

MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025
7.30pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

013/25 - Present

Cllr. P. Jenkins – acting Chairman for this meeting

Cllr. L Gray

Cllr. B Orme

Apologies received and accepted from

Cllr. T Madeley

Cllr. G Watts – Chairman

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. C Pugh

Shropshire Cllr. C Motley

In Attendance

The Clerk and one member of the public.

014/25- Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting.

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

No declarations were made.

015/25 Public question time

No matters were raised.

116/25– Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2025

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2025 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Orme **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 20th January 2025 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Gray

Vote: Unanimous in support of the proposal.

117/25 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 20th January 2025

114/24: Matter could not be considered in the absence of the Chairman.

120/24: Cllr. Orme reported the potholes in Wolverton have been repaired.

120/24/4: The collapsing wall in Ticklerton, adjacent to the stream, has still not been repaired.

007/25: This matter will be taken up with Stuart Anderson MP once the further information requested has been received from Shropshire Council.

009/25: The Clerk had contacted Highways to ask if the parish council can plant shrubs in the now unsightly area between Hope Bowdler and Church Stretton which has had trees felled. No response received as yet.

018/25– Reports

Cllr. Motley was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

1. A recent government consultation asked for views on whether local government meetings should be allowed to take place online rather than face to face in exceptional circumstances. At the time I thought this referred to parishes/town councils but I believe originally the idea was to refer this specifically to local authorities.

Nevertheless, a number of parishes have participated in the survey, Shropshire Council's Cabinet also discussed it and felt strongly that, as now, Cabinet or committee members dialling in should be able to participate in any debate but should not be allowed to vote unless they were physically in the room.

We are not sure how well sighted the government is on the views and requirements of parish councils, which are more rural entities and don't exist in towns, but it would be sensible to opt for parity over decision making/voting both for Local Government, Towns and Parish Councils. I will let you know when we have a response.

2. Local Government Financial Settlement

This was trailed as 'taking money from the rural areas to invest in deprived urban areas' and indeed we have heard that some rural authorities have had no uplift in the core funding element from government. It appears that Shropshire has had a 2.84% core funding uplift which amounts to some

£12m, but overall we have lost £20m due to withdrawal of the Rural Services Delivery Grant (originally awarded to mitigate high costs of service delivery in rural areas). Against our 3.1% uplift some of the larger towns (eg Blackpool) have received a 9-10% increase in funding. We don't yet know what funding we will receive for social care costs so we don't yet have a full picture.

It appears that rural authority areas are losing out to urban – RSN has calculated that urban areas now receive 41% more per head than rural, and rural deprivation is not recognised. Unfortunately, we have also lost the Rural Services Delivery Grant, which was worth £9m to the Council and used to support the increased costs of service delivery in our rural county. The Council has begun a consultation for £8.5m of new savings proposals including moving to three-weekly general waste collections, reducing opening hours at Shrewsbury Museum and Castle and switching off some streetlighting.

3. Devolution

Under the Conservative devolution plans, authorities had to have a joint population of at least 500,000 to go for a devolution deal and elect a mayor. Different messages seem to be coming from the government now insofar as a newspaper report that Angela Rayner would not insist on a 500k population if a single large authority under that population could demonstrate that it was well run, well supported and could exist on its own. As Shropshire is already a unitary council we are unlikely to be in the devolution front line, but all counties and district councils are expected to combine into unitaries. A large number of those councils are being allowed to delay elections in May so they can come up with unitary plans. Once again, all these combinations will affect rural areas as counties and districts tend to be rural. However, the resulting unitaries are likely to have a strong rural bias which could help us all.

019/25 – To discuss any planning matters.

No matters had arisen since the last meeting.

020/25 - Correspondence/Communications

Councillors considered the following items of correspondence:-

1. Notification about Bird Flu housing order – as from Monday 27th January 2025 all birds (including chickens) must be kept housed until further notice. Contact animalhealth@shropshire.gov.uk or tel. no. 07458 113879
2. Notification of the South Shropshire Area Committee Meeting at The Clun Room, The Community Centre, Craven Arms, at 6pm on 24th February 2025, plus agenda.

3. Notification from SC about Fly Tipping.
4. Notification from Severn Trent Water advising parish councils that a dedicated email has been set up to enable councillors to talk directly to Severn Trent via a dedicated email: cllr.enquiries@severntrent.co.uk.
5. Notification sent to some parish council residents, but not so far this parish council. The Re-cycling Centre at Craven Arms has changed its new procedures. **It is no longer necessary to book in advance** to take rubbish to the centre, but attendees may still be asked to show proof that they live in Shropshire. People visiting with a van or a trailer will still need to book a slot and must also show proof of residency when they arrive. The idea of three-weekly waste bin collections has also been shelved.
6. Email parish council to Mr J Walton at SC, responding to his reply to our FOI request about Oaklands, asking him for further information

020/25– Highways and Environmental matters

No matters were raised.

021/25 - Finance Report for February 2025

Balance carried forward from January 2025

£4,654.74

Add: Cancelled cheque no. 100594 to HMRC

£ 47.60

£4,702.34

1. Payments to be made on 17th February 2025 from Precept Fund

- HSBC bank charges to Jan. 2025 £ 5.00
- Clerk's net salary for February 2025 £190.39
- HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's January & February 2025 salary £ 95.20
- Information Commissioner (data protection fee) £ 52.00
- Ticklerton Village Hall – hall hire 2024, part 2025 £ 75.00
- Admin expenses incurred in February 2025 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.
- Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for February 2025 @ £20 p.m. £20.00
- Electricity at Hope Bowdler Village Hall for meeting on 20.01.25 £ 2.00
- 1 pkt A4 copy paper £ 4.90
- Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 17.02.25 – to Ticklerton Village Hall for PC meeting - 32 miles £14.40

Total of February 2025 admin. expenses £ 41.30 £ 41.30

£ 458.89

£ 458.89

Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to March 2025

£4,243.45

Cllr. Gray **proposed** that cheques listed above and totalling £458.89 be approved for payment.

Cllr. Jenkins **seconded** the proposal.

Vote: Proposal carried unanimously.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

Environmental/Maintenance Fund bal. b/fwd from January 2025 **£477.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from January 2025 **£ 451.59**

**Total funds held by Parish Council following authorisation
& presentation of the above cheques.**

Precept Fund **£4,243.45**

Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund **£ 477.78**

Neighbourhood Fund grant **£ 451.59**

£5,172.82

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The verification of the Clerk's reconciliation between the Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 160 was conducted by Cllr. Jenkins and confirmed to be correct.

023/25 – To note and approve the list of meeting dates for 2025 to May 2026.

The list of meeting dates had been prepared and circulated by the Clerk and she had checked that the meeting dates were available at Ticklerton and Hope Bowdler village halls and had booked them. The list was duly approved.

024/25– Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)

The Clerk reminded the councillors of the elections due on 1st May 2025 and asked that they let the Chairman know as soon as possible if any of them intended to stand down.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.00pm

Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting.

Monday 17th March 2025, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall.

SIGNED

DATED
