

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 7.40 pm on Monday 1st November 2021.

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

In attendance: Borough Cllr Andrew Eade and Mike Atherton (Clerk)

(01/11/21)

Item 1 - Apologies:

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 4th October 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Evans with all members present voting in favour.

<p>Resolved: minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2021 were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.</p>
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Item 5 – Policy Planning and Plan Making Processes

The Chairman welcomed Gavin Ashford (T&WC) to the meeting, introduced colleagues around the table and briefly explained the Parish Council's interests and concerns about the current plan making processes

The Chairman then proceeded to work through a list of questions prepared in advance and shared with Gavin Ashford prior to the event.

Q.1 What is the expected timetable for producing the Preferred Options Report (draft 202-2040) Local Plan and the Strategic Housing & Employment Land Availability Assessment?

This had been delayed due to a Government announcement in spring 2021 of a Planning White Paper potentially reforming the planning system. No firm timeframe from T&WC yet but it is recognised that there is a need to resume the local plan making process.

In response to supplementary questions it was confirmed that T&WC would be commenting on the proposed White Paper particularly because they believe it is appropriate to retain local control of most planning decisions.

Q.2 Is the Council looking to update its Housing Needs Assessment when it resumes the TWLP Review Process?

Once the local plan making process resumes T&WC will review sites allocated for housing and are likely to seek further submissions from developers / landowners.

Q.3 How has T&WC responded to issues raised by CAPC in the TWLP Review Issues & Options Report?

The process has paused however T&WC are using the existing plan as a base but have not made final decisions. For example: a government mandated biodiversity plan will supersede the current approach. On urban extensions an Inspector's report on existing development densities was referred to with greater emphasis likely to be on increased density with corresponding less spread. On planning obligations it is understood that Government are considering a mandatory levy but this is unlikely to change in the near future. T&WC will continue to use section 106 in preference to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL).

Q.4 Given that T&WC has declared a Climate Emergency what is the LPA's response?

T&WC will be closely monitoring the COP26 summit with a view to it influencing local plan policies. Government is already reviewing technical standards which will shape future building control standards.

At present, many desirable climate related standards can only be negotiated with developers - need to be embedded in legislation & regulations to become mandatory. For example: a LPA can negotiate with developers to provide features such as solar panels but cannot refuse an application if the developer can show that such a requirement makes the development uneconomical.

Q.5 A number of recent developments are bland. What can Planning do to address this?

Government is already encouraging use of design codes with many local variations and versions. Also, the LPA is supportive of an increased allocation for self-build developments.

Q.6 What do Planning consider is the role of a Parish Council?

PC's are statutory consultees both in plan making and for individual applications within their parish or nearby where they may affect the parish. Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity for PCs to influence the planning process and S.106 allocations – albeit with recognised limitations. Various examples were referred to with the NP for Tibberton & Cherrington PC about to go to public referendum.

Q.7 What is the legal requirement for large developments to contribute to local projects?

This is provided for through S.106 agreements or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL). Funds can be required from developers to off-set the off-site impact of their developments including provision of additional school accommodation, highway improvements, increased local play provision and similar public infrastructure needs caused by the development.

Q.8 Is a submission welcome from a Parish Council to Government on a White Paper?

There is nothing to prevent a pre-emptive submission but generally better to wait to see what Government is proposing and to respond to their formal consultation process.

Q.9 What autonomy does T&WC have to add planning conditions to planning applications or are there nationally agreed standards?

LPA's have autonomy to add local conditions provided they are within the nationally agreed regulatory framework

Q.10 If sustainability is the Governments latest commitment to tackling climate change at what point can T&WC insist planning applications adhere to best practice?

T&WC as a LPA and in a wider sense are looking to do more to combat climate change but can only work within the current regulatory framework.

Discussion developed around various sustainable options including heat source pumps, solar panels, vehicle charging points, etc. and on the impact on housing markets from additional costs and competition.

GA also referred to proactive initiatives from power distributors such as Western Power who are already enhancing their networks to support higher loads as car charging points become more prevalent.

Q.11 While considering housing applications on land deemed suitable, what consideration is given to the implications for supporting services like schools and GP surgeries. If not, why not?

Please see responses to Questions 7, 9 and 10 above.

In concluding the item the Chairman thanked Mr Gavin Ashford (T&WC) for taking time out to share his experience and knowledge with members of Church Aston PC.

In response Mr Ashford thanked the Chairman and Members for the opportunity to meet them and he encouraged CAPC to consider / re-consider the merits of preparing a neighbourhood plan as this would offer some influence over future planning matters affecting the parish.

