

Attendance

Chairman: Cllr Thomson

Councillors: Cllr Stallard, Cllr Bentley, Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Hislop, Cllr Stanton, Cllr Taylor

Clerk: Mr Wayne Salisbury

Other: Cllr Gittins – Shropshire Council

Public: 1

Apologies: Cllr Millard, Cllr Partridge

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the
Parish Hall on Tuesday 19th September 2023**

Meeting started at 7:30 pm.

1. Welcome

The chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and reminded all that we had a busy agenda with this being the first meeting in 2 months.

The chair informed members that the vice chair Cllr Stallard had attended the North Shropshire Area Committee meeting recently on their behalf. Cllr Stallard reported that Neighbourhood Plans and Place Plans were discussed as well as Shropshire Council looking for savings of £51M. The AGM takes place in November and there is an upcoming meeting on verges and hedgerows.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Millard and Cllr Partridge.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Stanton declared an interest in items 7a and 8 due to their association with North Salop Wheelers.

RESOLVED: Dispensation for Cllr Stanton to participate in the discussion on items 7a and 8 but not to have voting rights.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Public Participation.

A member of the public in attendance raised concerns about speeding traffic on lanes towards Soudley and that they have witnessed near misses. The member of the public stated that there are no speed restrictions in that area and that the newly resurfaced road is encouraging drivers to go faster.

Cllr Faulkner advised that a speed indicator device (SID) was in place previously and recorded average speeds. The presence of the SID reduced speeding which then increased once the SID was removed.

Cllr Faulkner asked if speed check equipment without a speed indicator could be installed to measure the issue.

Cllr Gittins (Shropshire Council) advised that they will look into whether this will be possible and if resources would permit this. Cllr Gittins spoke of the need for Parish Councils to contribute to the costs of SIDS and traffic calming measures.

Cllr Taylor raised that in January 2023 the Parish Council resolved a motion that stated the position that all speeding issues lie with Shropshire Council and are their responsibility. (Minutes Jan 2023 - 1. That CPC write an "open letter" to the Chief Executive of SC summarising its concerns and the lack of action taken by SC to date 2. That CPC publicise this letter within the Parish. 3. That Parishioners contacting CPC and who are unhappy with any aspect of these matters should be redirected to the locally elected Unitary Councillor for action by him and Shropshire Council) Cllr Taylor reiterated that the Parish Council should not be dragged back into an issue that the Council spent 2 years on but did not progress due to inaction from Shropshire Council.

Cllr Taylor reminded that any issues including near misses should be reported to the unitary councillor and Shropshire Council.

Cllr Faulkner raised an issue of a car having a wing mirror knocked off by a speeding vehicle.

Cllr Gittins raised that issues should be reported to the police.

Cllr Taylor suggested to Cllr Gittins that he should set up a meeting with residents to discuss the issues and potential resolutions.

6. Shropshire Unitary Councillor's report

Cllr Gittins reported a busy summer which was added to by the disruption of the works on the A41 from South of Hinstock towards Newport. This caused widespread disruption to residents and businesses, it was reported that businesses including some within the parish were losing thousands of pounds per day.

Cllr Gittins reported that there is a government fund to provide compensation for businesses and that he has further information that businesses can obtain from him.

It is reported that further work will take place next year.

Cllr Gittins in answer to a question confirmed that the risk assessments for the villages that were affected by the A41 works would have been completed by Telford & Wrekin Council.

7. Reports from Parish Council Representatives – To receive reports from.

a) Cheswardine School

Cllr Bentley shared a written report with members. Key points are.

- 3 of the governors have resigned over the summer.
- Cllr Bentley has met with English lead teachers at both Cheswardine and Hinstock as part of the PD days at the beginning of the term. Areas of focus have been discussed and agreed for review in early 2024.
- A decision on the academy conversion process is expected to be completed by the DfE later this month.
- Cllr Bentley will pursue the survey on play equipment.

b) Parish Hall report

Cllr Stanton advised that the kitchen refurb has been completed at just under £10K and will now allow for the hall to be a catering hub. Cllr Stanton raised that the Parish Hall annual meeting will take place on 10th October and that the Parish Council representatives will need to be nominated. The Clerk will liaise with the Parish Hall secretary on this process.

c) Bus service

Cllr Stanton provided the report with members and reported that 4 passengers were booked onto the 20th of September service. The recent charge to the Parish Council of £55.50 covers 2 months. Cllr Stanton stated that the administrator and treasurer for the North Salop Wheelers are doing an extremely good job and that the previous chair has stepped down and moved away and that a new chair is now in place.

