

CLERK: Michael Atherton  
ADDRESS: 53 Beechfields Way  
Newport  
Shropshire  
TF10 8QA

Tel: 01952 820241  
Email: [churchaston@gmail.com](mailto:churchaston@gmail.com)



**Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held at 7.40 pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston.**

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

**In attendance:** M. Atherton (Clerk)

**(04/11/19)**

**Item 1 - Apologies:**

Cllr B. Knight and Borough Cllr Eade

**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 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Richards. All members present voted in favour.

<p><b>Resolved:</b> minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.</p>
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**Item 5 – Matters Arising:**

- (a) **Heart of the Village:** Cllr Evans summarised discussions on the area under the bridge from the last meeting. The Clerk confirmed that Jack Rowsell had been informed of the decision not to proceed with a license / lease and the reasons for this decision. Ms Gill Stokes and the Group Scout leader had been notified individually of the decision.

- (b) **Wellington Road:** Members discussed attempts to cut over-hanging hedging and to dig back encroaching embankment at various locations along Wellington Road. None appear to offer a long term solution to the ongoing issues of encroachment.

As a consequence of the above, Members agreed that the Clerk should invite Ms Astley (AD:T&WC) to meet with the Chairman and others on site in order to view the issues and agree a way forward.

- (c) **Tree Issues in Greenvale:** agreed to maintain a watching brief.
- (d) **Wallshead Way Play Area:** discussions from the last meeting were briefly revisited  
**Action:** Clerk to obtain options and prices for benches / seating / picnic tables for the play area and to report back in February / March 2020

It was noted that the area adjacent the slide on the smaller children's play area had some water retention during recent adverse weather. The Chairman recalled that as an integral part of the joint funding improvements at the play area T&WC had secured £5k to maintain the children's play area. **Action:** Clerk to contact Derek Owen (T&WC) regards initiating an improvement scheme.

The Clerk informed Members that he had issued a request via Gavin Onions (T&WC) for the canopy of cherry trees along the edge of the play area and Wallshead Way to be raised as low-hanging foliage is now affecting pedestrians.

- (e) **Liddle's Bank – Pedestrian Safety:** the Clerk informed Members that he had recently contacted Adam Brookes regards a delay in erecting the pedestrian safety signs at Liddles Bank seeking an assurance that the works would be completed in the near future – a response is awaited.
- (f) **Newtown Residents Petition:** the Chairman commented on the petition from residents about poor state of the road surface and inadequate drainage provision along Newtown. As a regular pedestrian user of the route Cllr Stansfield concurred with residents views.

The Clerk provided feedback following an earlier telephone conversation with borough Cllr Eade who had arranged a site visit with a drainage engineer and a highways engineer from T&WC to assess the scale of issues. Cllr Eade agreed to update CAPC Members following the inspection.

- (g) **Community Grant Awards 2019:** the Clerk informed Members of a number of emails and letters of appreciation from various groups following the Community Grant Awards 2019. **Action:** Clerk to provide Members with an electronic list of successful grant award recipients.

A request had been made for a cheque payable to the Activity Days Holiday Club to be re-issued to St. John's PCC. This was agreed and a new cheque was issued and signed for the Clerk to forward.

## PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

### Item 6 – Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall Committee (BK):** Cllr Sansom presented the report in the absence of Cllr Knight. The report summarised preparations for Centenary Celebrations of the village hall in November 2020 with ideas and suggestions to enhance events welcomed from the community. The report also provides an update on a schedule of maintenance and improvement works that form part of the “Going Green” initiative. It was considered appropriate for a descendant of the Leeke family to open the centenary celebrations **Action:** Clerk to contact David Adams.
- b. **Bus Users Group (SS/PE):** Cllr Evans noted that minutes of a meeting held on 22 October had recently been received. The minutes referred to trials of an electrically powered bus in Shrewsbury. Plans for a similar trial on service 5a by the year-end were noted. The minutes also included bus shelter designs some of which may be appropriate for future schemes in the Parish. **Action:** Clerk to obtain a copy of the respective designs.
- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership (JP):** minutes of the last meeting previously circulated – nothing else of significance at this time.
- d. **Telford & Wrekin Council (AE):** nothing to report.

