

# Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting  
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 26 November 2019  
at Morda Village Hall

## **Present:**

Chairman: Cllr. Peter Richardson, Cllr. Janet Barlow, Cllr. Pam Broomby, Cllr. John Davies, Cllr. Peter Davies, Cllr. Martin Jones, Cllr. Shirley Jones, Cllr. Bob Kimber, Cllr. Les Maguire, Cllr. Claire Mahoney, Cllr. Phil May  
Cllr. Paul Milner, Cllr Tony Milner.

## **In attendance:**

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow  
Professor Mark Barrow, Executive Director of Place, Shropshire Council  
Approximately 35 members of the public

## **522/19 Chairman's Welcome**

The chairman welcomed everyone present. He informed that the clerk had telephoned him to explain that her car had broken down and she was waiting for roadside assistance and would not therefore be able to attend the meeting. The chairman said that under these circumstances he would record the meeting on his phone to assist the clerk in writing the minutes of the meeting and, due to her absence, some of the agenda items would be deferred to the next meeting.

## **523/19 Apologies for absence**

The following apologies were received:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Robert Milton	Work commitment
Elliot Roberts Jones	Family commitment

Apologies were also received from the clerk.

These apologies were **ACCEPTED**.

## **524/19 Local Policing Team Report**

There was no police report.

## **525/19 Shropshire Councillor Report**

- a) Cllr. Joyce Barrow gave the following verbal report:
- Shropshire Council was taking climate change very seriously and Adrian Cooper had been appointed as lead officer to demonstrate how serious the council is in tackling climate change.
  - All streetlights were to be changed to LEDs.
  - Nantmawr quarry bridge had been closed but had been re-opened again.
  - Shropshire Council had announced a spending freeze until the end of the year due to a £6m overspend.
  - Staffing levels had dropped by almost one quarter over the past 3 years saving Shropshire Council £18.7m.

### **NOTED.**

- b) Professor Mark Barrow explained his role within Shropshire Council which made him responsible for transport, highways, economy, lighting, planning, culture, leisure and climate change. He referred to the media interest in the re-surfacing of Shands Lane in Trefonen where Shropshire Cllr. Vince Hunt resides. It was speculated that the road had been resurfaced due to Shropshire Councillor influence, but the road was in fact treated as a priority by its own merits and assessed using all the normal methodologies for prioritization and not by councillor influence.

Shropshire Council is responsible for some 3,200 miles of road in the county. Most of them are surveyed annually. 20% of them are B roads and the rest are C roads. Repairs are prioritised in accordance with a condition survey using a laser scanner which tests the road surface.

Prof. Barrow apologised for not releasing this explanation to the press earlier and thus avoiding the reporting misinformation and upset to individuals. Shropshire Council would soon be launching a new online system for reporting highways issues which would be more informative of how and when future repairs would be carried out and thus leading to greater transparency and accountability.

Prof. Barrow explained that a climate strategy was soon to be considered by Shropshire Council's Cabinet. There are various types of electrical cabling and the present infrastructure is not sufficient to combine powering streetlights and electric charging points. Solar lighting would be installed as part of the streetlighting replacement programme.

When asked about traffic exceeding the weight limit in weight restricted areas Prof. Barrow said it is difficult to prove without constant observation. The chairman informed Prof. Barrow that the clerk had asked Ian Kilby, Head of Planning to explain to members why their response to planning applications was being ignored and he had not responded. Prof. Barrow said he would follow it up.

### **526/19 Public Participation**

The chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public complained about Shropshire Councils system for reporting highways issues which failed to log her complaint and Prof. Barrow explained that the system was to be replaced with a more efficient system that would respond with real-time information.

One member of the public who lived in Shands Lane said the road was a disgrace and another member of the public who also lived in Shands Lane said he did not agree with what had been quoted in the press.

One member of the public admitted that he was responsible for the press coverage that repairs to Shands Lane had received. He introduced himself as a fraud investigator who had submitted a Freedom of Information request to Shropshire Council concerning the resurfacing of Shands Lane. He felt that the response from Shropshire Council was inadequate and questions remained unanswered. In response Prof. Barrow said he would provide information to the parish council since the parish council had been named in the press reports concerning Shands Lane and the parish council had not been informed that the road was a priority because it is not normal for parish council's to be involved with highway maintenance. The Shropshire Councillors concerned had responded with "no comment" because they had left it to Shropshire Council to respond because they had all the answers.

One member of the public expressed concerns about activity at Rhydycroesau quarry which he thought was in breach of planning regulations and, furthermore, vehicles visiting the quarry were causing mess and deterioration to the roads.

The chairman explained that activities at the quarry were to be considered later in the meeting. Prof. Barrow asked for the information to be passed onto him and he would look into it although some of the issues highlighted were the responsibility of the police and DVLA.

Prof. Barrow explained that the Local Plan would be considered by Shropshire Council's Cabinet on 12 December 2019 after which it would be examined by the inspector in 2020.

