

# Oswestry Rural Parish Council

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Minutes of a Parish Council meeting  
held at 7 pm on Tuesday 29 October 2019  
at Trefonen Village Hall

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**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, Cllr. Robert Milton, Cllr. Elliot Roberts Jones.

**Clerk to the Council:**

Sharon Clayton

**In attendance:**

PCSO Charlie Iremonger, West Mercia Police, SNT Oswestry Rural South  
7 members of the public

**489/19 Chairman's Welcome**

The chairman welcomed everyone present. He also thanked those councillors who had attended the recent councillors training and, for those who could not make it, he offered them a copy of his slides. He also reminded members of etiquette at council meetings and asked that they raise their hand when they wanted to speak.

**490/19 Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies as all members were present.

Apologies were received from Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow.

**491/19 Local Policing Team Report**

PCSO Charlie Ironmonger gave the following report:

- Road traffic collision at a road junction due to oil on the road but no-one was hurt.
- Numerous property thefts following vehicles skirting the area, but no registration numbers had been identified to pinpoint the culprits.
- Various telephone scams, including nuisance callers telling people they were in debt and threatening them if the debts were not paid, people being told they had a computer virus, and callers claiming to be from HMRC telling people they had paid too much NI and the money was being used to pay for firearms.

**NOTED.**

PCSO Ironmonger was thanked for his report and he left the meeting.

**492/19 Shropshire Councillor Report**

In her absence Cllr. Joyce Barrow provided a written report concerning the recent heavy rain which had caused flooding throughout Shropshire. Shropshire Council had put additional staff in place to support a clean-up. All road sweepers would work on affected roads, footpaths etc. and, during this time, routine road sweeping would be on hold.

**NOTED.**

Cllr. Tony Milner expressed concern about various reports in the Shropshire Star concerning the resurfacing of a road in Trefonen where a Shropshire Councillor resided. Shropshire Council had received a Freedom of information (FOI) request asking for the cost to be revealed but, because it had not done so, Shropshire Council had been referred to the Information Commissioner. The parish council had also received a FOI request asking whether the parish council had highlighted the road as an area of concern and the clerk had responded stating that it was nothing to do with the parish council.

**NOTED.**

#### **493/19 Public Participation**

The chairman invited members of the public to speak.

One member of the public from Nantmawr presented a petition signed by local residents requesting that the notice board at Nantmawr be replaced. Local residents needed a notice board because many local services had been lost, e.g. local phone box, bus service, library service, and now the notice board had gone. There had always been a notice board in Nantmawr, and residents did not want to lose another amenity for fear of being excluded from the wider community. Although there was a notice board in Trefonen it was too far for people to be expected to drive.

Another member of the public spoke of the planning application for 12 apartments to be built on land west of Morda Mill on Morda Bank, which is in open countryside. She felt that the development would lead to more dwellings than indicated in the guidelines of Shropshire Council's Local Plan. Shropshire Council has sufficient housing development identified in its 5-year housing land supply conclusion published in March 2019 and she did not feel that the parish of Oswestry Rural should have Oswestry's allocation of dwellings in the parish of Oswestry Rural. She also asked whether a Project Board had been established to help deliver affordable homes and why the parish council had been discussing this in closed session, especially when a Project Board should include members of the public.

The clerk explained that land being sought for affordable homes was currently commercially sensitive information and, until the land had been identified, it could not be discussed publicly. However, once the land had been identified community members would be invited to put themselves forward to join the Project Board.

The chairman read out a letter received from a member of the public who was unable to attend this evening's meeting. The resident was concerned about activity at the quarry in Rhydycroesau. Rocks were being conveyed along the public highway to a site at Trefarclawdd and leaving a mess on the road. Shropshire Council had been made aware but had done nothing. The resident would like to know whether planning permission had been granted for the quarry's activities and whether the activity was being monitored.

**The chairman said this matter should be referred to Cllr. Joyce Barrow and be discussed further at the next parish council meeting.**

#### **494/19 Minutes**

The minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 24 September 2019 were considered for approval.

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

#### **495/19 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.

None.

#### **496/19 Dispensations**

None.

#### **497/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality**

None.

