



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes

of the Ordinary Meeting

held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 27 March 2025 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

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

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Twenty members of the public
Cllr Joyce Barrow

2179 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman extended a warm welcome. He reminded everyone this is a meeting of the Parish Council held in public. Members of the public should address the Council during Public Participation. He expressed his delight on the number of electors present.

2180 Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr William Jones – Education commitments
Cllr Jaz Singh – Work commitments

2181 Police Report

There was no Police report available

2182 Shropshire Council Report

There was no report from Cllr Joyce Barrow.

2183 Public Participation

A resident of 25 years objected to the Nantmawr Quarry planning application, citing traffic safety, noise pollution, visual impact, loss of amenity, landscape harm, water contamination risks, effects on protected species, and future development precedents. She proposed that Mile End Estate may be a better location with greater access and roads.

A resident raised concerns regarding the Nantmawr Planning application, focusing on potential environmental / ecological issues. She noted concerns such as water contamination, pollution, noise, light, health risks, and effects on residents and wildlife, particularly the Marshlands which is a habitat for Great Crested Newts. The resident also questioned the absence of an ecological survey.

A Quarry Lane resident, who owns several holiday lets, is concerned that the planning application will harm the area's beauty and tranquillity. She raised concerns with heavy traffic damaging verges. She opposes the proposal.

Another resident, who owns a holiday rental property, expressed concerns that the Nantmawr proposal will significantly impact his business.

Mr John Cadwallader addressed the audience, stating that he had grown up with the Quarry and was familiar with it during its operational and dormant periods. He expressed his awareness of the wildlife in the area. Mr John Cadwallader, indicated that most of the trailers would be in use, with varying periods of activity to and from the site. He did not anticipate significant movements, which would only occur between 9 am to 5 pm. He also noted that the trailers would be concealed and would not cause any damage and no leakage from refrigerators.

A representative from the Shropshire Union Canal Society (SUCS) informed members of his involvement in the restoration of the Montgomery Canal. He expressed gratitude for the previous financial contribution from the Parish Council. He advised that funding had recently ceased, and an additional section of the canal requires work at a cost of £3,100. The SUCS is seeking a modest contribution towards this.

2184 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 February 2025 were considered for approval.

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

2185 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.

Cllr Peter Davies declared an interest in a planning application 25/00536/FUL.

2186 Dispensations

None received

2187 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared

2188 Planning Matters

Members **NOTED** the following applications.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
25/00045/FUL 4 Brick Kiln Cottages, Racecourse Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7PJ	Alterations and extensions Decision: Grant Permission

b Planning Applications

To CONSIDER and APPROVE a response to the following planning 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 It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment. There was one abstention.
25/00886/HHE 3 Paint Mill Cottages, Ball Lane, Maesbury, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8AU	Erection of a rear single storey extension to detached dwelling, dimensions 6.2 metres beyond rear wall, 3.65 metres maximum height, 2.35 metres high to eaves. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
25/00844/FUL Trealaw, Crickheath, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8BT	Single storey front and side extension. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment
25/00900/FUL Nantmawr Quarry, Nantmawr, Shropshire	Use of land for open storage of HGV trailers (use Class B8) Cllr Martin Bennett informed members that information had been circulated earlier. He detailed the site's planning history, including a temporary bike use in 2003 with conditions. He noted several agencies should be consulted: Environmental Agency, National England/Highways England, and Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The Quarry has been closed for a considerable time and houses protected fauna and flora species. The application does not meet Shropshire Council planning policies. He highlighted the impact of articulated HGVs and effects on resident amenities. He suggested there may be more suitable alternative sites. He proposed the Council oppose the application. Cllr Iain Campbell expressed sympathy for the business but argued that large vehicles should not be moved into small areas due to potential road damage and access issues. He believes the proposal is misplaced and the Council should object. Cllr Bennett noted the application's lack of detail and suggested it should be called in by the North Shropshire Planning Committee due to material considerations. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to object to the planning application . It was AGREED for Cllr Martin Bennett to provide the details for the Clerk.

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
25/00778/CPL Cam O'r Nant, Nant Y Caws, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire.	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for garage/storeroom conversion FOR INFORMATION ONLY
24/04266/CPE Unit 2, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton, Shropshire, SY10 8HY	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing use of building and yard for B8 storage. Decision: Withdrawn
24/04267/CPE Unit 3, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton, Shropshire, SY10 8HY	Application for a Certificate of Existing Lawful Use for the use of building and yard for B8 storage Decision: Withdrawn
24/04268/CPE Unit 4, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton, Shropshire, SY10 8HY	Application for a Certificate of Existing Lawful Use for the use of building for domestic garaging, and squash court with associated changing facilities Decision: Withdrawn
25/00299/FUL Pleasant Grove, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HT	Conversion of Existing Outbuilding and Erection of extension to form an Annex Decision: Refuse
25/01045/FUL Unit 3, The Mile House Farm , Shrewsbury Road, Aston, Oswestry	Change of use from Class B2 to Class E (gym) There was a brief discussion with members concerned with a commercial venture is inappropriate for the neighbourhood. Vote : For : Seven, Object: One, Abstention: One

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
25/00536/FUL Sheron, Llanforda, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7HJ	Construction of agricultural building to house farm machinery with lambing area. Decision: Grant Permission

2189 Clerk's Report

Members reviewed a written report from the Clerk regarding actions taken after decisions made at previous council meetings. Members agreed to remove action number 1640, 1831c from the report. Councillor Bob Kimber volunteered to proceed with item 1805.

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

2190 Financial Matters

a)Members considered approval of income and expenditure to 31 March 2025, I & E Balances and forecasted outturn to 31 March 2025.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 31 March 2025 and the balance of income received to date of £58,935.55 and gross expenditure to date of £70,348.19 be APPROVED. Members NOTED and APPROVED the forecasted outturn position for 2024/25.

b)Bank Reconciliation

Members considered for approval the bank reconciliation at 28 February 2025.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement at 28 February 2025 totalling £221,000.56 be APPROVED.

c) Provisional Payment March 2025

Members considered the following provisional Payments for March 2025:

Supplier	Details	Gross £
EDG Ltd T/A Water Treatment Services	Water Testing -Samples, certificate and courier charges 28/01/2025	318.00
EE	Mobile charges 11/02/2025 - 10/03/2025	14.81
HSBC	Bank charges - 30/01/2025 - 27/02/2025	8.00
Shropshire Council	Energy costs December 2024 to March 2025	925.90
Mark Evans	Bus shelter Cleaning March 2025	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter Cleaning March 2025	25.00
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Clerk's pay and allowances March 2025	1,576.05
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay March 2025	309.90
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - postage and envelopes for election nominations documentation	34.89
Highline Electrical Ltd	Street Light Maintenance and replacement - Marshfields (7) and Marshfields / Sycamore Road Junction	451.20
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - postage for agendas and associated papers March 2025	26.70
Trefonen Village Hall	Room Hire January to March 2025	60.00
Total		3,810.45

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

d)Members considered continued membership of Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to continue membership with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management for 2025/26.

2191 Grant Requests

The Chairman advised members the Council received four grant requests:

Rhydycreseau Village Hall (RVH) - £209.99

Shropshire Union Canal Society (SUCS) - £1,500

Hope House Children's Hospices (HHCH) - £500

Moreton Playing Fields Committee (MPFC) - £450

The Council's Grant Policy limits individual awards to £500, though this can be suspended at its discretion. Cllr Martin Bennett stated the limit ensures fairness when many applications are received. Volunteers have undertaken labour work for the SUCS and grants have been received from Shropshire Council together with other agencies which has allowed work to be scheduled and completed more efficiently. Professional works supported by constituents deserve encouragement. The Chairman noted that the MPF pitch maintenance used to be managed by the Parish Council. A request to transfer the asset was refused. The Parish Council will make provisions to address this issue permanently.

Members voted as follows:

RVH and HHCH – Unanimously Approved

SUCS - Approved with one abstention

MPFC – In favour : Five Against: Three Abstention : One

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to approve the grants on the above basis.

2192 Risk Management

a) The Clerk asked Councillors to volunteer to undertake risk assessment inspections of the council's assets. It was agreed the following allocations:

Maesbury and Aston Cllr Peter Richardson

Trefonen / Treflach Cllr Bob Kimber

Rhydycroseau / syctyn Cllr Peter Davies

Morda with Sweeney Cllr Richard Fowler

Councillor Peter Richardson proposed to defer the annual risk assessment to the April 2025 meeting, in order to include inspections of the Council's assets. Members AGREED with this proposal.

2193 Road Safety Working Group

Cllr Martin Bennett provided an update on behalf of the Road Safety Working Group. He has received a response from Shropshire Council concerning Stoney Road, Treflach. This is unclassified Road unsuitable for Heavy Good Vehicles. Cllr Bob Kimber kindly provided details on the other road being reviewed.

Councillor Martin Jones informed members of an incident that occurred on 1 March 2025 involving a slurry tanker from Trefarclawdd Farm. The vehicle left the village via Coed y Go, proceeded through Morda where it caused a trailer to mount the pavement, and continued onto the A483 before exiting onto the A4396, subsequently spreading its contents onto the road. The date and time of the incident have been recorded, although the vehicle registration number was not captured.

