

MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th June 2024
8.00pm at Ticklerton Village Hall

066/24 - Present

Cllr. P. Jenkins – acting Chairman for the meeting

Cllr. L Gray

Cllr. C Pugh

Cllr. T Madeley

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. B Orme

Apologies received and accepted from

Cllr. G. Watts, Shropshire Councillor C Motley

In Attendance

The Clerk and two members of the public.

067/24 - 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.

068/24 – Public question time

A resident of Ticklerton asked if the parish council could get some verge trimming done as the vegetation was dangerously obscuring the sight lines at junctions. Of special concern were the junction from B4371 in Hope Bowdler at the turning to Ticklerton, and the T junction opposite the bus shelter coming into Ticklerton from Hope Bowdler. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with Highways and with Mr Hall.

069/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the following parish council meeting both held on 20th May 2024

069/24/1 - The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2024 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes. Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th May 2024 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Gray

Vote: One abstention, passed by a majority.

069/24/2 - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May 2024 following the Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Madeley **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 20th May 2024 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

Vote: One abstention, passed by a majority

070/24 – Matters arising from the two sets of Minutes of 20th May 2024

No matters were raised.

071/24 – Reports

Cllr. Motley was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a truncated report, as the Head of Legal at SC advised that Councillors must not discuss anything which might be deemed as favouring a political party. However, she reported that her directorate, Adult & Social Care, had a very thorough Care Quality Commission Assessment: 10 Inspectors descended on the Shirehall and interviewed some 40% of staff of all disciplines. The Director had some verbal feedback but we won't know the final judgment until the end of July. It was an extraordinarily labour intensive process and we had to produce a huge amount of paperwork. Otherwise, all meetings of any importance have been delayed until after the General Election. However, she is keen to see that there is room on the calendar for the merger between Rushbury PC and Eaton & Hope Bowdler PC to be carried through before May 2025. This is dependent on whether our legal team can clear the backlog of boundary changes caused by the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's changes to the Divisional changes, which have also upset some parish boundaries. She will report on this as soon as she can.

The Clerk took this opportunity to ask what is proposed about her position as Clerk to Eaton Under Heywood & Hope Bowdler Parish Council, a position she has held for 14 years, following this amalgamation. The amalgamation was first raised in early 2022 and yet no one has ever discussed with her what would happen to her role following the merger, nor has she been included in any joint meetings, social or otherwise, involving Rushbury Parish Council. When Rushbury PC's Clerk, Chris McLean resigned and left in March 2024 she had not been asked to apply for the vacancy, despite the fact she would then have been in a position to ensure a smooth transition when the amalgamation occurred. Instead, she had been asked at the May 2024 meeting to provide assistance to the new clerk as he had no parish clerk experience and needs guidance. After 14 years of service during which she had only missed one meeting (due to illness) she felt very hurt by the way she has been treated. Cllr. Madeley had raised her position by email with the Chairman when the amalgamation issue first arose, but she had not been advised of the Chairman's response. Cllr. Madeley stated he could not now recall what the response had been. Cllr. Jenkins apologised to the Clerk on behalf of the parish council and said he would take the matter up urgently with the Chairman.

072/24 – Planning matters.

For information purposes only the Parish Council had been sent **24/02238/AGR** - an application submitted by Harton Farm, Harton for an agricultural shed to provide shelter for sheep handling. SC has the power to approve the application under general development order provisions, but if they object, the applicant will have to make a full planning application.

073/24 - Correspondence/Communications to be considered at the meeting

Councillors considered the following items:-

Highways notifications:

1. Notification of capital drainage works on B4371 near Much Wenlock which will result in the road being closed for at least 24 hours. Work scheduled to be done between 22nd July and mid-September. Further clarification awaited.
2. Notification of road closure on B4371 between Bank House and Woodgate Farm on Friday 5th July 2024 between 09.30 – 16.00
3. Notification of road closure on B4370 between Marshbrook and A49, Church Stretton for renewal of main water pipe between 8th July and 19th July 2024 – diversions apply.
4. Notification of possible road closures on the junction on B4368 at Seifton Batch and Westhope Cottage on 23.06.24 – 25.06.24; 30.06.24 – one day and 04.07.24 to 06.07.24