Item 6 – Matters Arising:

- a. **Encroachment - Wellington Road & Liddle's Bank:** Cllr Eade reported that he had been in conversation with officers at T&WC and that they were aware of a need to include both issues in future highway maintenance / improvement schemes.
- b. **Remembrance Sunday (14th November):** Cllrs Stacey, Richards and Knight confirmed that they would be attending along with borough Cllr Eade and the Clerk. Two wreaths had been ordered from a local florist, and Cllr Stacey has agreed to do a reading. Cllr Eade would be placing a wreath on behalf of T&WC.
- c. **Area under the former railway bridge:** Borough Cllr Eade confirmed that he had met with Jack Rowsell (T&WC) and that he would now be in touch with the residents of No. 2 Wallshead Way about leasing / transfer of the land.

It was agreed that this was now a private matter between the residents and T&WC and that it should be RESOLVED.

- d. **Future of Health Services in Newport:** the Clerk reported further contact with the Shropshire & Telford Clinical Commissioning Group but that confirmation of a response is still awaited.
- e. **Provision of Seating / Picnic Tables in the Play Area:** Cllr Evans confirmed that he had viewed a Marmex seat at Apley Park and that it appeared to be of robust construction and suitable for the Wallshead Way Play Area.

Members then discussed various colour options agreeing that black offered the most appropriate option for the two locations. Previous provisional agreement to provide a heavy duty picnic bench with extended top (£429 ex-VAT) and a recycled plastic sloper seat ((£249 Ex-VAT) plus eight securing feet equating to a total cost of £822 plus VAT was agreed. T&WC had previously agreed to fund delivery, storage, concrete bases and installation.

Members also briefly discussed and agreed provision of a small plaque on each bench indicating that these facilities was a joint effort of the PC and the Borough Council.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Adrian Corney (T&WC) over provision and funding of the above seating prior to end March 2022.

- f. **Electoral Review Update:** Cllr Evans reported that the LGBC announcement scheduled for 4th November 2021 including recommendations on warding (stage 2) had been deferred from for about 4 weeks.

Initial indications are that Newport will return to 4 single Member wards but no further information is available.

It was agreed to defer the Newsletter until early December so that the LGBC proposals for the local area could be fully shared with residents.

- g. **Asset Management & Related Financial Provision:** Cllr Richards referred to a number of issues concerning the village planters and suggested that it would be helpful for resource planning if Members were made more aware of potential future liabilities.

Action: Clerk to include a section on Asset Management in the budget reports scheduled for the December meeting.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 7 – Representative Reports

Village Hall: Cllr Knight reported on the successful Centenary Celebrations at the village hall held on 10th October, and on a recent crafts and food fair which had been so well supported that it had extended to the Church Hall providing benefit to both community facilities. Cllr Knight also summarised future bookings and planned events at the village hall.

Bus User Group: no scheduled meetings.

NRP: Cllr Pay reported on a recent NRP meeting where three priorities had been agreed (town centre, Ni Park, and S.106 funding). He also briefly summarised issues around personnel changes at HAU and at T&WC which along with Covid-19 had impacted on progress of the Ni Park development. These issues appear to now be resolved with improved prospects for better coordination and information sharing.

T&WC: Borough Cllr Eade referred to recent email correspondence with officers of T&WC about flooding / drainage issues along the former railway line. It was agreed that Cllr Eade would forward these to the Clerk for onward distribution to CAPC Members.

Cllr Bennet commented that it was incumbent upon the PC to continue to seek a solution to the flooding issues because climate change will lead to more frequent erratic / extreme weather conditions.

Item 8 – Communications Updates:

Correspondence: the Clerk summarised two emails received from T&WC about various initiatives that they were launching on the day of the PC meeting.

Newsletter: deferred pending the LGBC announcement in late November.

Facebook: nothing significant to report.

Website: remains up-to-date and regularly reviewed.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 9 – Planning Matters

The Planning Schedule for November 2021 was discussed and noted.

Cllr Pay confirmed that the draft 'representation' had been further amended and was now ready to be submitted to T&WC. Two significant issues remain outstanding with the developer proposing to address affordable housing provision with a commuted sum (off-site provision), and a failure to address potential flooding issues prior to the planning submission. **Action:** Clerk to cut & paste the amended 'representation' into letterhead and submit on behalf of the PC

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 10 – Accounts & Payments

(a) Statement of Account: £20,784.28 at close of business on 31/10/2021.

There were no payments requiring authorisation following the last meeting.

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

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute	Amount
HMRC (PAYE) – Oct 2021	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s112	£84.40
West Mercia Energy	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 sch 14	£129.02
Out-of-pocket Expenses	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s137	£27.92

Resolved: the above accounts are authorised for payment at this meeting held on 1st November 2021.

Item 11 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting dates were noted:

- **Business Meetings:** 6th December 2021, 10th January and 7th February 2022

Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a. Cllr McKeown briefly summarised arrangements for the PC Christmas social event which would take place on Sunday 23 January 2022. Numbers to be confirmed and deposits collected from individual Members and the Clerk at the December meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date