

## **MINUTES**

**of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**7.30pm at Ticklerton Hall**

### **112/24 - Present**

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman

Cllr. L Gray

Cllr. S Jones

Cllr. C Pugh

### **Apologies received and accepted from**

Cllr. B Orme

Cllr. T Madeley

Cllr. P Jenkins

### **In Attendance**

The Clerk and one member of the public.

### **113/24 - 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.

### **114/24 – Public question time**

It was noted that a van selling food is parking in the layby at the top of Sandford Avenue. This must be affecting the trade of the Hydes' snack bar enterprise, for which they had obtained the necessary permissions. The Chairman will discuss the matter with Mr Hyde to evaluate whether the parish council needs to take any action in this matter.

### **115/24 – Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 had been circulated and considered by the councillors. No objections were raised to the Minutes.

Cllr. Jones **proposed** that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be approved by the councillors.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Pugh

**Vote:** Three in favour, one abstention.

### **116/24 – Matters arising from the Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

109/24: Cllr. Jenkins and Cllr Pugh had requested at the October meeting that the floods in Hope Bowdler, Darby Lane and Harton be reported to Highways. The Clerk confirmed she had reported the matters Mr Bellis at SC who deals with flood issues on highways.

Cllr Jenkins had also asked at the October meeting that the hedge around and behind the bus shelter in Hope Bowdler be cut back. The Clerk confirmed she had asked Mr Hall to attend to this.

### **117/24 – Reports**

No reports were received for the meeting.

### **118/24 – To discuss any planning matters.**

Nothing further has been heard about Oaklands.

### **119/24 - Correspondence/Communications**

**Councillors considered the following items of correspondence:-**

1. Email from Mr Francis Acton seeking to share our lengthsman. The Clerk responded advising this parish council does not use the lengthsman scheme but employs a local person on an ad hoc basis.
2. Details from SC with an email address - [www.shropshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebooking](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentrebooking) to book a slot to use the Craven Arms Recycling Centre. It appears various documents need to be produced when you arrive at the Centre, including copy of your booking, your driving licence and a recent utility bill with your address on it.
3. FixMyStreet improvements update leaflet.
4. Email from Gary Parton, Street Works Team at Shropshire Council asking councillors to complete a consultation survey about banners etc displayed on the highways – it can be found at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/TPC\\_BannersBuntingLighting\\_Review\\_24](https://www.surveymonkey.com/TPC_BannersBuntingLighting_Review_24)
5. Leaflet from Shropshire Council about Fly Tipping and how they, Defra, the West Mercia Police and the Environment Agency are dealing with it.
6. Reminder from SALC about the Nature Recovery Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in the Sylvester Horne Institute. It commences at 10am and is free of charge. Book via [conference@middlemarchescommunitytrust.org.uk](mailto:conference@middlemarchescommunitytrust.org.uk)
7. Notification from HSBC setting out changes in their Terms and Conditions of Business.
8. Email to Ray Hall asking him to cut back the hedging and vegetation behind the Hope Bowdler bus shelter.
9. Email from SALC with details of a Crowdfund Shropshire initiative. Funds are available for a Community Shared Prosperity Fund and a Green Spaces and Active Travel Fund.  
Workshops being held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 10.30am and 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 12 noon. Contact [chris.mellings@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.mellings@shropshire.gov.uk) for details.

### **120/24 – Highways and Environmental matters**

120/24/1: Cllr. Gray asked that the large pot holes by Nethersprings in Bull Lane be reported to FixMyStreet.

120/24/2: Cllr. Pugh advised that some pot holes on both the road to Westhope and the road to Wolverton had been filled with concrete rather than tarmac. The surrounding tarmac has sunk and the concrete infills are now higher than the rest of the road surface, making them a hazard to traffic.

120/24/3: Cllr. Pugh advised he has done a lot of clearance of the brook in Darby Lane by Whitefields Farm. He has cleared out a fallen tree which was blocking the drain under the bridge, causing flooding on the road. The Chairman thanked Cllr, Pugh for his efforts.

120/24/4: Cllrs. Pugh and Jones both advised that SC have still done nothing about the collapsing road by Lower House Farm in Ticklerton, despite FixMyStreet sending the parish council at least two notifications stating that the work has been done. The edge of the road adjacent to the 3'0" drop into the stream, at the point where the railings have finished, has now further eroded into the highway and the risk of a vehicle going into the stream increases all the time.

The Clerk was requested to take these matters up with Highways and FixMyStreet.

