

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

Tel: 01952 820241
Email: churchaston@gmail.com



Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held at 7.40 pm on Monday 6th January 2020 in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston.

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

In attendance: M. Atherton (Clerk), Dr Malcolm Bennett (item 3 only) and Mr Andrew Stokes (item 5 only).

(06/01/20)

Item 1 - Apologies:

Cllr Billie Knight and Borough Cllr Eade

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session:

Dr Malcolm Bennett (Chairman: Village Hall Committee) attended the meeting to discuss the 'Going Green' Project and a shortfall in funding. Dr Bennett summarised the history of the building then described a planned programme of improvement works. Total project costs equate to £36k with a grant of £20k secured and around £8k raised locally leaving a shortfall of ~£8k.

Dr Bennett demonstrated how the proposed works will help reduce ongoing revenue costs and provide longer-term benefits for users. During discussions members queried aspects of proposed works and Dr Bennett reassured them of proposals to include a structural assessment for the roof prior to installing solar panels. Members also referred to ACRE approved projects where grants are eligible for projects over £50k. This was considered particularly relevant in light of works completed in recent years.

After Dr Bennett had left the meeting Members discussed making a direct contribution to the funding shortfall. A sum of £1,000 was proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Richards and unanimously agreed.

Resolved: that Church Aston PC makes a grant contribution of £1,000 towards the Village Hall 'Going Green' project.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019 were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr McKeown. All members present voted in favour.

Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2019 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.

Item 5 – Parish Councillors and Community Representation

- a. Cllr Stacey (Chairman) referred to a letter (email) of resignation received from Cllr Mike Stansfield. Members individually paid tribute to Cllr Stansfield and collectively acknowledged his contribution over the past 6 years.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Stansfield reluctantly accepting his resignation, acknowledging his contribution, and confirming that he will always be welcomed back should he wish to return.

- b. Mr Andrew Stokes attended the meeting for this part of item 5 only to present his case for co-option onto the Parish Council. Mr Stokes described his background and experience setting out the skills and personal qualities that he would bring to the role.

Cllr Stacey (Chairman) indicated that there are appropriate training courses for new Cllrs and that if co-opted Mr Stokes would be encouraged to attend.

The Clerk summarised procedures and indicated a number of matters that a prospective Parish Councillor is required to confirm before appointment.

Following Mr Stokes departure from the meeting Members discussed his suitability for co-option. Cllr Evans proposed, Cllr Richards seconded and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Stokes onto Church Aston PC.

Resolved: that Church Aston PC co-opt Mr Andrew Stokes onto the Parish Council with effect from 3rd February 2020

- c. Members briefly discussed relationships with Church Aston Infant School and agreed to seek to develop a closer relationship. It was agreed to approach the head teacher to indicate the Parish Councils' intentions and to enquire about the possibility of a governor representative being appointed.

Cllr Stacey indicated a willingness to be considered as a school governor should a position be available or become vacant.

Item 6 – Matters Arising:

- (a) **Heart of the Village:** the Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to Zoe Heming and Lesley Green inviting them to a meeting to discuss churchyard maintenance priorities however a response had not been received. **Action:** Clerk to chase-up.
- (b) **Wellington Road:** the Chairman and Cllr Evans reported back on a meeting with Mr Adam Brookes (T&WC) to assess the effect of narrowed footways on accessibility. The severity of the situation was noted and it was agreed that Mr Brookes would provide a plan of options / proposals. Also, Mr Brookes to provide an update on actions relating to highway notices served on respective property owners along Wellington Road.
- (c) **Wallshead Way Play Area:** agreed to carry forward discussions about park benches and picnic tables to a future meeting
- (d) **Liddle’s Bank – Pedestrian Safety:** at the meeting referred to in item 6(a) above Mr Brookes had apologised for the failure of the T&WC contractor to carry out the required signage works and he agreed to rectify this as soon as possible.
- (e) **Newtown Residents Petition:** Cllr Eade confirmed prior to tonight’s meeting that drainage and highway scheme funding has now been agreed by T&WC for implementation during 2020/21.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 7 – Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall Committee (BK):** in the absence of Cllr Knight Cllr Stacey provided a brief report on her behalf summarising activity, marketing and improvement works.
- b. **Bus Users Group (SS/PE):** nothing to report however Cllr Evans agreed to confirm the date of the next meeting.
- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership (JP):** Cllr Pay referred to recent email correspondence setting out a date for the next NRP meeting.
- d. **Telford & Wrekin Council (AE):** no general update available.

Item 8 – Request for CAPC to Support a ‘Local Power Bill’

An email request for the Parish Council to support a ‘Local Power Bill’ was circulated with the meeting agenda.

Following discussions Members agreed that they do not have sufficient information to form a view and asked the Clerk to follow this up with the petitioners.

Action: Clerk to contact the originator.

Item 9 – Communications

- a. **Correspondence:** the Clerk referred to two specific pieces of correspondence, otherwise all relevant correspondence had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.
- b. **Parish Newsletter:** Cllr Stacey referred to the last Newsletter and undertook to reassess for the next meeting the number of copies required to be printed.
- c. **Web-site and Social Media:**
 - o Cllr Evans confirmed postings about recent / proposed road closures and a Christmas message.
 - o Noted that the web-site is up-to-date.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 10 – Planning Applications

Members discussed various aspects of a number of new planning applications shown on the schedule for January 2020.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 11 – Report of the Parish Remuneration Panel

Members of the Parish Council received a report from the T&WC appointed independent Parish Remuneration Panel setting out its recommendations for allowance schemes.

Following discussion on contents of the report Members unanimously agreed to note the recommendations and adopt a scheme. **Action:** Clerk to investigate similar schemes and bring forward proposals for consideration at the February meeting.

Item 12 – Funding Pressures, Budget 2020/21 and Precept

Following further focused discussions on the options presented to Members it was proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Stacey to increase the parish element of the Council Tax precept by 2.5%. The proposal was agreed by all Members present at the meeting.

Resolved: that Church Aston PC increases its Council Tax precept for 2020/21 by 2.5% of that for 2019/20.

Action: Clerk to notify Telford & Wrekin Council as the collection authority.

Item 13 – Accounts & Payments

(a) There was one account payable since the last meeting:-

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
AYP Limited	300601	LGA 1972 sch14	£111.00

(b) The Clerk provided the 3rd Quarter Bank Reconciliation for approval and informed Members of the account balance as at 31/12/2019.

(c) The Clerk presented to Members details of accounts to be paid at this meeting as follows:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
West Mercia Energy	300602	LGA 1972 sch14	£147.16
HMRC (PAYE)	300603	LGA 1972 s112	£80.20

The two cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

Item 14 – Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.40pm Monday 3rd February 2020 in the Church Hall.

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

Cllr Evans referred to discussions with Adam Brookes (T&WC) about the extent of resurfacing on Liddle's Bank and a likelihood that this would fall short of CAPC expectations. Members also discussed the related inappropriately located signage that had resulted in the number 5 service re-routing. Also, a potential problem of increased traffic through the village was considered likely once Liddle's Bank re-opens. **Action:** Clerk to contact T&WC to explain the situation and seek remedies.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date