

MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON THE 11th MARCH 2021

Present: Councillors: Dr A MacWhannell (Chairman); N Edwards (Vice Chairman); N Pulker; G Tonkinson; J Horne, and A Edwards.

In attendance Clerk to the Council – Miss Jennifer Cree, PCSO Jaqueline Fletcher and Mathiu Faure.

26/21. To receive apologies for Absence.

An apology of absence was received and accepted from Councillors K Turley and Miss S Barratt due to previous commitments. This apologies was noted and accepted.

27/21. To receive members declaration of Pecuniary Interests

Councillor N Edwards declared a non pecuniary interest in relation item 37/21.

28/21. To agree the previously circulated draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 14th January and the Planning meeting held on the 16th February 2021.

These minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of both meetings.

29/21. Presentation from Shropshire Council Flood Team

The following questions were submitted to Mr Faure and he responded as detailed below:-

“1 What are SC proposals for a solution to the flooding at the junction of Marsh Lane and Marsh Road and when will this be delivered ?

This flooding is on an investigation package of our team. A crew went on site before Christmas but a local resident asked them to leave the site, stating that the road (Marsh Lane) was on his land and that he doesn't want any Shropshire Council intervention there. We verified this information since then, and the whole land in the area is indeed privately own, which requires us to get some authorisation to access and do any maintenance, as well as any future design. This process is ongoing so our team can't go and finish our investigation.

Due to this delay on the work, we don't expect it to be completed in this financial year.

2 A temporary solution appears to have been delivered along Kettlemore Lane . What are SC substantive proposals to address flooding at this point and when will they be delivered ?

After the emergency response on site before Christmas, Shropshire Highways has put a temporary measure in place with ditches on both sides of the road to alleviate the flood. It is understood that this is currently preventing the road to flood, but we are aware this is not a viable long term plan. The local division plans to connect the gullies into a network that would run at the bottom of the ditches to get the water further east where the slope allows it to gravitate down to the downstream ponds. This work was not in the programme for this financial year and no budget is available for it until the end of March. Highway division will aim to put it in the programme for the next financial year.

3 As a general point the lack of routine rather than reactive maintenance to roadside drainage ditches , hedgerows , drainage gullies etc by SC highways appears to be a significant factor in increasing difficulties with flooding . For example appropriate maintenance of these facilities “ may “ have prevented or alleviated the flooding experienced at the locations in 1 and 2 . Routine maintenance in the longer term also has to be a more cost effective solution than throwing masses of resources at a problem in a crisis and then failing to deliver any maintenance thereafter?

I appreciate that the maintenance regime of our asset has not been the best in the past year, especially in the more rural areas like Sheriffhales parish. I can only apologise on behalf of the Council for this reality. We had to face many challenges between the different storms hitting the County in February 2020 and January 2021, and the covid crisis has create some disturbance in our services. Some new procedures are currently being put in place to improve the service and the way the maintenance of our asset is being carried out, but it is a slow process to implement as many different teams have to be coordinated in it. We are open to any constructive suggestions you might have on how we could provide a better service.”

Members thanked Mr Faure for taking the time to join the meeting and it had been very informative.

30/21. Presentation from Community support team on Policing matters in Parish

The PCSO confirmed that they had been undertaking speed enforcement in the Parish, but as always happens the speeds are usually under the 30mph as the officers are clearly visible by drivers. Due to the PCSO having to enter a further meeting it was agreed that any questions of concern be forwarded to her for a response. She also reported there had been several issues of suspicious activity in the Parish, and they were patrolling these areas more frequently.

Action: Questions of concern be forwarded by the Clerk to the PCSO (Topics: Parking in Parish, Rural crime, access to speed data)

31/21. Public participation for members of the public to address the Council for 3 minutes in relation to an agenda item.

There were no members of the public present.

32/21. To note Planning matters (New applications, Enforcement and progress with current applications) and agree further actions.

New Planning Applications to be discussed

21/00670/FUL Hunger Hill Farm
Conversion of agricultural buildings and former farm shop to
4 no holiday units, formation of access, provision of septic
tank and parking.

The Parish Council has no objection to the proposed development subject to the units being only for holiday let, not for residential purposes and the units are sympathetic in design to the area.

