



"Not for self"

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes

of the Ordinary Meeting

held at 7.00 pm on Thursday 28 November 2024 at Trefonen Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Martin Bennett, Cllr Bob Kimber, Cllr Iain Campbell, Cllr Steve Watts, Cllr Mike Weston, Cllr Richard Fowler, Cllr Chris Woods, Cllr Paul Milner

Clerk to the Council:

Kathryn Lloyd

In attendance:

Four members of the public

2090 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Martin Bennett advised members he would be acting Chair as Cllr Peter Richardson was feeling unwell and unable to attend. He wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of members. He extended a warm welcome to those present.

2091 Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Cllr Peter Richardson
Cllr Peter Davies
Cllr Martin Jones
Cllr William Jones
Cllr Jaz Singh

Cllr Joyce Barrow

2092 Police Report

The Chairman advised the Police report had been circulated to members. Members **ACCEPTED** the report.

Community priorities:

1. *Speeding*
2. *ASB*
3. *Drugs*

Priority 1.

We have not had any reports of speeding in the parish, but we are reporting some good work by officers in the area. Over the month of October we have seized 2 cars for no insurance or no licence from owners.

One driver has been reported for no L plates and a bald tyre (after presenting to the test centre for a driving test in her own vehicle) She was refused the test by the examiners.

Two drivers have been arrested and charged with drunk driving. They will be in court shortly.

There was a road traffic collision on the X roads leading to Llynclys. Luckily it was a non-injury and all involved made their own recovery for the vehicles involved.

We also had a report of sheep on the road. As usual by the time we got there they had returned to the field or been collected by the owner.

Priority 2.

A call was made to the police regarding a male on a push bike shouting at a lone female driver for driving too slowly along a single-track country lane that is particularly bendy. The case is still ongoing.

On the beat in Oswestry and Ellesmere

We had a call from a distressed male reporting scam calls to his landline. We attended and gave him details of what to do and more importantly what NOT to do. Never give out ANY bank details or transfer funds to another account that has been "set up" for you. Your bank would never do this. If in doubt contact your bank directly.

Although not ASB, we have had a report of a dog on dog issue. This would have been dealt with by a police dog officer as it is now being force policy.

Priority 3.

No reports of any drug issues have been received.

If you do have any information, please call the details in or report via crime stopper on 0800 555 111.

This is an anonymous service.

Emerging trends - Requests for information - other.

None to report.

2093 Shropshire Council Report

The Chairman advised the following report had been circulated to members.

The flooding issue in Coed y Go is finally being dealt with. Ground surveyors were out in site for 3 days last week measuring ground levels. A Surveyor from WSP and one of their design team came out, they took the views and knowledge of residents affected. (Roger Jones and his wife had input and Annie Leach.) the work is planned in this financial year ending in April.

Following continues flooding in Long Lane, Crickheath, the drainage team cleared drains on 21.11.24 but this isn't the whole solution. The flood officer is meeting with the Canal Trust to look for a more permanent solution.

Residents have been reminded to subscribe to the garden waste to have Christmas trees recycled.

As a result of a cyclist who came off their bike between Morda and Coed y Go, due to excess mud on the road ((he was knocked out) as a car drove past him. Though very bruised and battered he is recovering. The council, along with the NFU are going to put out a statement, reminding contractors/farms of their obligation to clear up mud, deposited by them, on roads.

As you will be aware, the speed limit in Coed y Go, is due to be implemented on 26.11.24.

Members **NOTED** the report.

2094 Public Participation

None

2095 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 31 October 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.

2096 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

2097 Dispensations

None received

2098 Declarations of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

None declared

2099 Planning Matters

The following planning applications was **NOTED**.

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/03492/FUL New Barns Farm, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9DS	Construction of a calf rearing building Decision: Grant Permission
24/03604/FUL Pleasant Grove, Wern Y Wiel, Treflach, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9HT	Erection of a 4 bay garage Decision: Grant Permission

b Planning Applications

The Chairman advised members that notes relating to all planning applications had been circulated. A Councillor voiced concerns with this stating it could be seen as predetermination. The Chairman advised the decision making is informed by information given and comments must be evidenced based on National and local planning policy. In future notes will be made and read out.

