

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 in St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Aston at 7.30 pm on Monday 7th June 2021.

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

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

(07/06/21)

Item 1 - Apologies: received from Cllr A Stokes (ill-health) and Cllr Knight (ill-health)

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest: there were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 – Public Session: there were no Members of the public in attendance.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th May 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Stacey with all members present voting in favour.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2021 were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true record.</p>

Item 5 – Matters Arising:

Environmental Audit:

- a. **Encroachment along Wellington Road (Pinewoods):** noted that there had been no action since the last meeting. **Agreed:** Clerk to contact T&WC to request inclusion of this scheme in the current / future year capital programme.
- b. **Encroachment and Litter Issues along Liddle's Bank:** as above, no progress since the last meeting. **Agreed:** Clerk to contact T&WC to request inclusion of this scheme in the current / future year capital programme. In the interim Clerk to request continued sweeping of channels lines along Liddle's Bank.

- c. **Signage in the Children's Play Area:** both signs are now in place – this matter was formally RESOLVED.
- d. **Dog Waste (Folly Lane):** limited use of the new waste bin was noted. **Agreed:** to carry forward and review again in September 2021.
- e. **Aston Hill Footpaths:** no further action possible – this matter was formally RESOLVED.

Other Matters Arising:

- f. **Lighting of the Church Hall Car Park:** nothing further to report – awaiting feedback from the next Church Hall Committee meeting.
- g. **Flooding along the former railway line:** Cllr Eade reported that he was still awaiting details of a site visit to lift a drainage cover and inspect drainage lines through it.
- h. **Lighting Column 42 (Mulberry Close):** during their annual inspection Eon had reported indications of concrete failure on this column with a request for it to be replaced at some stage. Visual inspections of the column by Cllr Richards and separately by the Clerk revealed no evidence of potential failure. **Action:** Clerk to seek further information from Eon.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 6 – Community Grant Awards 2021

Community Grant Awards as shown on a schedule appended to these minutes are the approved Community Grant Awards 2021/22.

These awards were proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Richards, and agreed unanimously by all Members present.

<p>Resolved: Community Grant Awards 2021/22, as shown on the appended schedule, are approved for payment by the Clerk.</p>

Item 7 – Representative Reports

Village Hall: In the absence of Cllr Knight, Cllr Bennett provided an update on the slow but progressive resumption of activities at the village. He also outlined modified proposals for the 100-year celebrations scheduled for 3rd July 2021. The event is primarily focused on younger people and will include: a karate demonstration, a magic show, 'name the bird', commemorative mugs & refreshments.

Bus User Group: next meeting scheduled for 9th June 2021

NRP: primary focus on housing developments, NI Park and protection of the façade of the former Royal Victoria Hotel

T&WC: main issues / actions in the Church Aston Parish include a drainage scheme in Pinewoods, flooding along the former railway line and risk of future flooding, and absence of maintenance around the entrance of Pinewoods (Cllr Eade to meet AC of T&WC on 08/06/21).

Item 8 – Communications Updates:

Correspondence: all relevant correspondence circulated prior to the meeting.

Newsletter: production of a Newsletter was agreed for distribution in July to inform Parishioners about various topical matters and to seek their views on priorities and services.

Facebook: Cllr Evans indicated that there had been nothing of significance to report during the past month.

Website: the website is substantively up-to-date, but requires some ‘backroom’ adjustments when access to T&WC web technicians resumes.

Item 9 – Electoral Review

Cllr Evans updated Members on the LGBCe findings for Phase 1 (sizing) of the review – essentially they have rejected T&WC proposals to increase the number of elected members to 56, instead confirming that 54 Members can provide sufficient representation.

Cllr Evans explained that the implications of these findings are significant for the whole borough as a major reorganisation of electoral wards is now required to rebalance elector numbers from 2,464 to a new higher average number of 2,719 per Cllr.

