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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held at 7.40 pm on Monday 1st July 2019 in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston.

Present: Councillors: P. Evans (Vice-Chairman), M. Stansfield, B. Richards
F McKeown, P Sansom, and J Pay

In attendance: Borough Cllr Andrew Eade (part) and M. Atherton (Clerk)

(01/07/19)

Item 1 - Apologies:

Cllr S Stacey and Cllr B Knight

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session:

There were no members of the public present.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd June 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2019 were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Pat Sansom and seconded by Cllr Brian Richards. All members present voted in favour.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2019 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.</p>

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- (a) **Heart of the Village:** Cllr Evans summarised details of a meeting held earlier that day involving himself, Cllr Richards, borough Cllr Eade, the Clerk & Jack Rowsell (T&WC) concerning the area under the former railway bridge.

The meeting had covered confirmation of boundaries, responsibility for boundary disputes, differences between a license and a lease, condition of the area at handover and maintenance budgets, control of future use of the area, and access to the site.

Members asked for clarity on a number of matters prior to formalising arrangements with T&WC. Specifically, the clerk was asked to:-
Contact the PC's insurers to confirm adequate cover;
Ensure written approval of 'rights of access' is provided by the Village Hall Committee;
Draft a letter to formalise rights and obligations of users.

Subject to clarity on the above matters Members agreed to proceed formally with a request to T&WC for a license / lease to control the land under the bridge. This was proposed by Cllr Brian Richards, seconded by Cllr Mike Stansfield and unanimously agreed by all Members present.

Resolved: the Clerk is authorised, on behalf of the Parish Council, to enter into a license / lease arrangement with Telford & Wrekin Council that will pass responsibility for control of use of the land immediately adjacent to and under the former railway bridge to the Parish Council

Following a recent request from the Chairman of the Church Hall Committee for assistance it was noted that the Church Hall Car Park boundary hedging had been cut. The Clerk confirmed that the work was not commissioned by the Parish Council although he had intended that the request be discussed at this meeting – agreed that no further action is required.

Members also noted that the footway and channel areas adjacent No. 1 The Close had been swept with all foliage and detritus now removed.

- (b) **Wellington Road:** the Clerk reported that Adam Brookes (T&WC) had confirmed the traffic order for a proposed speed limit extension on Wellington Road was to be advertised by T&WC on the Friday prior to the meeting. Provided there are no objections during the public consultation stage this would suggest implementation during the autumn.

Despite further enquiries there was still no news on the impact of the notices served on residents or T&WC's acknowledgement that some of the footway encroachment is their responsibility. **Action:** Clerk to continue to pursue with T&WC.

- (c) **Tree Issues in Greenvale:** following a further visit by the Clerk to see the owner / occupiers of 22 Greenvale it is clear that their garden restructuring work is going to take considerably longer than they had originally indicated. **Action:** Clerk to maintain contact with the residents.

Contact had now been made with the owner / occupiers of 17 Greenvale concerning a boundary shrub that obstructs visibility for drivers exiting St. Andrew's Way onto Greenvale. **Action:** if there is no action in the coming weeks to remove the obstruction Clerk to report to T&WC as Highway Authority.

- (d) **Wallshead Way Play Area:** Cllr Richards gave an overview of drainage issues on and adjacent to the new MUGA facility. These issues have been formally registered

with T&WC and with the contractor who appears amenable to rectifying any ongoing problems beyond the normal warranty period.

In order to clarify the extent of any ponding issues Cllr Richards suggested engaging Needes Landscaping to carry out level checks using a self-leveling laser. **Action:** Clerk to contact Oliver Needes to arrange a meeting with him and Cllr Richards at the earliest mutually convenient time.

- (e) **Boundary Review:** agreed to retain as a standing item until T&WC full Council had met to approve recommendations of the Boundary Review Committee following the meeting on 7th March.
- (f) **Liddle's Bank:** Members requested an opportunity to review issues of pedestrian safety following completion of a housing development adjacent The Knoll.

Members referred to a number of observed interactions between pedestrians walking up / down Liddle's Bank and moving traffic. Whilst there had not been any serious incidents to date the potential is recognised to be significant and will most likely be increased in the autumn / winter as both light and weather conditions deteriorate.

