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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 5th February 2024.

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

In attendance: Wendy Tonge (Clerk).

(05/02/24)

Item 1 - Apologies: B Richards (Indisposed).

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

Item 3 – Public Session: No members of the public were in attendance.

Item 4 – Minutes of the Meetings held on 8th January 2024

Minutes of the meetings held on 8th January were proposed as a true and accurate record of proceedings by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Collier with all members present voting in support of the proposal.

Resolved: minutes of the meetings held on 8 th January were signed by the Chairman of the meeting as a true and accurate record.

Item 5 – In attendance: T&WC Fostering Services. The Chairman welcomed Hollie and Leah from T&WC Fostering Team and invited them to provide members with an overview of the local service. Fostering with Telford and Wrekin involves joining a local community of dedicated and passionate carers who provide safe, loving and stable homes for children who need them. Foster parents are offered competitive fees and allowances, ongoing training and 24/7 support. For anyone wishing to express an interest people can go along for an informal chat at one of a number of drop- in events or attend one of their virtual information events. Alternatively, call Telford Fostering to discuss all opportunity to make a difference. They need foster carers for part-time and full-time roles, for all types of foster caring. The initial requirement is to complete an enquiry form to request an information pack. They will call you for a brief informal chat. The Chairman confirmed the parish council has a number of communications that go out into the local community, should they want any future publicity promoting. The Chairman thanked them both for their attendance.

Item 6 – Matters arising:

- a. **Liddle’s Bank Traffic Management Scheme:** No update available.
- b. **T&WC Drainage Engineers Dept – Flooding/ Drainage:** Communication continues with Bloor Homes regarding the ongoing issues. The Clerk agreed to contact Cllr Eade to clarify if a date for the meeting that he and Cllr Neilson are organising with residents and key agencies has been confirmed.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 7 - Asset Management: Millenium Boulders – Despite invitations to local contractors the Clerk was only in receipt of one quote.

Resolved: that the quote from Brian the Brush be accepted at a cost of £2,400 no VAT.

Item 8 - T&WC Community Governance Review 2023/24: No update available.

Item 9 - Wildflower Planting Project: Needes Landscaping have received clear instructions on where the planting is required, they are hoping to carry-out the work with council’s approval in March. Hopefully, the seeds will be purchased from Bloomsbury Nursery. The Clerk raised the question that members may have to consider funding the ongoing maintenance of the wildflower plots.

Item 10 – Newport Town Library: Having previously attended a partnership meeting with NTC and rural parishes within the Newport District, Cllr Sansom provided members with an overview of the key objectives of the project. All members had previously received a copy of the presentation given by NTC Clerk Mrs Jo Reay. Following further discussion, it was agreed that before any final decision was made the parish council would seek to engage with the local community on their views, regarding providing funding towards the Library Service.

The Clerk was requested to submit on behalf of the parish council an initial Expression of Interest.

Item 11 - T&WC Local Development Plan – Housing Development to the rear of The Dale: Cllr Evans spoke proudly of the **Save our Village** campaign the parish council had led-on to oppose the development, which he felt was well delivered and received a great response from the community. We now await the outcome. Cllr Evans proposed a formal thank you be sent to local resident Charlotte Townend for her help, support and passion particularly in helping getting the message across on Facebook. He was pleased to confirm she has expressed continuing her support in a voluntary capacity in the future. It was agreed to send a thank you and confirm the details of her future involvement. Cllr Evans also wished to send a huge thank you on behalf of members and the community to Cllr John Pay for his fantastic work on the parish council’s formal response in opposing The

Development, we could not have done it without him. Cllr Stacey (Chairman), also thanked Cllr Evans for his hard work and commitment, especially the professionalism he conveyed during his interview with Radio Shropshire. Cllr Collier expressed his involvement with the drop-in sessions had been very useful in helping him to engage with the community. Cllr Mc Keown wished to know if we had an indication of how many responses were submitted to T&WC in opposition to the development. Cllr Evans confirmed no details had been released to date.

Item 12 – Bus Shelters: The Clerk confirmed two new bus shelters have appeared along Wellington Road. Following correspondence with T&WC Public Transport Team, the bus shelters are part of a wider programme of improvements. The missing sign on the bus stop along Wallshead Way has been reported, also the poor condition of the bus shelter at the end of The Spinney.