8. Local Bus Service Provision

Cllr Stanton spoke of the bus route and the typical number of passengers that it picks up. Cllr Stanton reported that the bus service wishes to come to a more direct arrangement with each passenger and that group subscription is no longer satisfactory.

7 passengers in the village with different mobility needs use the service regularly. Other passengers would qualify under temporary membership providing that they don't use the service more than 4 times per year.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will fund half the subscription fee for 7 passengers at £15 per passenger. Continue to arrange the passenger list via the bus phone. Charge passengers £4 per round trip and top up to £7 as per NSW charge.

9. D-Day Celebrations

Cllr Hislop reported that there was a consensus in the village to have an event and shared details of the format of the different elements taking place throughout the day with a school event and a church event. The history group are happy to hold a display.

Cllr Stanton reported that the Parish Hall BOM discussed the possible evening event but pushed back on fish and chips being offered as a 1940s tea was favoured.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council would support the Parish Hall BOM hosting the evening event with their choice of catering and any excess funds in the allocated D-Day celebrations budget would be donated to the Parish Hall to cover costs with any surplus going to the 4 service charities.

10. Playing Field, Playground and Car Park

A report from Cllr Millard was shared with members ahead of the meeting. It was noted that the BMX area is a concern. Cllr Taylor suggested a potential local supplier for wooden furniture.

a) Additional dog waste bins

DEFERRED: The item will be dealt with at the next meeting to allow the clerk to enquire about any new bins being added to the waste collection route.

b) To consider the request to use the Playing Field by Alvis Caravan Club for a Caravan Rally on Easter Weekend 2024.

RESOLVED: To refuse the request on the basis that the playing field is not equipped for the use of caravans and that the Easter weekend will be busy and in use by the local community. The Clerk will advise the Caravan Club of other local sites.

c) To consider the request to use the Playing Field by Hobgoblins.

RESOLVED: To grant permission for use of the Playing Field from 27th – 30th June at a fee of £175.

d) To consider donating the income from Hobgoblins playing field hire to Parish Hall funds.

RESOLVED: To donate the fee of £175 to Parish Hall funds.

11. Highways/Environmental Health matters

The chair spoke of the A41 closure as discussed under item 6. It was noted that the works were completed earlier than planned but that everyone needs to be prepared for the next planned work.

Cllr Stallard noted that speeding issues in Soudley are often caused by delivery drivers.

12. Clerks Report

The clerk's report was received by members.

13. External Audit

The clerk advised that no further queries had been received from the external auditor and that we were still waiting for our completion certificate.

14. Bank Mandate

RESOLVED: The 2 signatories currently on the mandate will be removed. The clerk CW Salisbury and Cllr Stallard will be added as signatories and Cllr Thomson will be added as a secondary user for online banking.

15. Website Subscription

RESOLVED: To continue the subscription with Hugo Fox at bronze level at a cost of £9.99 per month.

The clerk noted that Hugo Fox does not provide an email option utilising the Councils domain but that they will provide details of a suitable email option for Council use at a future meeting.

16. SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)

a) RESOLVED: That the clerk obtains a full membership to SLCC at £39.80 per year. (80/20 share with the clerk's other council.)

- b) RESOLVED: To purchase a copy of the 'Yellow Book' – 13th Edition Local Council Administration at £28.36, members price (80/20 share with the clerk's other council.)

17. Podmore Road Signpost

DEFERRED: It was agreed that the item would be dealt with at the next meeting.

18. Parish Hall Solar Panels

The power consumption and payback calculations were shared with members. Cllr Stanton reported that the treasurer of the Parish Hall BOM put the calculation together and that payback for initial costs would take 6.3 years.

It was noted that there were concerns about the structural fixing of solar panels onto the roof of the Parish Hall. Conversation with regards to this will continue with the BOM.

19. Local Policing Community Charter

RESOLVED: That the feedback form be submitted to reflect that the top 3 community issues are Speeding, Other Traffic Offences and Thefts (farms). It was agreed that attendance by local police at a meeting quarterly would be requested.

20. Climate Change Action Plan

Cllr Faulkner sent information on their proposal to members ahead of the meeting which outlined suggestions for the Parish Council to consider.

Cllr Stallard spoke of the challenges of being carbon zero by 2030 which is just 7 years away.

Cllr Taylor raised if the electorate would expect the Parish Council to be promoting the initiatives and if it was our place to do so.

Cllr Faulkner expressed that the plan is to reduce the carbon footprint in the areas that we can influence and that we don't have to adopt the Save Our Shropshire agenda but if the Parish Council were to adopt the idea, we can help to promote positive initiatives with the community.