Concern was expressed over the state of the access road to the property and its status an adopted or unadopted road, which required clarification, the surface of the roadway has significantly deteriorated, and it was requested that Shropshire Council identify the owner of the road to make good the

surface as this will continue to deteriorate and become a major problem if it is not remedied.

21/00683/FUL Armistice, Sheriffhales Drive
Erection of detached triple car garage

The Parish Council has no objection to the proposed garage, but due to its size and location on the plot a S106 should be placed on the garage, so that it cannot be changed to residential purposes or be sold separately to the main property in the future. Lillishall Drive is of historical importance and the impact of any development in this area has to be considered carefully to ensure its in keeping with appropriate conservation and heritage impacts.

21/00985/FUL 80 Heath Hill, Sheriffhales
Erection of residential annexe following demolition of existing stable block

The Parish Council has no objection to the proposed residential annexe a S106 should be placed on the annexe so that it cannot be sold separately to the main property in the future.

Action: Clerk to submit the Parish Council's comments onto the planning portal

Manor Farm Applications

A response to the status of the road leading to the applications is still being investigated by Shropshire Council. The Comments agreed at the February meeting were submitted to Shropshire Council's Planning portal.

Enforcement Matters outstanding

Hilton Bank Farm – a response to from the Planning Department Officer Lynne Parker has been received, stating that Parish Council and detailed below:-

“In response to your email below, I would advise that the above was submitted under an Agricultural Prior Notification for which consideration can only be given as to whether the proposed development is reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within its unit, and whether it complies with the criteria outlined in the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted

Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), Schedule 2, Part 6, Class A for agricultural development permitted on units of 5 hectares or more. It is not a Planning Application.

Shropshire Council LPA notify Town and Parish Councils of this type of application for information only. This is usually done at the time of Validation before it reaches the allocated officer. However, there is no evidence that Sheriffhales Parish Council were notified in this instance.”

Some Members expressed their concern at not being consulted on this application.

Action: Chairman to contact Shropshire Planning Dept and request that the barn is screened to lessen the visual impact and clarify why the Parish were not notified of the application even if only for information purposes.

Extending curbs in Sheriffhales

The Clerk wrote to Highways to ask them to investigate this issue and they are looking into the matter.

Wall by A41

The Clerk reported she had been notified of trees now being placed around the wall and had reported this to Enforcement and they have responded stating that this is not a planning matter and it is a Highways issue.

Action: Clerk to report this matter to Highways.

Burlington Barns – Bradford Estate

The Clerk has reported the use of the barns following a complaint from a resident to the Enforcement Team at Shropshire Council.

Woodcote Quarry Access and road layout

This matter is still outstanding, a response to the Parish Councils email has been received from Mr Graham French, and further correspondence has been sent to Gemma Lawley which a response is awaited. The main issues of concern are lorries not abiding by the S106 that was placed on to the site for vehicles not to use the B4379, not to turn right from the site onto the A41 and the road layout has not been improved to accommodate the quarry traffic as previously agreed.

Action: Clerk to request a response from Gemma Lawley.

33/21. To receive Clerks Report and agree any actions arising.

It was noted that the S137 for 2021/22 is £8.41 per elector in the Parish and the nomination pack link had been sent to all Councillors. The Clerk was checking with Shropshire Council to see if the forms had to be returned by hand to the Council Offices in Shrewsbury.

Action: Clerk to forward response to members when received.

A request from a resident had been received to ask if they could on behalf of the Council check the defib, as she thought it had not been checked since 2019. In addition, she would like to add details of her Pre-School onto the Parish website.

It was noted that the Chairman checks the Defib regularly and the sticker is for an external check performed by the ambulance Service. Regarding the request to add details of her private business to the Parish website, this is not a practice that the Parish Council could offer.

Action: Clerk to write to resident explaining the above.

34/21. Update on compliance with the safety audits on the traffic calming scheme in central Sheriffhales and Crackley Bank traffic light installation.

The Clerk attached the last data / reports on the Crackley Bank Scheme to the agenda and forwarded after the last meeting the report for the traffic calming scheme in the centre of the village.

Action: Clerk to clarify when the next safety audits will be taking place and what are the future plans for the 2 sites following the concerns raised in the respective reports.

