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Minutes of the meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held in the Church Hall (Church Aston) at 7.40pm on Monday 6th November 2023.

Present: Councillors: S. Stacey (Chairman), P. Evans (Vice-Chairman), P. Sansom, J. Pay, R Wynn, B Knight, B Richards, N Collier and A Stokes.

In attendance: Wendy Tonge (Clerk), T&WC Borough Councillor Andrew Eade.

(06/11/23)

Item 1 - Apologies: F McKeown (prior commitment).

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

Item 3 – Public Session: There were nine members of the public present. The Chairman thanked residents for attending the meeting and invited the following residents to speak on matters of concern:

Mr A O'Connor raised a number of concerns whilst strongly opposing the T&WC Local Plan Housing Development proposal for circa 160 properties to the rear of The Dale, The Close and Dark Lane. Mr A O'Connor offered to be involved in any future discussions or involvement.

Mrs F Cotterill provided members with a detailed overview of the main issues of flooding near her home in Mulberry Close, in her view flooding had been created from commencement of the neighbouring Bloor's Homes Housing Development.

Mr G Pegg strongly objected to the Housing Development proposal and expressed a number of concerns, specifically the suitability of the identified site and dangerous exit/access point.

Mr Pegg offered his personal involvement in any future discussions or submissions.

Mrs Stokes informed members on how the recent flooding to the bottom of her rear garden had reached the highest point since living in Wallshead Way for many years, (photos had been previously circulated to all members), she believed the flooding had only commenced since the start of the Bloor's Home Housing Development.

Residents expressed their disappointment that a representative from T&WC Engineering Team had not turned up for the meeting, who they felt were the accountable body who have a possibility of addressing the flooding issues.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meetings held on 2nd October 2023

Minutes of the meetings held on 2nd October 2023 were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Richards with all members present voting in support of the proposal.

RESOLVED: minutes of the meetings held on 2nd October 2023 to be signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.

Item 5 – T&WC Drainage Engineer: Unfortunately, for unknown reasons Lucinda Lycett did not attend the meeting. Members expressed their concern for the non-attendance, the Clerk agreed to ascertain her absence and try to rearrange a visit at a future meeting.

Item 6 - Matters Arising:

a.Liddle’s Bank Traffic Management Scheme: Cllr Stacey (Chairman) invited Borough Cllr Andrew Eade to provide members with an update. Cllr Eade expressed his despair that despite his best efforts the work had not commenced. He will be raising it in a planned meeting with T&WC Chief Executive David Sidaway this week.

b.Grass Verges Project: The Clerk had received an initial query regarding the Veolia Grant for the Wild Planting funding, she remained hopeful it would be successful.

c.T&WC Drainage Engineers Dept – Flooding: No progress made since the last update.

d.MUGA Inspection – the Clerk reported that the inspections were all in- hand, with no repairs to report.

Cllr Stacey (Chairman) proposed that Agenda Item **12 Planning Matters 12 a) b) & c)** be brought forward to allow members of the public not to have to sit through the entirety of the meeting.

RESOLVED: that Agenda Item 12 a, b & c be brought forward to Agenda item 7.

Item 7 – b) Planning T&WC Local Development Plan – Inclusion of No 472, proposal for development of circa 160 properties to the rear of The Dale, The Crescent, The Close and Dark Lane.

The Chairman invited Borough Cllr Andrew Eade to voice his opinion on the proposed application. Cllr Eade expressed his strong objections to the proposal and felt the site would be disastrous to both the Parish and Ward. He will be fighting to oppose the development and looked forward in joining forces with residents and members of the parish council. Members were then given an opportunity to speak about their key concerns for the Housing Development, all members opposed the proposal. The Chairman thanked members for their valuable input and reassured residents that the Parish Council had a history of campaigning and objecting to similar matters in the past and would be doing their utmost to ensure the development does not go ahead. He reiterated the importance of resident involvement and urged them to ensure their objections are made directly to T&WC Local Plan Team.

Actions agreed: The Parish Newsletter due for distribution the end of November to be delivered to every household in the parish, the newsletters main feature will advertise a public drop-in session where a T&WC Planning Officer will be in attendance (date to be confirmed) the feature will strongly encourage resident to get involved and ensure they submit their comments to T&WC.