One member of the public referred to the planning application at Black Country Metalworks and said that conditions 3,4 and 12 had not been met. The chairman said that conditions 3 and 4 could not be discharged until condition 2 had been met.

The chairman thanked Prof. Barrow for attending the meeting.

### **527/19 Minutes**

The minutes of a parish council meeting held on 29 October 2019 were considered for approval.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

### 528/19 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the Register of Members' Interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

Cllr. Claire Mahoney declared an interest in planning application no. 19/05072/FUL since she lives in a neighbouring property.

### 529/19 Dispensations

None.

### 530/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality

All members declared an interest in response to biscuits being offered to all of them from Cllr. Martin Jones.

### 531/19 Planning Matters

#### a) Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

19/02730/FUL Martindale, 1 Offa House Estate, Treflach, Oswestry	Replacement conservatory and existing flat garage roof with a pitched roof Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 31 October 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/03249/REM The Elms, Middleton, Oswestry	Reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission ref. 17/01399/OUT for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling to include access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping Permission <b>REFUSED</b> 20 November 2019 <i>The parish council asked that the dwelling be located closer to the farm buildings, that it should remain as an agricultural worker's dwelling, and that the development should be subject to a S106 agreement.</i>
19/03372/FUL Bridge 86, School House, Crickheath	Reinstatement of the Long Lane road bridge over the Montgomery Canal (known as School House Bridge or Bridge 86); excavation of existing embankment and re-use of material in the restoration of the Montgomery Canal; creation of pedestrian access and erection of steps from Long Lane to the Montgomery Canal; works to reinstate Montgomery Canal tow path and channel; works to trees (including the removal of trees); associated construction works (including highways works); and associated temporary construction works (including temporary work sites, temporary buildings/storage and temporary access track) Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 1 November 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/03815/FUL 2 Brookside, Ball Lane, Maesbury	Erection of extensions and alterations Permission <b>REFUSED</b> 5 November 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>

#### b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

19/04787/FUL Coedygaer, Llansilin, Oswestry	Change of Use of land from agricultural to tourism use for the siting or four shepherds huts, construction of vehicular parking and all associated works. <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the comments made by the Shropshire Area of the Ramblers should be noted and further information was required concerning the provision of toilet facilities and appropriate sewage disposal.</b>
19/05072/FUL Clements Cottage, Gwern-Y- Brenin, Oswestry	Erection of cattery building and cat sanctuary to include Change of Use of land.

	<p>Having declared an interest Cllr. Claire Mahoney did not take part in the decision concerning this application.</p> <p><b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to support provided that the environment, traffic and noise were taken into consideration.</b></p>
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**532/19 Clerk's Report**

Members received a written report from the Clerk on action taken following decisions made at the last Parish Council meeting.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this should be deferred to the next meeting.**

**533/19 Financial Matters**

**Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations**

Members received income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 October 2019.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 31 October 2019 be APPROVED.**

**534/19 Strategic/Action Plans**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this should be deferred to the next meeting.**

**535/19 Road Safety**

Members received an update from Cllr. John Davies concerning the Parish Council's application to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for grant funding to provide VAS in Trefonen. He had received confirmation that the parish council would receive partial funding for 2 solar powered VAS in Trefonen and that the parish council would be expected to contribute 10% towards the costs, which would equate to approximately £300. He had been advised by the clerk that £1,000 was included in the budget against Theme 4 in the Strategic Plan which stated that the parish council would seek solutions for speeding traffic.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that:**

- a) **The parish council would contribute 10% towards the costs of two solar powered VAS in Trefonen.**
- b) **Further applications for funding would be made in the future.**
- c) **Cllr. Davies be thanked for all his hard work in putting the application together.**

**536/19 Tree Planting**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this be deferred to the next meeting.**

**537/19 Canal Bridges and the Bone Mill**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this be deferred to the next meeting.**

**538/19 Rhydycroesau Quarry**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this be deferred to the next meeting.**

**539/19 Funds for Safer Roads to School in Maesbury**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this be deferred to the next meeting.**

**540/19 Comments in Response to Planning Applications**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that members would collate questions in preparation for answers from Shropshire Council planning officers when they attended a forthcoming meeting.**

**541/19 Weston Road**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this be deferred to the next meeting.**

**542/19 Councillor Reports**

None.

**543/19 Correspondence**

Members received the following:

- a) **SALC information bulletin and NALC information.**

**NOTED.**

- b) NALC Legal Topic Note 22: Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements  
**NOTED.**

**545/19 Consultation**

No consultation had been received for consideration.

**546/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Knotweed.
- Rhydycroesau quarry.
- Canal Bridges 79 and 80 and the Bone Mill.
- Public footpaths in Morda.
- Black Country Metal Works Conditions.

**547/19 Date for Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at Morda Village Hall

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**Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **RESOLVED** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press should not be present.

**548/19 Affordable Housing**

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** that this be deferred to the next meeting.

**549/19 Planning Enforcement**

Recent cases were **NOTED**.

**550/19 Clerk's Report**

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and unanimously **AGREED** that this be deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:38.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman