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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held at 7.40 pm on Monday 2nd December 2019 in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston.

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

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

(02/12/19)

Item 1 - Apologies:

None received

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 4th November 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2019 were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr McKeown and seconded by Cllr Stansfield. All members present voted in favour.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2019 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.</p>

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- (a) **Heart of the Village:** nothing further to report on the area under the bridge – awaiting resolution of the boundary dispute. Cllr Evans provided feedback on a discussion with Zoe Heming about the car park and hedging. **Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting with Zoe Heming and / or Lesley Green immediately prior to the January meeting (if possible) to discuss priorities.

Cllr Evans confirmed that he had recently removed the 'Silent Soldier' – all agreed the display had been very well received. Cllr McKeown referred to the larger post mounted poppies seen in some areas and it was agreed to pursue this for next year.

- (b) **Wellington Road:** the Clerk reported that there had been no response to email correspondence with senior officers at T&WC concerning encroachment along Wellington Road. **Action:** Clerk to chase up with T&WC.
- (c) **Tree Issues in Greenvale:** nothing further to report - maintain a watching brief.
- (d) **Wallshead Way Play Area:** agreed to carry forward discussions about park benches and picnic tables to a future meeting

Cllr Stansfield reported that no action had been taken to address the low-hanging Cherry Trees along Wallshead Way. It was acknowledged that this is only an issue when the foliage of the trees is laden with rain water. **Action:** Clerk to contact Gavin Onions at T&WC.

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Derek Owen at T&WC to discuss continuing issues of flooding at the younger children's play area. DO reported that the MUGA scheme had overspent on budget and that spare funding intended for repairing the slide area was no longer available.

- (e) **Liddle's Bank – Pedestrian Safety:** the Clerk reported that he had contacted Adam Brookes at T&WC who had subsequently chased up with their contractors delays in installing the new pedestrian safety signs at Liddles Bank.
- (f) **Newtown Residents Petition:** Cllr Eade confirmed that a drainage scheme had now be agreed by T&WC and that it would be implement during 2020/21. However, both he and the drainage engineer agree that the scheme would be enhanced if resurfacing works were carried out as part of this scheme. Cllr Eade to continue pressing T&WC for a highway resurfacing scheme.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall Committee (BK):** Cllr Knight provided an update on preparations for the 100 year celebrations, a proposal to coincide the event with the Church Fair, and a dedicated organising sub-group. The report also briefly covered the 'Going Green' programme and a need to bridge a funding gap in the order of £9,000.
- b. **Bus Users Group (SS/PE):** Cllr Evans provided feedback from a recent meeting which had limited relevance for bus routes serving Church Aston.

- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership (JP):** Cllr Pay provided a brief overview from a recent NRP meeting and an update on off-site works related to the Enterprise & Innovation Park.

During discussions concern was expressed at the proposed timeframe for construction of the access / roadworks, its impact on passing traffic, and delays in implementing a number of traffic management schemes in Church Aston and Newport.

- d. **Telford & Wrekin Council (AE):** Borough Cllr Eade provided a brief overview of the T&WC budget process, and an update on the future fit programme.

Item 7 – Communications

- a. **Correspondence:** all relevant correspondence had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.
- b. **Parish Newsletter:** the final draft Newsletter was agreed subject to some minor changes. Members to send any further amendment suggestions to the Clerk by close of business on Tuesday 3rd December. **Action:** Clerk to finalise the Newsletter and arrange printing for distribution in the coming week.
- c. **Web-site and Social Media:**
 - o Cllr Evans outlined recent postings / updates and a good level of generally positive activity.
 - o The Clerk confirmed that the web-site continues to be updated regularly now that a system update has been fully implemented by T&WC.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 8 – Planning Applications

Members discussed various aspects of a number of new planning applications shown on the schedule for December.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 9 – Funding Pressures, Budget 2020/21 and Precept

- a. **Funding Pressures**

Members discussed a request for further grant funding from the Village Hall Committee to complement a funding package for their 'Going Green' project, and a request for grant funding towards the Newport X-Ray Appeal

Action: the Clerk to invite the Chairman of the VHC to the next Parish Council meeting on 7th January to discuss the ‘Going Green’ project in more detail.

After discussion Cllr Evans proposed and Cllr Richards seconded a proposal to pledge a minimum of £1,000 contribution towards the X-Ray Appeal. This was considered appropriate in context of potential value to local residents and also in light of relatively poor public transport access to similar alternative facilities at PRH and RSH.

The final sum to be contributed to the X-Ray Appeal from the 2020/21 budget to be determined when the out-turn position for 2019/20 is known.

b. Budget 2020/21 and Precept

Members discussed contents of a paper circulated to them in advance of the meeting and considered various options for next years’ budget and the impact for local council tax payers.

Having initiated a debate it was generally agreed that Members should reflect on options / impacts prior to their next meeting with an intention of agreeing a draft budget 2020/21 and the required level of precept at the January 2020 meeting.

Item 10 – Accounts & Payments

- (a) There were no accounts paid since the last meeting other than a previously approved monthly standing order.
- (b) The Clerk informed Members of the account balance as at 30/11/2019.
- (c) The Clerk informed members of accounts to be paid at this meeting as follows:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
West Mercia Energy	300598	LGA 1972 sch14	£147.16
HMRC (PAYE)	300599	LGA 1972 s112	£80.20
St. Andrew’s Church Hall	300600	LGA 1972 s132	£60.00

The three cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- 1. Cllr Stacey informed colleagues of an email received from Mr Andrew Stokes expressing an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. **Action:** Clerk to invite Mr Stokes to the next meeting to present his case for membership prior to consideration of co-option.
- 2. Cllr McKeown confirmed that a damaged sign-post had been repaired but that it did not appear to be secure and may become an issue again in the future.

3. Cllr Richards commented on a newly installed disabled parking bay along The Dale. He had observed unauthorised use of the space and questioned its necessity.
4. Cllr McKeown reported problems caused by a white van that parks at various locations on Dark Lane near to its junction with Newtown causing a visual and physical obstruction for other road users. **Action:** Clerk to report to the SNP team.

Date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as 7.40 pm Monday 7th January 2020 at Church Aston Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date