
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 JULY 2024

EATON CONSTANTINE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors M Thorn (Chair), S Dawes, S Jones and Shropshire Councillor C Wild

Clerk: Lisa Harris

In attendance: Mr Wayne Vernon

25.24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Bain and Corrie.

26.24 Co-option of new councillor

The Casual Vacancy had been advertised on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards. One application had been received and as the applicant met the eligibility criteria to become a parish councillor, the vacancy would be filled by Mr Wayne Vernon.

It was proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Thorn and **resolved (without opposition)**

that Mr Wayne Vernon be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. Mr Vernon then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk and joined the other councillors at the table.

ACTION: Clerk to advise Shropshire Council's Monitoring Officer of the co-option. Councillor Vernon to complete the Disclosable Pecuniary Interests form and return to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

27.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

28.24 Public Participation Session - *a period of 20 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 3-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.*

There were no members of the public present.

29.24 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Dawes and seconded by Councillor Jones and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 28 May 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

30.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 28 May 2024

- Sorted out banking and now finally have access to online accounts.
- Started updating the website ensuring all information is current/relevant. More work to be done.
- Submitted required information to external auditor prior to compliance deadline date. Published all necessary accounting records on the website in accordance with the public rights of the local electorate (or other interested person).
- Researched graveyard maintenance. Findings to be discussed 43.34
- Chased RBL regarding order of lamppost signs for D-Day 80. Unfortunately, the order could not be delivered in time for the commemoration and so was cancelled.
- Currently reviewing and updating policies and procedures, some of which to be adopted/re-adopted at 36.24-39.24.
- Confirmation has been received that we have been awarded an Environmental Maintenance Grant from Shropshire Council. Unfortunately, due to budget pressures, this is only half of the amount requested, which was 50% of the total cost of the maintenance contract. This means that the Parish Council has to fund 75% of the cost of the contract, with Shropshire Council funding the other 25%. It is likely that next year there will be no grant available.

31.24 To receive reports from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Wild presented a report which covered:

- **Green Waste** - Following public consultation, the decision has been made that the "green waste" service will continue but with an annual charge of £56 per green bin. The payment year will run from 1 October to 30 September. You will be able to register and pay for this service from August onwards. The £56 charge is the average charge being made by other local authorities. Ideally, Shropshire Council would like to see as many residents as possible choose to compost. You will not be able to put your green waste into your residual (grey) waste bin as it will result in the bin being considered "contaminated" and it will not be emptied. Food waste can be placed in the grey bin until the free, weekly food waste collection comes online in 2026. If payment has not been received by 1 October, the collection of your green waste will stop. Green bins will be left with residents until a later date, but not emptied. You can purchase more than one bin at a charge of £56 per bin up to a maximum of three bins.
- **Household Recycling Centres** - The consultation results said loud and clear that residents wish to keep all centres open. Cabinet decided that all four household recycling centres will remain open but close one day a week. Awaiting confirmation of the day but most likely a Wednesday or Thursday as these are the quietest days across all household recycling centres. A booking system will be introduced for all the household recycling centres. You will be able to use an app or phone to book a slot. This works well in other council areas and has cut down

on queues, illegal waste and allows the operatives to assist customers. It also allows Veolia a better way to manage the sites including the ability to safely move full containers (not an issue in Shrewsbury). There will be more information on this at a later date.

- **Planning application 24/02537/VAR** - Although not in the parish, the quarry works at Buildwas may impact on the area. The application is for the variation of Condition 12 of an earlier planning permission regarding the phased extraction of sand and gravel. Councillor Jones will be attending the next meeting of Ironbridge Power Station Redevelopment Liaison Group and will question the developer regarding this proposal. An extraordinary meeting of LEC Parish Council may be called if it becomes necessary to submit an objection to the application.

32.24 To receive report from West Mercia Police’s Safer Neighbourhood Team (if available)

No report was available.

33.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Dawes reported that parishioner Ray Owen had kindly refreshed the bench by Eaton Constantine Village Hall and it was now looking splendid. She had written to Mr Owen on behalf of the Parish Council to thank him for his efforts.
- Council Jones advised that Elaine Parton wished to thank the Parish Councillors for the gift she had received on retiring as a councillor. Derek Harper wished to thank the Parish Council for taking on the maintenance of the visibility splays at the junction of the B4380 with the A458 at Cressage crossroads, and at Bennett’s Lane.
- Councillor Thorn took the opportunity to express his appreciation, and those of the other councillors, to Councillor Jones for her unwavering dedication during her tenure, over many years, as Chair of the Parish Council.