Borough Cllr Eade and the Clerk confirmed the outcome of a recent meeting with Adam Brookes (T&WC). He has agreed to provide pedestrian / children signs on both approaches to Liddle's Bank. He also agreed to review siting of the vehicle priority sign adjacent the access driveway to The Knoll which at times is obscured by foliage.

Cllr Evans raised the issue of the poor road surface including potholes at the road edge where it meets the driveway to The Knoll. These potholes had been made worse by utility works associated with the new housing development. **Action:** Clerk to report to T&WC.

Item 6 – Parking in The Dale

Members had briefly discussed this issue prior to borough Cllr Eade's arrival. Cllr Eade explained the background to this issue, summarised representations made to him, and described the impacts of inconsiderate parking.

The Chairman explained why he and colleague Cllrs were not overly supportive of a request for waiting restrictions. It is felt that parked vehicles help reduce traffic speeds, that there will inevitably be parking displacement if waiting restrictions are introduced, that residents will be adversely affected, and that viability of the school may be undermined given its wide catchment.

The most appropriate course of action was felt to be a request from the school for parents to park more considerately, better use of the Church Hall and Village Hall car parks, and white hatching / lines adjacent the main complainants' driveway. **Actions:** Clerk to contact the head teacher, and borough Cllr Eade to pursue white lining with T&WC.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 7 – Parish Projects

- (a) **“We Don’t Buy Crime”- Smartwater:** the signs are still awaited although due imminently. Cllr Evans agreed to assist the Clerk with erection of the signs when these are available.

A draft newsletter includes an item on Smartwater with 3 more public sessions to be confirmed. Updated copies of the register of electors had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting along with a schedule of dwellings within the village that had not yet registered for a Smartwater kit.

Action: the clerk and Cllr Evans to liaise in order to progress this project to a conclusion.

Item 8 – Communications

- a. **Correspondence:** all relevant correspondence had been circulated to Members.
- b. **Parish Newsletter:** a draft Newsletter had been circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and various comments made. **Action:** Clerk to finalise and send to the printers ready for distribution during July.
- c. **Web-site and Social Media:** Cllr Evans and the Clerk provided brief updates on Facebook and the web-site respectively.

Item 9 – Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall Committee (BK):** Cllr Sansom provided a brief report on behalf of Cllr Knight who was unable to attend the meeting. It was noted that the VH heating system repairs had cost in excess of £1,000, soundproofing materials had now arrived at a cost of £750, and that a grant of £1,800 had been received from the Coop. The VH cheque signing mandate had been changed to reflect new appointments to officer positions. It had been agreed that the main noticeboard is for Committee use only. When completed the refurbished Committee Room is to be named the “Aston Room”.
- b. **Bus Users Group (SS/PE):** Cllr Evans apologised for not being able to attend a recent meeting of the BUG.
- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership (JP):** Cllr Pay reported that NRP had not met recently due to the local elections.
- d. **Telford & Wrekin Council (AE):** Cllr Eade confirmed that there was nothing new of significance to report from T&WC.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 10 – Planning Applications

The Planning Schedule for July 2019 was briefly discussed – no new applications.

Cllr Pay referred to site H13 (former Sainsbury site) noting that T&WC had received very limited interest and were likely to review their disposal strategy.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE:

Item 11 – Accounts & Payments

- (a) No payments were made between the meeting held on 3rd June 2019 and tonight's meeting (1st July 2019) of the Parish Council;
- (b) The Clerk informed Members of the accounts balance as at 30/06/2019.
- (c) The Clerk informed members of accounts to be paid at this meeting as follows:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
K. Baker – Internal Auditor	300556	LGA 1972 s101	£65.00
Oliver Needes - watering	300557	LGA 1972 s135	£200.00
West Mercia Energy	300558	LGA 1972 sch14	£134.62
HMRC (PAYE)	300559	LGA 1972 s112	£80.20
M Atherton: out of pocket exp	300560	LGA 1972 s227	£84.99

All five cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

- (d) The Clerk provided the 1st Quarter Bank Reconciliation for approval. This was signed by two authorised signatories following appropriate scrutiny.

Item 12 – Compliance Matters:

- (a) The Internal Auditor's Report for the 2018/19 accounts was circulated prior to the meeting. The report provided a clean bill of health with no actions. The report was warmly received and approved.

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- (a) Cllr McKeown asked for her apologies to be recorded for the September meeting.

Date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as 7.40 pm Monday 2nd September 2019 at Church Aston Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date