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**Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held on-line via Zoom at 7.00 pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

**Present:** Councillors: P. Evans (Vice-Chairman), B Richards, P. Sansom, Cllr Pay, Cllr Knight, M. Bennett, and A Stokes

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

**(07/02/22)**

**Item 1 - Apologies:** Cllr S Stacey and Cllr McKeown

Cllr Evans Chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Stacey.

Following recent email correspondence Members considered and unanimously approved a period of 3 months leave of absence for Cllr McKeown in order that she may undertake essential caring duties for a family member. Members also agreed to consider an extension to the approved period of leave of absence should that be necessary.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Pay with all members present voting in favour.

<p><b>Resolved:</b> minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.</p>
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## Item 5 – Matters Arising:

- a. **Encroachment - Wellington Road & Liddle's Bank:** the Chairman noted that these items had previously been reported to T&WC and that they had agreed to progress action when the respective matters could be absorbed into a larger scheme.

Cllr Eade was invited to update on a recent extension of a cycleway along the A518 and specifically how a future extension might help resolve the above encroachment issues. Cllr Eade noted that the section of cycleway from Kynnersley Drive through to the Last Inn was in poor condition and in need of upgrading. The route then runs along Wellington Road which is narrow in places and could be upgraded to improve safety for cyclists if a funding package can be assembled.

Cllr Eade referred to a number of commitments in principle from various sources that could be used to part match fund a T&WC scheme. CAPC Members discussed scope to participate in such an arrangement, and a level of funding that would be affordable given other pressures. A provisional sum of £2,000 was agreed to help Cllr Eade with negotiations – this allocation is subject to a formal resolution at a future date.

- b. **Pedestrian Sign in Garden:** Cllr Richards confirmed that the pedestrian sign had now been relocated onto an adjacent street lighting column, the post removed and the garden reinstated. This matter is now resolved.
- c. **Environmental Challenge:** the Chairman invited Cllr Bennett to brief colleagues on this matter. Detailed discussions followed on policies, plans and practical actions to mitigate the effects of climate change including the role of government down to local Parish Councils.

CAPC Members are keen to play a more active / effective role and agreed to draft a policy statement to help develop and guide future actions. **Actions:** (i) Clerk to circulate relevant key documents published by the borough council, and (ii) Clerk to draft a Policy Statement for further discussion and refinement.

- d. **Electoral Review Update:** Cllr Evans provided an update on the revised programme for publishing final proposals. The current schedule is affected by a very low public / community response to the LGBCE 2<sup>nd</sup> stage review report & recommendations resulting in a decision to extend the consultation deadline to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Action:** Clerk to contact the LGBCE Review Office to enquire whether there will be a further consultation process if responses received during the extended stage 2 consultation result in 'material changes' to their report & recommendations.

- e. **Future of Local Health Services:** the Clerk confirmed contact with the secretary of the Wrekin Area Committee who had agreed that the future of local health

services would provide a good agenda item for one of their meetings. Also, that the joint Shropshire and T&WC CCG had still not responded to several email enquiries. Members asked the Clerk to follow-up the latter.

- f. **Review of Local Flood Planning:** Members noted an absence of progress or response and asked the Clerk to follow-up with T&WC drainage engineers.
- g. **Revitalising Local Noticeboards:** Cllr Richards reported on a number of updates recently posted in local noticeboards. It was generally agreed that the noticeboards need to be regularly updated with information of interest and relevance for the community.

## PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

### Item 6 Parish Projects

- a. **QEII Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:** following a recent steering group meeting Cllr Bennet feedback proposals for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. These include a range of entertainment, demonstrations and refreshments at the Village Hall with scope to extend across into the Church Hall and Church Grounds.

Cllr Evans described proposals for tree planting and incorporation of the bench / seating scheme into proposals at the Wallshead Way Play Area. A formal request has been sent to T&WC seeking their approval for the park to be renamed the QEII Park (or similar). The local WI has requested permission to plant a tree in the play area and this has been incorporated into the overall proposals.

Both of the above streams of action are to form the basis of a funding bid to T&WC to help celebrate the QEII Platinum Jubilee. **Action:** Clerk to submit a grant funding bid to T&WC by the deadline date.

- b. **Provision of Seating / Picnic Table on the Play Area:** Cllr Evans referred to a recent site meeting with Adrian Corney and Nigel Murray at which final details of location and base for the 'sloper' seat and the picnic table had been agreed.