Item 13 – Representative Reports

- a. **Village Hall:** Cllr B Knight provided an overview of matters relating to the village hall which included: Finances were looking good and will be used for the future refurbishment plans for the hall. A recent application to The Lottery had been successful securing £7,000, which will largely pay for extra storage facilities.
- b. **Bus Users Group:** No update since the previous meeting.
- c. **Newport Regeneration Partnership:** No update since the previous meeting.
- d. **T&WC:** No update available.
- e. **Wellington Road Surgery Patients Participation Group:** Cllr Stacey confirmed due to personal reasons he was unable to attend the last meeting. Cllr Stokes had attended The Inaugural meeting for Linden Hall patients, which he felt was really useful including information on the opening of additional buildings to provide an improved service.
- f. **Community Leaders Group:** Next meeting due to be held on 22nd Feb 8pm.
- g. **Wrekin Area Committee:** Minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to all members. Cllr Stacey confirmed he will be attending the next SALC Executive meeting.

Item 14 - Communications Updates: Members received the following information.

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme: A copy of the email had been previously circulated to all members. No further action required.

Newsletter: It was agreed the next Spring edition will be published in April/May 2024. Cllr McKeown suggested Council may like to consider producing a Community Information Leaflet on local groups and services. It was agreed this should be a future Agenda item for further discussion.

Facebook: Cllr Evans continues to post information on the Council's Facebook page. The Clerk will draft a social media policy for council's consideration.

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 14 - Planning Matters: T&WC Planning Applications for January/February 2024

a. **TWC/2023/0861:** Grove Farm Barn, Moorfield Lane, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9EH
Change of use from Archery Shop (Class E) to fitness/exercise Studio (Sui Generis)

Resolved: No Objection

b. **TWC/2024/0055** Land East and West of, Station Road, Newport, Shropshire

Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning application TWC/2011/0871 (Erection for up to 350no. dwellings (Use Class C3); extra care housing (Use Class C2); 4.5ha of employment land (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8); public open space and landscaping provision including sports pitch and landscaped park; demolition of existing industrial buildings; highway works and associated infrastructure development (outline to include access)) for the strategic landscaping elements only

Resolved: Cllr Pay to advise the Clerk.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 15 – Accounts & Payments

(a) **The Statement of Account:** at close of business on 31/01/24 was £13,617.35

(b) **Statutory Balance Sheet, Summary of receipts and payments and Bank Reconciliation of account for month ending 31/01/2024:** £13,617.35

A copy of the Account Balance sheet, summary of receipts and payments and a Bank Reconciliation for the account at month end 31st January 2024 previously circulated was noted by members and signed by Cllr S Stacey (Chairman).

(c) **Approval of Payments made since the last meeting:** was presented for retrospective approval. Cllr Wynn, 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
St Andrew's Church Hall (room hire)	On-line transfer		£59.50
Telford & Wrekin Council (Election Charges)	On-line transfer		£280.00

Zoom Subscription	Multi-pay card		£155.88
Stamps (post office)	Multi-pay card		£12.00
Bank charges Lloyds Bank PLC	Direct Debit		£3.00
AYP (Newsletter)	On-line transfer		£153.00
AYP (Printing)	On-line transfer		£24.00
e-on (Annual Streeting Lighting)	On-line transfer		£459.90
West Mercia Energy (supply up to 31/12/23)	On-line transfer		£320.24

Resolved: the above payments at 15(c) were retrospectively approved for payment at this meeting held on 5th January 2024.

(d) **Payments for authorisation at this meeting:** Cllr Evans proposed, and Cllr Stokes seconded, with unanimous vote in favour from all Members present at the meeting for the following payments to be authorised:

Payment	Cheque No.	Statute General Power of Competence	Amount
HMRC February 2024	300336		£94.80
Staff Salary February (includes deduction of overpayment of £22)	Standing Order		£701.89

Resolved: the payment set out above at 15(d) was formally approved for payment at this meeting held on 5th February 2024.

(e) **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** It was agreed K Baker be appointed Internal Auditor for year end 23/24.

Item 16 – Roads, Hedges and Ditches: the following matters were raised.

- Cllr Stokes reiterated the importance of the Parish Council having a development plan for the village, under the heading of ‘Cultivating our Community’. A copy of his initial thoughts had been previously circulated to all member’s, Cllr Stokes encouraged members to contact him if they wished to discuss the matter further.

Item 17 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting date was noted:

Parish Council Meetings: the following meeting was noted, Monday 4th March 2024 7.40pm at Church Aston Church Hall

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Chairman:

Date