#### **498/19 Planning Matters**

##### **a) Planning Decisions**

The following planning decisions were **NOTED**.

19/02555/VAR Hyde Park Cottage, Little London Lane, Trefonen	Variation of Condition no. 2 (approved plans) pursuant of 17/033240/FUL to allow for the retention of an existing tree Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 10 October 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
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19/03343/FUL The Original Ball Inn, Maesbury Road, Maesbury	Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the proposed Change of Use of domestic store to annexe accommodation Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 11 October 2019 The Parish Council objected to this application due to proper procedures not being followed and concerns of compliance with building regulations.
19/03908/FUL Globestock Engineering Ltd., Unit MO39 Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry	Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the installation of a biomass boiler Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 16 October 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>
19/03919/FUL 18 Sweeney Drive, Morda	Erection of single storey front extension Permission <b>GRANTED</b> 8 October 2019 <i>This application was supported by the Parish Council</i>

## b) Planning applications

The following planning applications were considered:

19/02730/FUL Martindale, 1 Offa House Estate, Treflach	Replacement conservatory and existing flat garage roof with pitched roof The parish council first objected to this application on the grounds that there was insufficient information submitted with the application. However, having since seen further information; <b>it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to support.</b>
19/04328/OUT Land west of Morda Mill, Morda Bank, Morda	Outline application (all matters reserved) for residential development (12 apartments) to include removal of trees <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED no objection, provided that environmental matters are taken into consideration and that the trees are retained for environmental purposes. Trees provide visual amenity and help counteract global warming. The parish council is also mindful that there should be sufficient school places for any children moving into any new properties.</b>
19/04486/CPE Unit 2, Pentre Farm, Woodhill, Trefonen	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for existing use to confirm works have commenced for planning permission 96/9430 <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no comment but Shropshire Council should be asked whether the original planning permission had expired.</b>
19/04637/TPO Aspen House, Morda Bank, Morda	To undertake a crown lift and/or cut back to allow for the installation of a 10m high lamp column, reduce and balance the remainder of the tree no more than 3m and to lift accordingly one Sycamore protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (Glentworth, Morda) TPO 1990 <b>It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to object to the loss of trees because they help to counteract climate change.</b>

## 499/19 Clerk's Report

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

**NOTED.**

The Clerk also gave the following verbal update:

- a) The Barley Mow had confirmed it would open at 11 am on Remembrance Sunday to serve teas and coffees.
- b) The Clerk was continuing training and had completed 3 webinars from a series of 4 on "Planning Demystified" facilitated by SLCC. She would also be attending further training on "Web Accessibility" facilitated by SALC. She had already made a number of modifications to the Parish Council website in order to comply with the new regulations.

**NOTED.**

**a) Income and expenditure and bank reconciliations**

Members received income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 30 September 2019.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure and bank reconciliations to 30 September 2019 be APPROVED.**

**b) Payments for October 2019**

Members considered for approval payments for October 2019 which would be made by BACS on 30 October 2019.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the following payments for the month of October 2019 be APPROVED.**

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
HMRC	PAYE/NI	160.64
GR Consultancy Service	Councillor training	155.40
Mark Evans	Bus shelter cleaning	54.00
SLCC Enterprises Ltd.	Clerk training	144.00
Royce Landscapes	Grounds maintenance	522.00
Scottish Power	Street lighting power	251.12
Viking	Stationery	128.64
Sharon Clayton	Salary/expenses/reimbursements	980.43
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2396.23</b>

**c) Budget for Remembrance**

Members considered for approval a budget to cover the costs of poppy wreaths for this year's Remembrance Sunday on 10 November 2019.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that this would be approved next month once the invoice had been received from the Royal British Legion.**

Members **NOTED** that £25,000 had been invested with the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

**501/19 Remembrance Sunday**

Members considered for approval arrangements for this year's Remembrance Sunday that would take place on 10 November 2019. The clerk informed members that the Order of Service had been printed for distribution amongst the congregation, the wreaths had been ordered and would need to be collected from the local Royal British Legion, the road closure signs had been updated with the correct date, hi vis vests had been purchased for the marshals and that a risk assessment would need to be carried out before the service.

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

- All attendees would meet at the memorial cross in Trefonen.
- The Chairman would lay the wreath on the memorial cross and read the reading.

