

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 3rd February 2020 in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston.

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

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

(03/02/20)

Item 1 - Apologies:

No apologies received.

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session:

No Members of the public present

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th January 2020

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 Pay. All members present voted in favour.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2020 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.</p>
--

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- (a) **Church Aston Infant School:** the Clerk had recently contacted the Head Teacher at Church Aston Infant School and a response is awaited.

- (b) **Heart of the Village:** members briefly discussed the area under the bridge and concluded by asking the Clerk to contact the chairman of the local scouting group to find out what, if any, plans they have for maintaining the area.
- (c) **Wellington Road:** the Clerk confirmed that he had recently received notification of a proposed road close order for mid-February suggesting that the long awaited works for extension of the 30 mph area are about to start.
- (d) **Liddle's Bank – Road Surface & Pedestrian Safety:** both Cllr Evans and Cllr Richards were pleased to confirm that the pedestrian safety signs had now been installed. However, positioning of the sign at the bottom of Liddle's Bank was inappropriate as it is within the boundary of Cllr Richards home (Cllr Richards granted permission to speak but not vote on this matter).

Members discussed options for relocating the sign with two options being favoured i.e. (i) doubling up with an existing road narrows sign or (ii) locating on an adjacent street lighting column. **Action:** Clerk to contact T&WC to confirm alternative options and to grant permission to locate onto a street lighting column if this is T&WC's favoured option.

Following recent resurfacing work on Liddle's Bank adjacent the new housing at The Knoll Cllr Evans confirmed that the scheme had not extended to the narrow section of highway where there are numerous settled utility trenches and potholes. Whilst some isolated work has been carried out the overall condition of Liddle's Bank is poor especially for pedestrians who have not option but to use the road for access. **Action:** Clerk to contact T&WC to seek agreement to a capital scheme for the coming year.

- (e) **Newtown Residents Petition:** the Clerk confirmed that he had drafted a letter updating residents of proposed actions but that the letter had not yet been circulated as it may be more appropriate to include the information in the Easter Newsletter. This was generally agreed. It was later learned that Cllr Eade had circulated a notice to residents updating them on proposals to carry out drainage and highway works during 2020/21.
- (f) **Churchyard Maintenance:** the Clerk reported back on various communications with the Priest in Charge of St. Andrew's and specifically on process issues for the PCC which make it difficult for them to evidence maintenance work undertaken. The PCC are currently seeking to resolve those matters however as an interim measure the Parish Council have been asked if they can contribute towards the costs of a churchyard survey.

Following discussions it was agreed to contribute £300.00 towards these costs – the sum reflecting a provisional sum set-aside for pruning the church car park hedging which had not proceeded at the Priest in Charges' request.

- (g) **Noticeboards:** the agreed general tidy up and improvement is proceeding.

- (h) **Request for Support for a ‘Local Power Bill’:** the Clerk reported back on this national campaign for which there is limited detailed information. After a brief discussion Members agreed to defer any decision on the matter.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall Committee (BK):** Cllr Knight provided her regular update including reference to planned improvements, use of the village hall, and forthcoming events.
- b. **Bus Users Group (SS/PE):** the date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 11th February 2020 with Cllr Stacey agreeing to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership (JP):** Cllr feedback from the recent NRP meeting focused on (i) agreement to a new constitution / structure which provided greater capacity to engage in local matters, (ii) progress in marketing the sites to attract high quality agri-tech jobs / companies; and (iii) confirmation that the Local Plan to 2031 is undergoing a formal review to identify additional development land.
- d. **Telford & Wrekin Council (AE):** Cllr Eade confirmed that the T&WC budget for 2020/21 was now in final stages of approval.

Item 7 – Communications

- a. **Correspondence:** the Clerk confirmed that there had been very little correspondence during January and that of relevance had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.
- b. **Parish Newsletter:** a list of items was agreed including: vacant PC position(s), Newtown road scheme, Smartwater initiative, dog fouling issues and a Cllr profile. Cllr Stacey also confirmed a need to increase printing to 600 copies.
- c. **Web-site and Social Media:**
 - Cllr Evans confirmed recent postings with January being relatively quiet
 - The web-site continues to be regularly updated.

Item 8 – Project Review: ‘We Don’t Buy Crime’ / Smartwater

Members considered the contents of a pre-circulated report and attachments providing information about the success rate for distribution of Smartwater kits and identifying areas where residents had not taken up the opportunity.

Discussions focused on appropriate actions to increase the opportunity for engagement in the project without the Parish Council being overly intrusive. It was agreed to continue doing more of the same with three specific actions as follows:-

- Contact through established community groups (e.g. U3A, Thursday Club, etc.)
- Further article in the Easter newsletter;
- Promotional stall at the Centenary Celebrations on 4th July

Clerk to action the above proposals.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 9 – Report of the Parish Remuneration Panel

Cllrs considered a draft ‘Members Allowance scheme’ circulated prior to the meeting. The scheme set out allowances that Members of the Parish Council would be eligible to claim for carrying out their official duties should they choose to. The proposals in the draft scheme reflect those recently recommended by an Independent Remuneration Panel to T&WC.

Members approved the scheme in principle, requested a number of minor wording changes, and noted that the scheme cannot apply to co-opted Cllrs until they have been elected, or re-elected at an uncontested election.

Action: Clerk to amend the draft scheme as requested for approval at the March meeting of the Parish Council.

Item 10 – Planning Applications

Members discussed the planning schedule for January 2020 with no actions identified.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 11 – Accounts & Payments

- (a) There were no accounts paid since the last meeting.
- (b) The Clerk informed Members of the accounts balance as at 31 January 2020. The Clerk also briefly summarised commitments to year-end and likely out-turn based on known commitments.
- (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	300604	LGA 1972 sch14	£164.79
HMRC (PAYE)	300605	LGA 1972 s112	£80.20
M. Atherton (expenses incurred)	300306	LGA 1972	£72.32
Void Cheque	300307		

St. Andrew's PCC	300308	LGA 1972 s137	£300.00
------------------	--------	---------------	---------

The four cheques were then signed by two authorised signatories.

COMPLIANCE MATTERS

Item 12 Pensions Regulator

Correspondence had been received from the Pensions Regulator reminding the Parish Council about its obligation in respect of workforce pensions.

Action: Chairman to write to the Clerk seeking confirmation of requirements, and requesting a formal response.

Item 13 – Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7.40pm Monday 2nd March 2020 in the Church Hall.

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a) Cllr Evans briefly summarised issues concerning the state of the bridleway along The Folly following works by a contractor. The route had been left in a poor state particularly for the regular pedestrian traffic going into town and / or local schools.
Action: Clerk to contact the Public Rights of Way Officer
- b) Cllr Evans referred to an increase in dog fouling on footways including the footbridge over the former railway. This is acknowledged as a regular issue particularly during winter months when some dog walkers appear to be less responsible. Cllr Evans referred to an option for providing poo bags along problem routes giving dog walkers no excuses for leaving footways a mess. **Action:** Cllr Evans to provide a web-link for the poo bag holders.
- c) Cllr McKeown confirmed recent inspection of a problem drain on Wellington Road and continuing issue of foul drainage onto the road. **Action:** Clerk to report again to T&WC and to STW

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date