General correspondence

5. Acknowledgement from Mr P Bamber of parish council's views on public path diversion order at Wolverton.
6. Acknowledgement from Mr P Bamber of parish council's views on public path diversion order at Whitefields Farm, Eaton Under Heywood
7. Invitation to Severn Trent's roadshow on Thursday 20th June 2024, 4.30 – 6.00pm at Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Abbeygate Hall, SY2 6AH
8. Information about general election on 4th July 2024 and the effects of the recent constituency boundary changes - (Does not affect this parish). Postal votes to be submitted by 5pm on Wednesday 19th June 2024
9. Thank you letter from Eaton Under Heywood PCC for donation of £200.
10. Thank you letter from Hope Bowdler PCC for donation of £200.
11. Acknowledgement from PJF Littlejohn, external auditors, confirming that 2023 – 2024 audit is now satisfactorily concluded unless any parishioners raise any queries about our accounts.
12. Notification about a course (£60 fee) "Making SALC Councils Sustainable" Details available at: allanwilson.epc@gmail.com
13. Notification from the Community Foundation for Staffordshire and Shropshire, advising that an anonymous nomination has been received from a Hope Bowdler resident nominating this parish council to enter Shropshire's Best Kept Village and Community Competition – closing date for application – 30.06.24

Responses:

Item 13: The invitation to enter the Best Kept Village competition had been discussed at the April meeting and the parish council had decided not to pursue it. However an anonymous resident of Hope Bowdler had contacted the organiser nominating Hope Bowdler, and the organisers had sent a long and detailed application form to the parish council. It was noted the anonymous resident had not attended this meeting to discuss or support the application. The

requirements set out in the application form were onerous. The councillors agreed the application should not be pursued.

074/24 – Highways and Environmental matters

The need for the growth on the verges needed to be cut back was reiterated. Cllr. Pugh reported there are a large number of pot holes between Lower House Farm, Ticklerton and Harton and that the road subsidence by the stream in Ticklerton has still not be fixed. The Clerk will raise the issues again.

075/24 - Finance Report for June 2024

<u>Balance carried forward from May 2024</u>			£7,448.75
ADD: VAT refund received 21.05.24			£ 40.16
			£7,488.91
1. Payments to be made on 17th June 2024 from Precept Fund			
• HSBC bank charges	£	6.20	
• Clerk's net salary for June 2024	£	190.39	
• HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's June 2024 salary	£	47.60	
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in May/June 2024 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>			
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for June 2024 @ £20 p.m.		£20.00	
• 1 book of 8 x 2 nd class stamps		£ 6.80	
• Andy Holmes – IT support : 23.05.24 Replace fan in computer. Set up Microsoft One Drive Cloud account to back up files		£30.00	
• Andy Holmes – IT support 28.05.24 Outlook, scanner & printer failed to work after installation of Cloud. Checking Outlook and repairing PST file, reconnecting scanner & printer		£20.00	
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 03.05.24 – to Leetbotwood to deliver accounts etc to the Auditor – 42 miles. 08.05.24 – to Leebotwood to collect audited accounts from auditor and discuss with her – 42 miles. Total mileage – 84 but shared with Diddlebury PC so 42 miles claimed 17.06.24 to Ticklerton Village Hall for PC meeting 32 miles plus 42 for auditor = 74 miles @ 45p		£33.30	
Total of June 2024 admin. expenses		<u>£110.10</u>	<u>£110.10</u>
–			<u>£354.29</u>
			<u>£ 354.29</u>
			<u>£7,134.62</u>
			Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to July 2024

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that cheques totalling £354.29 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Madeley

Vote: Unanimous in favour of proposal.

Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council

<u>Environmental/Maintenance Fund bal. b/fwd from May 2024</u>	£1,261.78
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Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from May 2024

£ 451.59

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

Precept Fund	£7,488.91
Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund	£1,261.78
Neighbourhood Fund grant	£ 451.59
	<u>£8,847.99</u>

2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.

The verification of the Clerk’s reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 152 was performed by Cllr. Jones.

076/24 – To consider, approve and adopt a new set of Financial Regulations

A set of the new Financial Regulations produced by NALC had been considered and adapted by the Clerk and then prior to the meeting had been circulated to all councillors for their consideration. No amendments or objections were raised by councillors.

Cllr. Orme **proposed** that the parish council should approve and adopt the new Financial Regulations.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

Vote: Unanimous in favour of the proposal.

077/24 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)

No matters were raised. There being no further business to conduct, the acting Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.05pm

**Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting.
Monday 15th July 2024, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall.**

SIGNED

DATED