**502/19 Maintenance of Morton Closed Churchyard**

Members considered for approval making an annual financial contribution towards the maintenance costs of Morton Closed Churchyard having received a request from Llanyblodwel Parish Council. There had been a long-standing arrangement in place that the Parish Council would contribute 50% towards the maintenance costs based on the fact that, prior to its closure in 1981, 50% of those buried in the churchyard lived in the parish of Oswestry Rural and because a portion of the churchyard lies within the parish of Oswestry Rural.

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

- The parish council would make a back payment of £744 for the two fiscal years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 and afterwards make an annual contribution of £372 per annum.
- Llanyblodwel Parish Council should be asked how many interments have been made since the churchyard closed in 1982, how much revenue has been raised, and why Oswestry Rural Parish Council has not received 50% of the income received from burial costs to offset the grounds maintenance costs it has paid.

### **503/19 Newsletter**

Members considered for approval a draft newsletter for publication on the Parish Council's website and for a number of printed editions to be distributed at agreed locations within the parish.

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

- **The newsletter be APPROVED and published on the parish council's website.**
- **The clerk should arrange for 100 copies to be printed and distributed throughout the parish.**

### **504/19 Climate Change**

Members considered for approval a Climate Change Action Plan which had been drafted following the Parish Council's decision to declare a climate emergency. The Action Plan was designed to demonstrate what action people can take to save energy in order to lessen the impact of climate change.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the policy be adopted and reviewed annually.**

### **505/19 Smartwater**

Members considered for approval whether the Parish Council should purchase Smartwater kits for distribution throughout the parish.

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

- **The parish council did not want to take on such a large financial commitment which would be in the region of between £9,911 to £12,389 to cover the parish.**
- **A link to Smartwater would be put on the parish council's website to raise awareness of its benefits.**

### **506/19 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. The application had been submitted on 20 August 2019 which was acknowledged on 2 September 2019. He had had met with the Community Ambassador, Graham Oliver, on 2 October 2019 who said the application looked favourable although he could make no promises. More information was required and Cllr. Davies had met with Shropshire Council's highways officer to discuss the siting of the VAS. Full details of where the VAS was to be sited had been submitted to the highways officer in writing, which he had approved at the site meeting, and news of the application was still awaited.

**NOTED.**

### **507/19 Green Spaces**

- a) The Clerk reported that she had still not received any information from Shropshire Council concerning the transfer of green spaces.

**NOTED.**

- b) Members considered for approval the costs for the registration of land transferred from Shropshire Council to the Parish Council including a new registration of a water pump at Crickheath. Lanyon Bowdler had recommended that they prepared two folders with regard to the parish council's various properties, one to be retained by themselves and one to be retained by the parish council. The cost for the production of Title Folders and disbursements would be between £500 and £750 + VAT.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to appoint Lanyon Bowdler to deal with the land transfers/registrations at a cost of up to £750 plus VAT.**

### **508/19 Policy Review**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the review of the following policies be APPROVED:**

- a) **Equal Opportunities.**
- b) **Hospitality and Gifts.**
- c) **Social Media.**
- d) **Training Statement of Intent.**
- e) **Health and Safety.**

The Policy Update Monitoring Review Form which outlined when the Parish Council's policies were due for review was **NOTED.**

**509/19 Code of Practice for Dealing with Persistent, Unreasonable and/or Vexatious Complaints**

Members considered for approval a Code of Practice which had been drafted to deal with persistent/unreasonable/vexatious complaints.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the policy be adopted and that the council would decide whether a complaint was persistent, unreasonable or vexatious.**

**510/19 Notice Boards**

Members considered for approval the purchase and installation of a new notice board to be installed at Nantmawr. There had been a notice board in this location, but it had been removed due to its dilapidation. At a parish council meeting held on 24 September 2014 local residents had made a plea to the Parish Council that this notice board be replaced as they considered it the only thing they had left to pull their small community together for events. This plea had been reiterated earlier in the meeting when the parish council received a petition from local residents.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED a new notice board should be reinstated at Nantmawr.**

Cllr. Phil May left the meeting at this point.