- The Drop-in session needs to be held no later than the first week of December in either the Village Hall or The Church Hall – the Clerk will liaise with Cllr Eade on details of a date and attendance from the planning department.
- The Clerk will draft a Press release for Council’s approval.
- The Clerk will contact Radio Shropshire to pursue a potential radio interview with Council representatives.
- All details of the drop-in and consultation be posted on the Parish Noticeboard, Website and Facebook page.

C) Flooding issues from Bloor’s Homes Housing Development

Cllr Pay briefed those present with an overview of how the Parish Council have been in communication with the Developers from the very start on all matters, including flooding. He has recently been liaising with the Chief Engineer who appeared to be taking the matter very seriously and hoped to find a resolution to the situation. He was aware that Newport Town Councillors were also making their own lines of enquiry and have their full support. Cllr Wynn raised concern that he has witnessed continuous pumping at The Mere over the past number of days and questioned the reason why this was happening?

Cllr Stacey proposed Standing Orders be temporarily suspended to enable resident Mr Botterill to speak.

<p>RESOLVED: that Standing Orders preventing members of the public to speak during the meeting be temporarily suspended to allow Mr Botterill to speak.</p>
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Mr Botterill provided a detailed account of his personal observations regarding general flooding and the pumping at The Mere, he expressed his frustration that T&WC appeared to be doing very little to resolve the issues and was now hoping the involvement of the Environmental Agency would provide some significant support and a resolution. Council agreed that it was very important the T&WC Drainage Engineer Lucinda Lycett be invited to a future meeting, the Clerk and Cllr Eade agreed to pursue the matter.

All members of the public left the meeting.

Item 12 a) T&WC Planning Schedule

a.TWC/2023/0794

9 The Dale, Church Aston, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9JY
Erection of a single storey side and rear extension and rear dormer extension

TWC/2023/0805

18 Pinewoods, Church Aston, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9LN
Pollarding by up to 6.10m to 1no. Lime tree and felling of 1no. Silver Birch Tree

TWC/2023/0820

Vauxhall Farm, Longford Road, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9AA
Installation of render, 3no. windows and 2no. roof lights to side elevation, and conversion of existing store room into a habitable room

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council submit no objection to the applications.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 8 - Asset Management: No matters to report.

Item 9 - T&WC Boundary Review 2023: A draft copy of the proposed submission had been previously circulated to Member's. The draft document requests that the Boundary Review consider the parish be simplified by amalgamating the Wallshead Ward into the CA Parish (10 Members remain to represent the parish as a whole).

RESOLVED: that the Parish Clerk be granted permission to send a submission to T&WC Boundary Review by the deadline of 20th November 2023.

Cllr Evans updated members that he has been in discussion with members of Woodcote & Chetwynd Aston PC regarding holding a joint meeting to share concerns. Cllr Evans agreed to keep parish members informed of any new developments.

Item 10 - Remembrance Sunday, St Andrews Church 12th November 2023: A copy of the planned service had been previously circulated to all members. Cllr Stacey confirmed he will conduct a reading and the laying of the poppy wreaths at both St Andrews Church and Brockton Memorial. Cllr Knight confirmed the organising of the refreshments will be done by the Village Hall Events Team of Volunteers.

Item 11 – Representative Reports

a). **Village Hall:** Cllr B Knight provided members with the following update on all matters relating to the Village Hall. The planned Barn Dance and Laura Aston Country Band were sold out, the Craft Fair and Halloween celebrations were well attended and enjoyed by all. The Events Flyers is currently being printed ready for distribution with the parish council newsletter. A solution has now been agreed to avoid any future difficulties relating to funeral parties attending the Church and experiencing car parking problems. Finances remain healthy with plans for further improvements in the new year. The worthy citizens award plaque is now proudly on- show in the Lobby.

b). **Bus Users Group** – Nothing to report.

c). **Newport Regeneration Partnership** – No meeting held.

d). **T&WC** – Cllr Eade reported the following: issues of the overhanging Oak Tree to residential properties remains unresolved. Longford Road traffic calming scheme is being developed with T&WC Highways Department. A grant had been awarded to the Community Cuppa to assist them with the installation of wi-fi in the hall. The question was raised if the Warm Space initiative would return this Winter, Cllr Eade was hopeful this was the case and would confirm to members at a future meeting.

e). **Wellington Road Surgery Participation Group** – due to late notice of the meeting, Cllr Stacey was unable to attend.

f). **Community Leaders Meeting** – no meeting held.

g). **Wrekin Area Committee** – Next meeting will be held on Mon 13th November via Zoom, unfortunately Cllr Evans is unable to attend. Cllr Stacey agreed to attend in his absence.