Cllr Stallard stated that they have looked into other Parish Councils who have declared a climate emergency and the viewpoint that they are coming from.

Cllr Faulkner raised the importance of the need to create a framework that brings carbon reduction into our thought processes and that as a Council we do not discuss the carbon impact when making decisions in meetings.

Cllr Bentley asked what training would be required for members and what it would involve.

Cllr Stallard raised that the Parish Council should look at ourselves before promoting anything to the community.

Cllr Hislop stated that they feel that the proposal is taking the Parish Council on a route faster than we wish to go and that she does not like the word emergency as it could create panic.

Cllr Hislop suggested that we need an initial action plan to look at ourselves and what we can do which is in the interest of lowering our carbon footprint. This would allow us to set an example and lead by it.

After the discussion concluded it was agreed that the item would appear on the next meeting agenda and that further work on any proposal wording to be formulated by members prior to the meeting.

21. Policy Reviews

DEFERRED: It was agreed that the item would be dealt with at the next meeting.

22. Planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Sched 1, para 8)

a) To ratify comments submitted for the following applications.

- i. 23/02957/LBC Old Mill, Ellerton, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8AW.
- ii. 23/02987/FUL Wenlock House, Soudley, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2SB
- iii. 23/03559/PMBPA Proposed Barn Conversion at Doorway Farm Soudley Shropshire

RESOLVED: To ratify the comments submitted to the planning authority.

23. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation and bank statements up to 1st September were checked and verified by Cllr Thomson.

24. Budget Review

RESOLVED: Budget review for quarter 1 is accepted.

25. Authorisation of payments

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments for August and September 2023 correctly states the invoices presented and that £517.11 is approved to be paid. £747.64 has been paid under 5.5B and £510.56 has been paid under 5.5A (as detailed on page 675)

26. Items for October Agenda

- Climate Change Action Plan
- Remembrance Events
- Personnel meeting feedback

27. Exclusion of all persons other than Cheswardine Parish Council members and staff

No other attendees were present, so the motion was not moved. (Unitary Councillor Gittins had already left the meeting)

Part 2

28. To consider submitting a nomination for the King's Honors

Cllr Faulkner reported that queries had been sent to the cabinet office and that they had received a holding reply advising them to wait for a response.

Cllr Taylor suggested contacting the High Sherrif or the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire to see if they can assist.

Meeting concluded at 10:20 pm.

Chairman..... Date.....

CHESWARDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Cheswardine Parish Council Schedule of Payments 19th September 2023

	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque No	Power of expenditure	Scribe
1	19/09/2023	N Salop Wheelers	Bus service payment	55.50		101479	LG Rating Act 1997 s26-29	Yes
2	20/09/2023	W Salisbury	Giff Gaff Phone Monthly Payment	6.00	399.01	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
3	20/09/2023	W Salisbury	Clerk Salary	393.01			LGA 1972 S 112	
4	20/09/2023	HMRC	Tax & Contributions on Clerks salary	62.60			LGA 1972 S 112	
			Total	517.11				

Payments made as resolved under the approved payments list 5.5b								
	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque No / Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
5	21/08/2023	SALC	Training - W Salisbury	15.00		Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
6	21/08/2023	PG SKIPS	Rubbish Removal	28.15		Bank Transfer	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
7	21/08/2023	Groundforce	Grounds Maintenance	174.83		Bank Transfer	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
8	18/08/2023	W Salisbury	Giff Gaff Phone Monthly Payment	6.00	416.11	Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
9	18/08/2023	W Salisbury	Clerk Salary	393.01			LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
10	18/08/2023	W Salisbury	Mileage (18th July 38 miles x 0.45)	17.10			LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
11	18/07/2023	HMRC	Tax & Contributions on Clerks salary	62.60		Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 S 112	Yes
12	21/08/2023	Plusnet	Broadband	22.80		Direct Debit	LGA 1972 S 111	Yes
13	08/09/2023	PG SKIPS	Rubbish Removal	28.15		Bank Transfer	Litter Act 1983 ss.5	Yes
			Total	747.64				

Payments made under Financial Regulations 5.5a to avoid late payment								
	Date of Debit or Cheque Raised	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Cheque No / Payment Method	Power of expenditure	Scribe
14	01/09/2023	Shropshire Council	Joint Energy Costs	243.82		Direct Debit	Highways Act 1980 s301	Yes
15	08/09/2023	Groundforce	Grounds Maintenance	228.83		Bank Transfer	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10	Yes
16	20/09/2023	BT	Broadband	37.91		Bank Transfer	LGA 1972 S 111	
			Total	510.56				

Invoices checked and verified at the meeting held on 19th September 2023