to improve road safety and members agreed for him to be copied into correspondence.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to request:**

- i. Shropshire Council consider what practical measures, such as traffic calming and signage, can be introduced to improve road safety in the area, especially in light of the two serious accidents that have occurred in last two years.**
- ii. To support the call by local residents for safety barriers to be installed between the pedestrian footway and road at the junction of Trefonen Road and the B5069 by the village shop**

## **1926 Correspondence**

a) Members **NOTED** the Email from former Councillor Roger Jones thanking the Council for the letter noting efforts during his time as a Councillor. Members also **NOTED** his agreement to continue posting agendas on the Coed y Go noticeboard and offer to support to the EWG.

b) Members **NOTED** the Police and Crime Commissioner Election for West Mercia Area on 2 May 2024.

## **1927 Consultations**

a) Cllr Martin Jones expressed his view that the Council should respond to the Public Consultation by Shropshire Council for the proposal for new swimming, fitness, and leisure facilities for the Shrewsbury Sports Village. Cllr Iain Campbell recalled Shropshire Council had stated The Quarry Swimming Pool would remain unaffected though this was contrary to Cllr Joyce Barrow's view that both could not be sustained.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for a letter to be sent to Shropshire Council to ascertain the source of funding in light of proposed cuts in Service provision and to request the position regarding The Quarry Swimming Pool.**

b)Members **NOTED** Shropshire Council Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement 2025-2028 (from 18 March 2024 to 9 June 2024)

#### **1928 Date for Next Meeting**

Members **NOTED** the next meeting will take place on Thursday 25 April 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**

#### **1929 Emails from former Councillor John Davies**

Cllr Peter Richardson advised members of the recent communication from former Councillor John Davies. The Clerk has been unhappy regarding this and the involvement of Cllr Joyce Barrow speaking directly to the Chairman. Cllr Peter Richardson expressed the actions of the Clerk were completely appropriate and that she has the full support of all members of Council.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for a formal response from Full Council to be sent to former Councillor John Davies.**

#### **1930 Morda & Sweeney Village Hall**

a & b) Councillor Peter Richardson advised members The Clerk had attempted to attend the meeting of Morda & Sweeney Village Hall Trustees held on 28 February 2024. This was to represent the Parish Council in Cllr Martin Bennett's absence. Cllr Martin Jones accompanied her to provide support. He referred to the minutes and the robust conversation between Mr Robert Milton and the Clerk prior to the meeting. Cllr Martin Jones stated the robustness and tone of the conversation had been set by Mr Milton who had proffered an apology. The Clerk and Cllr Martin Jones had been instructed to leave as neither were Trustees and it was closed meeting. He also felt as the conversation had taken place outside of the meeting it should have been excluded from the minutes. The Clerk had emailed Mr Milton well in advance of the meeting and the agenda only being set and agreed at the meeting. Cllr Steve Watts stated he was not aware of any published notices advertising the AGM which according to the minutes had been held in November 2023. The Clerk advised a letter and grant application offered to Mr Drury had been refused.

Councillor Peter Richardson advised the minutes indicated the Charities Commission had cancelled the request by Morda and Sweeney Village Hall Committee to remove Oswestry Rural Parish Council as Custodian Trustees.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to contact the Charities Commission to seek clarification on whether Oswestry Rural Parish Council is still the Custodian Trustees.**

#### **1931 Trefarclawdd Farm**

Cllr Iain Campbell advised members he represented the Parish Council on an organised visit to Trefarclawdd Farm which was attended by the agent, landowner and his son. Former Councillor Roger Jones had visited previously in his capacity as a resident. He advised the buildings were neat and tidy. He was able to share concerns regarding Light/Noise/Water pollution and traffic issues although he felt these were not taken seriously with a suggestion water pollution is being caused by industrial waste from somewhere else. The landowner referred to covenants on cemetery land. The landowner requested a meeting with the Chairman.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to arrange a meeting with representatives of Trefarclawdd Farm. Members agreed for the Parish Council to be represented by The Chairman, Vice Chairman, The Clerk and Cllr Iain Campbell as a member of the EWG.**

#### **1932 Staffing**

Members considered a request from the Clerk to carry forward 5 days annual leave.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to APPROVE a carry forward of 5 days annual leave.**

#### **1933 Planning Enforcement**

There were no planning enforcements

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.49 pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_