### Item 7 – Communications

- a. **Correspondence:** all relevant correspondence had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.
- b. **Parish Newsletter:** a draft Xmas Newsletter was circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Various comments and suggestions were made during discussion. **Action:** Clerk to finalise the Newsletter and arrange printing for distribution in the last week of November
- c. **Web-site and Social Media:**
  - Cllr Evans confirmed positive feedback concerning the silent soldier initiative and the poppy field effect. It was suggested and generally agreed that white poppies should be considered for future year displays.
  - The Clerk confirmed that the web-site is up-to-date.

### Item 8 – St. Andrew’s Church

- (a) **Churchyard Maintenance:** a copy of the Churchyard Management Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Following consideration of the management plan and discussion on various aspects it was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Stansfield that the Parish Council should initially offer to fund cutting of hedging around the Church

Hall car park, and to continue paying for an occasional skip to help with disposal of green waste.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Lesley Green regards the above proposal.

Members also discussed options to remove and replace the car park hedging to open up the area and to help reduce future management costs. There was discussion about visual impact of such an action in this central village location. It was agreed to defer any further discussion on this matter for the time being.

- (b) **Remembrance Sunday:** Members discussed attendance and arrangements for the forthcoming Remembrance Service (Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November). Cllrs Stacey, Evans and Richards confirmed they will be attending. Following a brief discussion Cllr Evans agreed to provide a reading.

The Clerk confirmed that two wreaths had been purchased from a local supplier and that these would be collected on Thursday and delivered to Cllr Evans home.

## **Item 9 – Parish Noticeboard**

Cllr Richards introduced the item expressing concern about the under-use and steady deterioration of the two public noticeboards outside of the Village Hall.

The Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee seeking their views and future intentions – a response is awaited.

In the meantime, it was agreed that Members would provide an up-to-date photograph to the Clerk who in turn would liaise with a designer / printer. The new collage of “mug shots” is to be posted in the noticeboard as soon as possible.

It was also agreed to try to provide more relevant information to the local community in each of the noticeboards in future, with all display pages to be laminated.

## **POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Item 10 – Planning Applications**

Members noted the November 2019 planning summary which was unchanged from the October version.

Cllr Pay requested two amendments to the schedule concerning longstanding applications at the former Sainsbury site and a larger area with outline planning consent that contains the Sainsbury site – this was noted and agreed.

## **FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

### **Item 11 – Accounts & Payments**

- (a) The Clerk informed Members about two payments (see below) plus 14 Community Grant Award cheques (see schedule to minutes of the October meeting) that had been made since their last meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
Newport Engravers	300576	LGA 1972 s137	£36.00
Sally's Flowers (wreaths)	300577	LGA 1972 s137	£100.00

- (b) The Clerk informed Members of the account balance as at 31/10/2019.

- (c) The Clerk informed members of accounts to be paid at this meeting as follows:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
West Mercia Energy	300592	LGA 1972 sch14	£127.44
HMRC (PAYE)	300593	LGA 1972 s112	£80.20
St. John's PCC	300594	LGA 1972 s137	£100.00
M Atherton (out-of-pocket exps)	300595	LGA 1972 s227	£200.00
Newport Engravers	300596	LGA 1972 s137	£60.00
Needes Landscaping	300597	LGA 1972 s137	£240.00

All six cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

## Roads, Hedges & Ditches

1. Cllr Pay commented on parking outside of the Church Hall at picking up times from Brownies / Guides meetings. Members noted that the car park is under-used at pick-up times and that some parking presents a danger for pedestrians and road users. **Action:** Clerk to contact group leaders to ask that they inform parents.
2. Cllr Evans referred to the village planters and enquired when they are to have summer plants removed. The Clerk confirmed that this needed doing soon as recent cold weather had killed the plants. Cllr Evans agreed to attend to two planters, Cllr Stansfield offered to do three, and the Clerk agreed to attend to the other two planters.
3. Cllr Stansfield informed colleagues about the adverse visual impact of vegetation to the right as vehicles emerge from Dark Lane / Greenvale onto Wellington Road. **Action:** Clerk to report to T&WC as a matter of urgency.

**Date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as 7.40 pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 at Church Aston Church Hall.**

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date