35/21. Update on action to address speeding through the village and use of the B4379 by unauthorised traffic.

This item was briefly discussed with the PCSO under item 30/21.

Action: Clerk to contact Shropshire Highways to request the traffic count / speed monitoring equipment is installed at Heath Hill and possibly the Lillihurst Road to record the numbers and speed of traffic using these roads.

36/21. To agree review of PROW within the Parish.

The review for the PROW is to be completed in 2026. Any old PROW (no longer on the current definitive map) or new proposed routes need to be submitted within the next 2 years. Due to the increase of people walking locality this is more important than ever.

Action: It was agreed to have this as an agenda item when the new Council has been formed.

37/21. To agree any further actions relating to the Playing field refresh.

Members were informed that the trees and benches were now in place on the Playing Field. The first phase had now been completed. The Clerk has spoken to Severn Trent and they are going to send someone to site to see if they can just put a metre on the existing supply rather than have to have a full new connection installed. This would bring down the cost considerably.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Severn Trent.

Phase 2 was looking at other equipment such as gym pieces etc, the Chairman is looking at prices for the equipment.

Action: Chairman prices.

Correspondence has been received over the concern of a resident regarding electrocution on the playing fields and also the Clerk has contacted Western Power about where the wayleave payment is being made for their equipment on the playing field a response has not been received. The trees / shrubs have been cut back from the equipment by Western Power so the risk is minimal of this unit setting on fire.

Action: Chairman to contact local resident who works in this area to ask his advice.

Playing field Boundary, the map showing the current correct boundary was prepared in 2019. It was agreed to circulate this map to all residents that abut the field with their properties. In addition concern was expressed previously with regard to access gates leading onto the playing field. It was agreed to write to those that have gates and inform them that these must be kept locked at times. A motion to have these gates blocked off permanently by the Parish Council failed to get a majority. The legal opinion from the Solicitor previously on this matter was that due to the time these gates had been in place, legally they could not be blocked off by the Council.

Action: Clerk to write a letter to the residents with gates, informing them they must be kept locked (enclosing a copy of the new boundary map), and a further letter to those residents showing them where the Council's boundary lies only.

38/21. To receive accounts for payment

The accounts for payments were noted and accepted unanimously.

39/21. To receive accounts up to 31st January 2021

The accounts up to 31st January were noted and accepted unanimously.

40/21. To note EMG Grant application for 2021/22

As per the previous meeting in January, members were asked to submit ideas for the grant directly to the Clerk after the meeting before the submission date of the 31st January 2021. The only response received was from Councillor N Edwards, and the Clerk submitted the application form as attached to the agenda papers.

41/21. To agree further actions required to reduce Fly tipping within the Parish.

Councillor N Pulker has been working to resolve these issues within the Parish, members thanked him for his efforts.

Action: Councillor N Pulker to continue to put pressure on Shropshire Council to get the laybys filled in and reduce the fly tipping in the area.

42/21. To agree Parish Council Policy on Street name plating.

It was agreed to support Shropshire Council's policy on street naming, and not support the request of the resident to have a street name plate on Marsh Lane / Road.

Action: Clerk to write to Graham Downs and the resident informing them of the Council's decision.

43/21. To agree Parish Council Policy on Street Furniture.

It was proposed by Councillor N Edwards and seconded by Councillor A Edwards that in principle the Parish Council support the bench scheme which has been proposed by a resident and funded through an external source. The Parish would request that when the preferred locations are agreed that these be forward to the Parish Council who can then ask permission from Shropshire Council / land owner of the areas proposed. On a vote this was agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk to contact resident with the above decision.

44/21. To note plan for Roadworks on B4379 and agree any actions required

It was noted that the works are due to start next week, and the proposed diversion route had not been altered.

45/21. To agree next appraisal date for Clerk

It was agreed to undertake the Clerks appraisal within the next 6 months when face to face meetings are allowed.

46/21. To agree dates of Next Annual Parish Meeting and Next General Meeting

The date of the APM is to be agreed when lockdown restrictions etc are lifted and face to face meetings can take place.

The AGM has to take place within 2 weeks of the elections, so the date of this meeting is 13th May 2021.