T&WC were supposed to provide a response to the LGBCe findings at a meeting on 24th June but this meeting has been cancelled – most likely because of the scale of change now required across a large majority of electoral wards. T&WC have indicated that they will be in a position to respond during July 2021.

Cllrs Evans further indicated that Phase 2 (warding) of the review had now commenced with an open invitation to Parish Councils and other organisations to bring forward their views. LGBCe require consultation responses to be justified in terms of elector numbers, community identity and effectiveness of governance.

During discussions Members agreed to include reference to this part of the review in a Newsletter which is to be prepared and distributed during July 2021.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 10 – Planning Matters

Members briefly discussed contents of the Planning Schedule for June 2021 and noted its contents.

Cllr Pay informed Members that a second pre-application meeting between T&WC planners and Bloor Homes Ltd was scheduled for 9th June. A pre-application has now been submitted, with a full application is expected during July or August.

Cllr Pay advised that there remain a number of significant matters that are unresolved including details of potentially revised access to the site from Station Road. Agreed: to maintain a watching brief and to share any new information as it becomes available.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 11 – Accounts & Payments

(a) Statement of Account: £22,510.75 at close of business on 31/05/2021.

(b) Cllr Sansom proposed, and Cllr Richards seconded, with a unanimous vote in favour from all Members present at the meeting for the following payments made since the date of the last meeting to be authorised:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
WG Barrass (play area sign 2)	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s137	£96.00
AH Jackson (Comm Orchard Sign)	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s137	£60.00

Resolved: the above previously settled accounts are authorised retrospectively at this meeting held on 7th June 2021.

(c) Cllr Stacey proposed, and Cllr Pay seconded, with unanimous vote in favour from all Members present at the meeting for the following payment to be authorised:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
HMRC PAYE – May 2021	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s112	£84.40
Ms Katrina Baker (Auditor)	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s101	£65.00
West Mercia Energy	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 sch 14	£152.63

Resolved: the above accounts are authorised for payment at this meeting held on 7th June 2021.

Item 12 – Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21

(a) Members received the annual Internal Auditor's Report for consideration. After careful scrutiny Members concluded that the report provided a fair and accurate

assessment of the Parish Council's governance and accounting arrangements for 2020/21. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and colleague Members for helping to maintain the required high standards of public office.

(b) Now that the internal Report had been signed-off, the Clerk requested permission to submit the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21 to the Parish Council's external auditors (PKF Littlejohn) for a limited assurance review in line with statutory requirements.

The actions referred to above were proposed by Cllr Evans seconded by Cllr Richards and unanimously agreed by all present.

Resolved: the Clerk is authorised to submit the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21 to the Parish Council's appointed external auditors (PKF Littlejohn) by their stated deadline.

Item 13 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting dates were noted:

- **Business Meetings:** Monday 5th July, 6th September and 4th October 2021

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a. Cllr Bennett suggested deferral of an invitation to a T&WC Senior Planner to address the Parish Council on the plan making process until after new planning legislation & guidance is issued in the autumn – this was agreed by all present. **Action:** Clerk to notify the T&WC planning contact;
- b. Cllr Bennett suggested that an invitation should be made for the Practice Manager at wellington Road Surgery to be invited to a Parish council meeting to discuss future healthcare provision in light of substantial housing growth. Following discussions it was agreed that the invitation should be extended to include the Practice Manager at Linden Hall Surgery. **Action:** Clerk to contact respective Practice Managers and liaise over a convenient date for them to attend a PC meeting;
- c. Cllr Evans referred to a hedge adjacent the Village Hall Car Park which needs cutting back to avoid obstructing the footway over the former railway on the route to the village school. Borough Cllr Eade indicated that he was meeting Adrian Corney (T&WC) the following day and would raise the matter with him.
- d. Cllr Evans also referred to the area under the bridge which was again overgrown, littered and un-kept. **Action:** Clerk to contact the Group Scout Leader and also T&WC Estates.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date