Members considered the following Planning Applications :

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/04168/FUL Weston House, Weston Road, Morda, Oswestry, Shropshire	Single storey side extension, reconstruction of lean-to and refurbishment of outbuildings. Cllr Iain Campbell advised he wished to abstain from all planning applications It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment.
24/04266/CPE Unit 2, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use of building and yard for B8 storage. FOR INFORMATION ONLY
24/04267/CPE Unit 3, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton, Shropshire	Application for a Certificate of Existing Lawful Use for the use of building for B8 storage FOR INFORMATION ONLY
24/04268/CPE Unit 4, The Barns, Woolston, West Felton, Shropshire	Application for a Certificate of Existing Lawful Use for the use of building for domestic garaging, and squash court with associated changing facilities FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Planning Application Details	Planning Proposals
24/04308/FUL Bromwich Park, Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4JQ	Erection of first floor balcony to west elevation and rebuilding of bay windows with balcony to south (front) elevation It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment.
24/04181/LBC Pentre Cefn, Craig-Ilwyn, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire	Erection of two storey extension and associated works A Councillor commented that this was an improvement to the current building which was located in the middle of nowhere and should be supported. Another Councillor commented that members should revisit each planning application and simply consider each application on an individual basis. Whilst not particularly in agreement with the notes provided, these should not lead Councillors nor influence the decision. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application. There was one abstention.
24/04352/FUL The Coppie, Woolston, West Felton, Oswestry, Shropshire.	Single storey side extension It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED not to comment.
24/04384/LBC Morda Mill, Morda Bank, Morda, Shropshire	Install central heating boilers with associated flues, radiators and pipe-work to 12 flats. Members NOTED this is a listed building and the application was in keeping with the mill. Vote: Support 5 Object 0 Abstentions 3 It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to SUPPORT this application.
24/04436/OHL Adjacent Mile End Farm Buildings, Oswestry, Shropshire	New pole It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to SUPPORT this application.

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
24/04009/FUL Vron Cottage, Chapel Lane, Trefonen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9DP	Erection of a replacement conservatory following removal of porch at front Vote: Support 6 Object 0 Abstentions 2 It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support this application
24/04465/CPL Brynaber, Coed Y Go, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 9AT	Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed single storey rear extension FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2100 Clerk's Report

Members **NOTED** a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at previous council meetings.

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

2101 Financial Matters

a)Members considered approval of income and expenditure to 31 October 2024, I & E Balances and forecasted outturn to 31 March 2025.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the income and expenditure to 31 October 2024 and the balance of income received to date of £55,592.15 and gross expenditure to date of £45,342.33 be APPROVED. Members NOTED and APPROVED the forecasted outturn position for 2024/25.

b) Bank Reconciliation

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

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliation statement to the end of October 2024 be APPROVED.

c) Provisional Payment November 2024

Members considered the following provisional Payments for November 2024:

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

Supplier	Details	Gross £
EE	Mobile charges 11/10/2024 - 10/11/2024	14.81
HSBC	Bank charges - 30/09/2024 - 29/10/2024	8.00
Mark Evans	Bus shelter Cleaning November 2024	60.00
Colin Turner	Bus shelter Cleaning November 2024	25.00
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Clerk's pay and allowances November 2024 including arrears of pay, increment and overtime	2,098.41
HMRC	PAYE / NI Clerk Pay November 2024	587.88
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Postage for agendas and associated papers November 2024 (actual)	21.70
K Lloyd - The Clerk	Reimbursement - Poppy crosses for remembrance Service	20.00
Write off of £0.40	Write off of overpayment £0.40 Highline Electrical Ltd	0.40
Unity Bank	Bank Charges - 01/10/2024 - 31/10/2024	6.00
CLlr Chris Woods	Reimbursement for Poppy Wreath - Remembrance Sunday Service	15.00
Total		2,857.20

d) Unity Trust Bank – charging issues

The Clerk provided an update regarding the Unity Trust Bank charges. Pre notification charge details have been received and accounted for, although no charges have been deducted from the account and three amounts remain as unreconciled items. Unity Trust Bank have confirmed charges are not payable for dormant / inactive accounts. The charges will be reserved on receipt of the letter from Unity Trust Bank confirming the charges as nil and void. Members **NOTED** this

2102 Earmarked Reserves

Members considered the allocation of earmarked reserves which had been reviewed by The Finance Committee.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the reallocated earmarked reserves.

2103 December 2024 Recess – interim Arrangements

Members **NOTED** the interim arrangements for December 2024 which had been agreed by Full Council on 31 October 2024.

Finance

- Delegated authority to the Clerk for processing all invoices payable in December 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 January 2025 meeting

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 December 2024
- Chairman to determine comments on applications which will be submitted to the Clerk by 31 December 2024.
- Retrospective approval sought from Full Council at the January 2025 meeting

2104 The Tonys' Community Service Award 2024

The Chairman postponed this item pending the arrival of the successful residents.

2105 Road Safety Group

a) A member of the Road Safety Group advised there no report. The Chairman advised members that the Coed Y Go Road Speed Reduction Scheme should be completed by 6 December 2024. It was **NOTED** surveyors had been reviewing the road due to flooding issues.

b) A Councillor advised members the road safety issues on Llansylin Road related to it being an unrestricted road without any speed measures in place. A resident had asked about the process for mirrors similar to those located in Chain Lane. This would have to be addressed by Highways. Members **AGREED** for the matter to be referred back to the Road Safety Group to make enquiries.