**511/19 Maesbury Canal Bridge and the Bone Mill**

Cllr. Tony Milner referred to the 1929 Canal Bridge Act which makes bridge owners responsible for ensuring road bridges are safe and capable of carrying sufficient weight. He was particularly concerned about bridge no. 79 on the Montgomery canal at Maesbury and he asked that Shropshire Council should confirm when the bridge was reinforced, how it was reinforced, and by whom. This classic bridge is Listed. Cllr. Milner then referred to Spiggots bridge (no. 80), another classic bridge on the Montgomery canal, which he said should be Listed. Further down the canal was the Bone Mill, a building with a chimney next to it. Cllr. Milner was very worried about the deterioration of the roof of the building and said he thought this building should also be Listed.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Shropshire Council should be asked:**

- **for the exact date in 1907 when bridge no. 79 was saddled and who was responsible i.e. the canal company or the local authority;**
- **that Spiggots bridge (no. 80) be Listed.**

**512/19 Publicising Grants Available to Support Local Activities**

Cllr. John Davies asked Members to consider how the Parish Council could raise awareness of the many grants which were available to support local activities. Funds were presently available from the Urban Tree Challenge and Cllr. Davies wondered whether the parish council might be eligible for this funding.

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

- **To ask Shropshire Council if the parish council was eligible for funding from the Urban Tree Challenge.**
- **Available grants should be publicised on the parish council's website and in future newsletters.**

At this point in the meeting, and in accordance with Standing Order number 3(x), **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to continue with the meeting, to enable it to exceed 2 hours.**

**513/19 Councillor Reports**

Cllr. Janet Barlow thanked the clerk for organising training for councillors. She had also attended the Aico Open Day and said what a superb site it is.

**NOTED.**

**514/19 Correspondence**

Members received the following:

- a) SALC information bulletin and NALC information.  
**NOTED.**
- b) Invitation to attend a 'Community-Led Housing: Building a Vibrant and Sustainable Parish' event on 22 October 2019 facilitated by Shropshire Council.  
**NOTED.**

**515/19 Consultation**

- a) Shropshire Council's Parking Strategy

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED no response.**

- b) Oswestry Mile End Junction Improvements

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED no response.**

**516/19 Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- o Rhydycroesau quarry
- o Funds for safer roads to school in Maesbury (Cllr. Claire Mahoney)
- o Consideration of how comments made by the parish council in response to planning applications are disregarded by Shropshire Council (Cllr. John Davies)
- o Implementation of a 30mph limit on Weston Road (Cllr. Les Maguire)
- o Listing of the Bone Mill and Spiggots canal bridge (Cllr. Tony Milner)

It was further **AGREED** that a planning officer from Shropshire Council should be invited to explain why the parish council's comments are disregarded.

**517/19 Date for Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 26 November 2019 at Morda Village Hall

**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.

**518/19 Affordable Housing**

Shropshire Council had advised that the parish council looks to begin a Community Led Scheme process for the delivery of affordable housing. The parish council should decide which registered provider (RP)/Housing Association it would like to work with and then form a Steering Group consisting of representatives from the parish council, Shropshire Council, the chosen RP and members of the local community. The Steering Group could then work with the RP and look to find a suitable exception site.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that Shropshire Council be asked to provide details of registered providers.**

**519/19 War Memorial in Maesbury**

Members considered for approval a single quote for the name of William Carpenter to be added to the War Memorial at Maesbury.

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

- o **To appoint Jones & Hughes Ltd. to carry out the work at a cost of £680 plus VAT.**
- o **To waive the council's Financial Regulations to obtain 3 estimates for work above £200 and below £3,000 as the appointed contractor was local and familiar with the area.**

**520/19 Planning Enforcement**

The chairman reported that he had asked Cllr. Joyce Barrow to liaise with planning enforcement at Shropshire Council concerning a planning enforcement case and had been advised that no further investigation was necessary with the information they had. The chairman expressed his disappointment with the response.

**NOTED.**

**521/19 Clerk's Report**

Members **NOTED** a report from the Clerk concerning a grave plot at Trefarclawdd cemetery.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED to write to the family again explaining that the council had discussed the matter once more, and invite them to meet with the council at a time and place of their choosing.**

The meeting closed at 21:39.

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

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

Chairman