Cllr Martin Jones and Cllr Iain Campbell reported a multi-car accident on the A483 at Maesbury traffic lights before this evening's meeting. Cllr Jones also mentioned a cyclist's death at Woolston Bank.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Martin Jones will forward any evidence to Cllr Martin Bennett so a co-ordinate approach can be taken and a suitable complaint sent on behalf of the Council.

2194 Cemetery Working Group and Cemetery Fees 2025/26

a) Cllr Mike Weston advised members the Cemetery Working Group had not met the previous month.

Councillor Mike Weston provided an update on cemetery fees. He reported that Oswestry Town Council (OTC) has not yet published its fees for 2025/26 and noted that the cemetery is nearing full capacity. Additionally, the Hengoed cemetery is now closed to non-parishioners. He highlighted that Oswestry Rural Parish Council's fees remain significantly lower than those of other councils and have not increased since 2018, with the administration fee having been removed in June 2022. He stressed that the cemetery was established for parishioners and should be maintained properly. He also noted significant costs associated including ground maintenance and the Clerk's attendance at burials. The Parish Council has major plans for the development of a car park and a Garden of Remembrance as well as expanded the cemetery. Given the limited space available at the OTC and Hengoed cemeteries, demand is expected to rise. He proposed the following:

- a. That ORPC should continue to offer preferred terms to Parishioners
- b. A 10% increase of Parishioner Fees rounded up to the next £25
- c. That available grave space should be protected for Parishioners

- d. That to do so ORPC adopt Non Parishioner fees more in line with Oswestry Town And Dignity Parishioner fees
- e. An Administration Fee be construed for introduction
- f. That the attached Schedule of Fees for 2025 be adopted

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to ACCEPT the proposal a – f with new Cemetery Fees introduced from 1 April 2025.

2195 Environment Working Group

Councillor Martin Jones provided an update on water testing to the members. The source of the River Morda was identified in the Ceiriog Valley, with tests conducted at two sites. Additionally, tests have been completed at Candy, Courtyard, Weston, and Maesbury Outfall sewerage. He informed the members that he and Councillor Iain Campbell attended the Peoples' Assembly for Water event in Shrewsbury. Councillor Iain Campbell emphasized the need to challenge both the causes of water pollution and the system that permits it. He also noted the necessity of reviewing and challenging the decisions made by Planning Authorities.

Councillor Martin Bennett informed that Helen Morgan MP had submitted an objection to the planning application for Trefarclawdd Farm (24/03015/EIA) on environmental grounds. He has reviewed a report on water quality and an analysis of the manure management plan. He also advised there have been allegations that the main contractors have been billing for slurry movements that have not occurred.

2196 Possible closure of Oswestry Post Office

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members that a decision on the possible closure of Oswestry Post Office should be known by the end of March.

2197 Social Media

No update

2198 Website

The Chairman thanked Cllr Richard Fowler for the report on potential new website providers. It was **NOTED** Aubergine is the recommended provider.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for Aubergine to be the new website Provider. Cllr Richard Fowler will take this forward with some support from the Clerk.

2199 The Tonys' Community Service Award 2025

Councillor Martin Bennett informed members that he had received an offer of sponsorship for The Tonys' Community Service Awards totalling £350.00 which should cover 10 years of individual awards. Members provisionally agreed to this, pending further information from Councillor Bennett to avoid any conflicts of interest.

Councillor Richard Fowler proposed a name change for the award as he believed residents were unfamiliar with who The Tonys' were. The Chairman clarified that the award was established in memory of two councillors who passed away while serving on the Parish Council.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to launch The Tonys' Community Service Award 2025.

2200 Correspondence

a) Members considered a request from Llandyblodwel Parish Council for a contribution towards the cost of defibrillator in a telephone box it is planning to adopt in Nantmawr.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to contribute towards a defibrillator / maintenance costs.

b) Members **NOTED** the VE Day 80th Anniversary planned for 5 May 2025.

2201 Consultations

The Chairman informed members about the BT Consultation regarding the proposed removal of 61 public telephones across Shropshire, which will conclude on 12 June 2025. Cllr Peter Davies noted that telephone boxes should remain in rural areas where there is no mobile signal. Cllr Martin Jones mentioned the mast at Kinnerley has improved coverage in Maesbury. There was a suggestion to retain the telephone boxes located in the Parish and monitor public response. Members **NOTED** the consultation.

2202 Date for Next Meeting

Member **NOTED** the next meeting will place on Thursday 24 April 2025 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

2203 Planning Enforcement

Councillor Martin Bennett read an email from a Shropshire Council Officer regarding a potential planning enforcement. A brief discussion ensued, and a Councillor suggested that the public should be encouraged to complain through the Shropshire Planning Portal. It was noted that the Environmental Agency is concerned only with pollution. Councillor Iain Campbell acknowledged the significant amount of work undertaken by Councillor Martin Bennett.

Members considered a draft letter which had been circulated earlier.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to send this letter.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The Chairman