The Clerk is now seeking a design and costs for a small plaque to inform users that the two seats were jointly provided by the PC and T&WC.

### Item 7 – Representative Reports

**Village Hall:** Cllr Knight confirmed that the Village Hall Committee AGM is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Her report included reference to the sound financial status of the VH, evidence of savings following completion of the 'Going Green' Project, the healthy bookings / VH usage and an imminent return of *flicks in the sticks*.

**Bus User Group:** nothing to report.

**NRP:** nothing to report.

**T&WC:** Cllr Eade reported back from a recent Planning Committee meeting where the Bloor Homes development had received approval – in summary it was considered disappointing that several outstanding matters remained unresolved but on balance the overall development had been improved thanks to the lobbying and suggestions by CAPC, SWT and others with a local interest.

**Action:** Clerk to draft a letter to Bloor Homes reference the positive manner of past negotiations and a desire to maintain that good relationship with local groups (including SWT) into the future.

#### **Item 8 – Communications Updates:**

**Correspondence:** Cllr Evans referred to a letter from Mike Crawshaw of the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin NHS Hospital Trust seeking individual and community representatives. Given recent interest of CAPC Members in engaging with the health sector this opportunity for a voice was unanimously agreed. **Action:** Clerk to write to the Hospitals Trust confirming CAPC's interest and nomination.

**Newsletter:** next Newsletter to be prepared for distribution in March with a focus on the QEII Platinum Celebrations.

**Facebook:** nothing to report.

**Website:** currently up-to-date and regularly reviewed.

## **POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS**

#### **Item 9 – Planning Matters**

- a) **Planning Schedule for February 2022:** contents considered and noted.

Following a detailed discussion on the merits or otherwise of solar farms Members agreed to submit comments in respect of the Twitch Hill Solar Farm application TWC/2021/1225 per a prepared draft.

- b) **Bloor Homes:** Confirmation of development site approvals at Planning Committee is noted.
- c) **Neighbourhood Plans:** this item had been covered during earlier discussions and it was agreed that the matter was now resolved.

## **FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

#### **Item 10 – Accounts & Payments**

- (a) Statement of Account: £18,827.81 at close of business on 31/01/2022.

(b) Cllr Richards proposed, and Cllr Bennett 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
Eon Energy Solutions Ltd	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 sch 14	£438.00
West Mercia Energy	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 sch 14	£218.19
HMRC (PAYE) – Jan 2022	On-line transfer	LGA 1072 s112	£84.40
T&WC (Marmax seating)	On-line transfer	LGA 1972 s112	£882.00

**Resolved:** the above payments at 10(b) were formally approved for payment at this meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

(c) **Revised Draft Budget 2022/23:** Members considered and agreed a revised draft budget for 2022/23. Cllr Pay proposed the revised draft budget and Cllr Stokes seconded, with a unanimous vote in favour

**Resolved:** that the revised draft budget 2022/23 referred to as version 2 (v.2) is approved at this meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

#### Item 11 – Asset Management

Cllr Richards referred to a report & asset condition schedule that he, Cllr Evans and Cllr Stokes had jointly prepared as agreed at the last meeting. The schedule provides a comprehensive condition statement for PC's assets (planters & millennium stones).

Cllr Evans thanked both Members for their excellent work, and then invited colleagues to comment. Following a detailed discussion a number of actions were identified. These include: (i) identifying specialist repair contractors and (ii) building up a repair & maintenance cost schedule so that future work can be prioritised.

**Actions:** Clerk to follow-up enquiries with neighbouring PCs and with asset suppliers.

#### Item 12 – Personnel Committee

A Personnel Committee has been convened but has not met to date.

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

- **Business Meetings:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- **AGM:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May

#### Roads, Hedges & Ditches

- a. Cllr Evans referred to a site meeting with Adrian Corney & Nigel Murray (T&WC) at which an option to site a bench at a bus stop adjacent the Last Inn had been

provisionally agreed. The original request had come from a resident of Lilleshall who walks into Newport for shopping and who had noted that there was no seating available on this route. A simple Marmax recycled plastic bench is proposed at a cost of £130.00 plus ground fixings.

In seeking formal approval to the initiative Cllr Evans proposed the scheme, Cllr Stokes seconded it and all Members present voted in favour.

- b. The Clerk reported on a proposed zoom meeting with the Clerk and Cllr Page of Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote PC to discuss joint working which is to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Cllr Evans may attend subject to availability due to personal commitments.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm  
Signed Chairman:

Date