Item 12 – Communication Updates:

Correspondence: the following correspondence was shared with Members.

- Community Grants: Thank you letter from A Delamare 2nd CA Scouts, Community Cuppa including an offer of a visit/photo opportunity.
- T&WC Fostering Team – invitation to attend a future meeting. Council agreed the Clerk should arrange a future visit.
- Rev Zoe Hemingway, St Andrews Church – Volunteer Vacancies for Administrator/Governance Support (6-8hrs a week and Treasurer 1-2 hours a week), Council agreed the vacancies can feature in the parish newsletter
- Emergency Planning 10am – 3pm, November 10th, 17th, 24th Online using Zoom – delivered by Communities Prepared- Free. Cllr Stacey and Cllr Stokes offered to attend the sessions between them.
- T&WC Changes to proxy voting – for information only.
- The High Sheriff of Shropshire Fund for youth led community projects – for information only.

Newsletter: Members agreed the next newsletter will be distributed the week commencing 27th November to promote the Drop-in session for the Planning Development that will be the main feature. The Village Hall/Christmas Service events flyer will also be included in the delivery.

Facebook: Cllr Evans continues to post information on the Council's Facebook page.

Website: The Website continues to be updated.

Noticeboard: The noticeboard continues to be updated with new information on a monthly basis.

POLICY & PLANNING MATTERS

Item 13 – See Agenda Item 7

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 14 – Accounts & Payments

a. The Statement of Account: for business ending on 31/10/23 was £ 17,983.29p.

b. Statutory Balance Sheet, Summary of receipts and payments and Bank

Reconciliation of account for month ending 31/10/2023:

Members had been previously presented with a copy of the Bank Reconciliation, summary of receipts and payments.

RESOLVED : All appropriate documents be approved and signed by The Chairman (S Stacey).
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c. Approval of Payments made since the last meeting: council was presented for retrospective approval. Cllr Richards proposed, and Cllr Collier seconded authorisation of the following payments, with all Members present voting in favour.

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute General Power of Competence	Amount
Bloomsbury Nursery (Daff Bulbs)	Multi-pay card		£83.50
SALC (publication for new member)	On-line transfer		£3.40
WME (Sept supply)	On-line transfer		£241.66
Needes Landscaping	On-line transfer		£1014.00

Resolved: the above payments at 14 (c) were retrospectively approved for payment at this meeting held on 6th November 2023.

d. Payments for authorisation at this meeting: Cllr Wynn proposed, and Cllr Sansom 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
Staff Salary November 2023	STD ORD		£546.70
HMRC PAYE (2023)	300326	LGA 1972 s112	£79.80

Resolved: the payment set out above at 14 (d) was formally approved for payment at this meeting held on 6th November 2023.

Budget setting priorities 2024/2025: A Draft copy setting out the budget headings and estimated costs had been previously circulated to members.

The Clerk (RFO) explained the proposed breakdown of figures for next years' budget. Cllr Richards suggested it would be a good time to check out the likely renewal of the LED lighting. Further discussion raised a query regarding the parish council's responsibility for the local bus shelters, the Clerk agreed to pursue both matters. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work and informed council the budget and proposed precept would be an Agenda item at the next meeting in December, should members wish to raise any concerns or suggestions relating to the budget please contact the Clerk directly prior to the next meeting.

Item 13 – Roads, Hedges and Ditches

Village Hall Hedge: Cllr Stokes requested the Clerk contact T&WC to request the clippings from the hedge running along the public path be cleared to prevent an accident.

PROW Churchfields: Cllr Pay informed council there had only been 2 objections and was still awaiting a final decision.

Item 15. – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting date was noted:

- **Parish Council Meetings:** 7.40pm Monday 4th December at Church Aston Church Hall.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed Chairman:

Date