34.24 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s net salary June	£ 273.05
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk’s salary June	£ 68.20
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s net salary July	£ 273.05
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk’s salary July	£ 68.20
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s expenses (May/June/July)	£ 114.88
SALC	Affiliation fees (adjustment to invoice)	£ 90.49
TOTAL		£ 887.87

It was proposed by Councillor Thorn and seconded by Councillor Dawes and

resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 9 July 2024

The bank was reconciled at £19,674.83, being the online banking balance on the date the agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

35.24**Planning****1. Decisions to note**

None

2. Planning applications for consideration

None

36.24**To review and re-adopt Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders had been circulated to the Councillors for review prior to the meeting.

It was agreed (without opposition) that the Standing Orders dated July 2024 be re-adopted by the Council and signed accordingly.

37.24**To review and adopt Financial Regulations**

The Financial Regulations had been circulated to the Councillors for review prior to the meeting.

It was agreed (without opposition) that the Financial Regulations dated July 2024 be adopted by the Council and signed accordingly

38.24**To review and re-adopt Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct had been circulated to the Councillors for review prior to the meeting.

It was agreed (without opposition) that the Code of Conduct dated July 2024 be re-adopted by the Council and signed accordingly

39.24**To receive and review the Risk Management Schedule**

The Risk Management Schedule had been circulated to the Councillors for review prior to the meeting.

It was agreed (without opposition) that the Risk Management Schedule dated July 2024 be adopted by the Council and signed accordingly

40.24**To receive and review the Asset Register as at 31 March 2024**

The Clerk presented the Asset Register as at 31 March 2024. No additional assets had been added during the year but in May the laptop and printer used by the former clerk, had been declared no longer fit for purpose. The current Asset Register had therefore been updated accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk to contact former clerk to see if the laptop and printer had been correctly disposed of.

[The next item was moved down the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman to facilitate a better flow of the meeting]

42.24**Highway matters**

Councillor Dawes had again reported the flooding issue outside Ranslett House in Eaton Constantine via FixMyStreet. Councillor Jones had contacted a Highways Maintenance Technician at Shropshire Council to request an update on the planned resurfacing of the cul-de-sac on Kynnersley Lane and had also asked for the pothole at the junction of Kynnersley Lane and the B4380 to be fixed as a priority. Awaiting a response.

ACTION: Clerk to chase Shropshire Council for an update.

43.24 Environmental maintenance

Councillor Jones clarified what was meant by environmental maintenance in terms of the Parish. The Parish Council (helped by a small grant from Shropshire Council) pays a contractor to carry out certain highway maintenance tasks over the course of the year. These include cutting grass verges, maintaining visibility splays, cleaning road and traffic signs, and ensuring that no signs are obscured by overgrown trees/hedges. Unfortunately, the Environmental Maintenance Grant cannot be used to maintain anything other than Shropshire Council land, so the Parish Council has been unable to assist with the upkeep of the very overgrown graveyard at the church in Leighton. Historically, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has given St Mary's (Leighton) a grant of £15 paid every three years to help maintain the war grave but this payment ceased several years ago and the PCC doesn't have the funds to finance the maintenance of the graveyard.

Having undertaken extensive research, the Clerk suggested that the Parish Council uses the discretionary expenditure powers conferred upon it under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. This permits the Parish Council to spend money which, in their opinion, is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.

It was agreed (without opposition) that a Section 137 payment would be made to the environmental maintenance contractor to carry out a one-time tidy of the graveyard. Volunteers would be sought to continue with the upkeep moving forward.

[Councillor Wild left the meeting at this point.]

41.24 Parish Survey

The results of the Parish Survey had been presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. This has been conducted by an amazing team of volunteers and was independent of the Parish Council. However, the Parish Council would now like to consider the findings in detail to establish what, if anything, it could do to address parishioner concerns. The key parts of the survey have been summarised into broad themes which would be worked on further via a separate working group which would report back at the next Parish Council meeting in September.

44.24 Correspondence

Nothing beyond what already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

45.24 Future agenda items

None

46.24 Date of next meetings

Tuesday 17 September 2024 - Eaton Constantine Village Hall
Tuesday 19 November 2024 - Leighton Village Hall
Tuesday 21 January 2025 - Leighton Village Hall
Tuesday 18 March 2025 - Leighton Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date: 17 September 2024