120/24/5: The fact that SC have insufficient manpower and equipment available to keep all the drains, ditches and culverts clear, with the resulting flooding, was discussed. To a degree every householder will need to take their own flood prevention measures now and in the future. Hiring a JCB and driver to go around the parish to clear drains and ditches was discussed. It was felt that with the frequency and intensity of the rains and gales the drains would be blocked again within no time. It was agreed that all the parish council can do for now is to ask Mr Hall to clear any drains or ditches which appear to be causing flooding. The Clerk will request Mr Hall's assistance.

### **121/24 - Finance Report for November/part December 2024**

Prior to considering the Finance Report and the draft Precept Budget for 2025/2026, the question of the parish council's computer was discussed. It needs to be replaced by next October in any event as it is not a model which can be updated to Windows 11. It continues to emit worrying noises and is haphazard in operational terms. It was agreed it would be most satisfactory to have it replaced over the Christmas break so all its data to be transferred to a new machine in readiness for the January 2025 meeting. A replacement computer will therefore be funded from 2024/5 Precept Reserves rather than being added as a new item to the 2025/2026 Precept Budget. A cheque for £450 will be issued so the Clerk can pay Mr Holmes when the work is done. The transaction was therefore added to the Finance Report.

### **Finance Report for November/part December 2024**

#### **Balance carried forward from October 2024**

**£5,997.81**

#### **1. Payments to be made on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 from Precept Fund**

- HSBC bank charges to 28.10.24 £ 5.80
- Clerk's net salary for Nov. 2024 £190.39
- Clerk's net salary for Dec. 2024 £190.39
- £380.78 £380.78
- HMRC - PAYE on Clerk's Nov. & Dec. 2024 salary £ 95.20
- Andy Holmes: new computer inc. data transfer, anti-virus,

Windows 11 etc.		£450.00	
• <u>Admin expenses incurred in November 2024 paid by Clerk and reclaimed by her.</u>			
• Contribution towards telephone/internet provision for November 2024 @ £20 p.m.	£20.00		
• Travelling expenses @ 45p per mile 18.11.24 – to Ticklerton for PC meeting 34 miles		<u>£15.30</u>	
Total of November 2024 admin. expenses	<u>£35.30</u>	<u>£ 35.30</u>	
		<u>£967.08</u>	<u>£ 967.08</u>
	<b>Balance of Precept fund c/fwd to January 2025</b>		<b><u>£5,030.73</u></b>

The Chairman **proposed** that cheques to the value of £967.08 be approved for payment.

Proposal **seconded** by Cllr. Jones

**Vote:** Unanimous in support of the proposal.

### **Ring Fenced funds held by Parish Council**

Environmental/Maintenance Fund bal. b/fwd from October 2024 **£ 877.78**

Neighbourhood Fund – balance b/fwd from October 2024 **£451.59**

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

<b>Precept Fund</b>	<b>£5,030.73</b>
<b>Environmental/Asset Maintenance Fund</b>	<b>£ 877.78</b>
<b>Neighbourhood Fund grant</b>	<b>£ 451.59</b>
	<b><u>£6,360.10</u></b>

## **2. Bank Statement/Cash Book reconciliation.**

Verification of Clerk's reconciliation between Cash Book and HSBC Bank Statement 157 was conducted by Cllr. Jones.

## **3. Preliminary consideration of the 2025/2026 Precept Budget**

The Clerk presented a draft Precept Budget for 2025/2026 at the November meeting. The following items were included for consideration:-

- 1.
2. New computer as the current one will be obsolete by next year – probably cost £450 including transferring all the existing data to the new one, adding anti-virus protection etc. This was dealt with as above.
3. Possibility of hiring a contractor to clear drains and culverts around the parish in flood prone areas. This was dealt with at 120/24.
4. Budget for election costs for 2025 elections. Cost as yet unknown but SALC suggest £2.30 per elector – approximately £437

A final version of the 2025/2026 Precept Budget will be considered and adopted at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## **122/24 – Any Other Business (for dissemination of information only)**

It was agreed the Chairman will contact the Chairman and Clerk at Rushbury Parish Council to further the proposed amalgamation of the two parish councils. The Clerk will obtain their contact details.

There being no further business to conduct, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, wished them all a happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 8.10pm

**Date & Venue of the next Parish Council meeting.  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 7.30pm at Hope Bowdler Village Hall.**

**SIGNED** Graham Watts

20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**DATED** \_\_\_\_\_