2106 Cemetery Working Group

Cllr Mike Weston advised members the Cemetery Working Group together with The Clerk had met to consider and complete the Law Commission's Consultation Paper on Burial and Cremation. Details of this have been circulated to members.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the completed questionnaire to be ACCEPTED and submitted to The Law Commission.

2107 Environment Working Group

a) Cllr Iain Campbell provided an update to members advising water testing had not been completed prior to the November meeting and was planned for the second week of December. He has spoken with the Clerk who confirmed water testing data was not included with invoices. A request will be made for these to be provided in future. Following a request from Cllr Joyce Barrow, water testing results have been provided to Kelvin Hall at Shropshire Council.

b) A Councillor thanked Cllr Martin Bennett for his work on potential breaches relating to Trefarclawdd Farm. A Councillor advised he contacted the Environmental Agency (EA) to raise concerns with tanker movements at 4 am. It is not known what materials are being transported to and from the farm. A Councillor noted the excellent work undertaken by former Councillor Roger Jones when the original planning application had been submitted. He expressed concerns with the functioning of the planning department and how the application may impact on the local community. Piece meal applications are being submitted and he felt it was important to convey the message of issues not being addressed which should be prior to permission being granted. He also stated he had asked Cllr Joyce Barrow for her view on Trefarclawdd Farm. The Chairman advised members that Cllr Joyce Barrow had opposed the original application and was able to make a statement but not vote to avoid predetermination.

The Chairman proposed the draft letters circulated to members regarding complaints to the Planning Department requesting enforcement should be sent in the name of The Parish Council, whilst the letter regarding condition 3 should be sent in the name of Cllr Martin Bennett to avoid predetermination.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED for the letter to be submitted on the basis stated above.

2108 Possible closure of Oswestry Post Office

The Chairman advised members he had circulated a report to members on the Emergency Meeting called by the Mayor of Oswestry on the possible closure of Oswestry Post Office. He has not had sight of the resolution passed. He has been asked to facilitate cooperation between the Town Council and rural areas and has suggested a co-leadership role. A Councillor present at the meeting, suggested more awareness was needed with a Public Meeting with representatives from the Post Office present. A Councillor stated The Post Office is on the at risk register with the plan for every crown office to be downgraded. Members **NOTED** the report.

2109 Social Media

Cllr Richard Fowler provided an update to members and ask to publicise the threat to and petition on the Post Office. He asked for members not already following the Parish Facebook page to do so and suggested a Christmas message be posted. Members **ACCPEDED** the report.

2110 Website

Cllr Richard Fowler advised members a report had been circulated. This detailed potential suppliers and those used by Local Parish Councils. He will complete a comparison on functionality and price and share details at the next meeting. Critical to the introduction is that the Clerk is happy with any system chosen including ease of use. The current website does not use browser facilities. Members **ACCEPTED** the report.

2111 Remembrance Sunday Feedback

Cllr Bob Kimber advised members the Remembrance Service held on 10 November had been very well attended. There is only 40/45 Order of Service booklets left and suggested 50 new ones are required for next year. The Clerk will check with Derwen’s for printing costs. Cllr Chris Woods will provide a link to the pdf of the booklet.

2112 Newsletter

The Chairman advised members a report had been circulated and the only decision was whether the newsletter would be distributed by Councillors or to seek a company to do so. A Councillor expressed this thoughts it was useful to distribute in person as it provided a valuable opportunity to meet and engage with residents. Another Councillor advised he would be willing to help with distribution. The Chairman proposed a review of the costs for printing and distribution by the end of January 2025.

2113 Correspondence

- a)Members **NOTED** the new appointment of Chris Mellings as the Chief Executive of Shropshire Association of Local Councils.
- b)The Chairman advised a grant application had been received from Shropshire Union Canal Society and enquiry received from Hope House Hospice . The Clerk advised a grant application from Moreton Playing Fields had just been received. Grant Applications open in January 2025 and will be considered by members at the March 2025 meeting.

2114 Consultations

- a)Members **NOTED** Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Public Consultation for the upcoming Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) from 1 November to 27 December 2024.
- b) Members **NOTED** Mynydd Mawr Energy Park Consultation on proposals 13 November to 18 December 2024

2115 Date for Next Meeting

Members **NOTED** the next meeting will take place on Thursday 30 January 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

2116 Planning Enforcement

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

The Chairman opened the meeting into Public Session

2117 The Tonys’ Community Service Award 2024

The Chairman presented The Tonys’ Community Service Award 2024 to Mr John Evans and Ms Rebecca Greenham in recognition for their voluntary work undertaken for the benefit of the community. He thanked them both on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

The Chairman