

**MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 10th JANUARY 2023 AT
7.00PM AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillors: Mr J Horne (Chairman); Mr Gordon Tonkinson; Mr Neil Pulker; Mr D Himsworth; Mrs A Robinson and Mr A Edwards.

In attendance Clerk to the Council – Mrs Jennifer Cree, Mrs Horne and 2 members of the public.

The Chairman before the meeting drew members attention to the following statement: -

Members of Sheriffhales Parish Council should treat other councillors, members of staff and members of the public with respect.

Treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack. In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor- officer protocol.

1/23. Apologies for Absence.

An apology of absence was received from Cllr Mr K Turley.

2/23. Declaration of Councillors' Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr Mr J Horne declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the former Blacksmiths yard.

Cllr Mr N Pulker declared an interest in relation to the solar farm, and it was noted that he has resigned as a member of the SACREC board.

3/23. To receive for confirmation and adoption and agree the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2022.

The minutes of the meetings held on the above date, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meetings. Cllr Mr D Himsworth proposed, and Cllr Mr A Edwards seconded the proposal to accept the minutes and, on a vote, these was carried, Cllr Mr G Tonkinson recorded his vote against the minutes.

4/23. Public Participation

Standing orders were raised to enable members of the public to speak.

Mr N Pulker reported that SACREC have distributed funds to local organisations for the Choir, the village Hall, the church for the fabric of the building and the school. The operating company has seen many members resign as they cannot be on the charitable company also that may receive funds.

A member of the public addressed the Council - the flooding down the Rock and Church Lane has been ongoing since they purchased their property some 16 years ago. This is due to inadequate drainage from Church Lane. The 2 roads meet and then this causes the problem of a large pool of water at the end of their drive.

It was suggested by Cllr Mr N Pulker that we write to Highways to ask for an update and ask for Cllr Mr K Turley to progress this further.

Standing orders were re-instated.

5/23. Unitary Councillor feedback and questions.

Apologies were received from the Unitary Councillor. It was agreed to ask if Cllr Mr E Bird can cover for Cllr Mr K Turley and report via email any issues that may be relevant to Sheriffhales.

6/23. Planning applications received, Decisions and Enforcement matters made by Shropshire Council

Planning Decisions

22/02686/FUL (validated: 23/06/2022)

Address: Land At Burlington House, Marsh Road, Sheriffhales,

Proposal: Installation of equipment and pipework for a hydro power project

Decision: Withdrawn

22/04263/CPE (validated: 20/09/2022)

Address: Hunger Hill Campsite, Sheriffhales, Shifnal, Shropshire

Proposal: Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing change of use of agricultural land to site a residential mobile home and associated groundworks

Decision: Certificate – Lawful

22/04437/FUL (validated: 25/10/2022)

Address: The Gatehouse, Burlington Court, Burlington, Sheriffhales, Shifnal, TF11 8BW

Proposal: Installation of a wood burning stove and flue

Decision: Grant Permission

22/04873/FUL (validated: 26/10/2022)

Address: 84 Heath Hill, Sheriffhales, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8RR

Proposal: Erection of new four-bedroom dwelling and detached garage following removal of existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings and temporary siting of a caravan whilst work being undertaken

Decision: Refuse

It was agreed to note these decisions.

Planning applications

22/05142/COU The Stable, Lillyhurst Road, Lillyhurst, Shifnal.

Change of use from holiday let to residential dwelling

Recommend Approval

22/05480/FUL Proposed Solar Array South of Woodcote Hill, Heath Hill, Sheriffhales, Installation of a solar array and all associated works

Recommend Approval

22/05704/FUL Amberleigh Care Ltd, The Oaks, Redhill, Shifnal

Conversion of roof space into offices and archive rooms with a link to the existing second floor area and extension to the side to provide access stairs to loft conversion

Recommend Approval

Proposed Redhill site information from Quora Developments.

It was noted that in the proposed plans that were detailed in the correspondence, that the EV charging point is limited power, but the developer can pay to upgrade to the network connection. The solar farm could be used to link into power this supply. It was agreed that the Clerk to write and raise this query and ask for more details.

7/23. To discuss progress on the EMG Grant and any new areas to be discussed for consideration.

10/1/2023

Update from Cllr A Edwards:-

Jamie has now visited the Heath Hill site and he has been requested to undertake the following works:-

- remove two dead trees, both of which had been "ringed"
- lop other trees which have potentially dangerous branches
- cut and tidy the whole area to make the path and bench useable
- heavy cut to the grass and overgrowth

Cllr Tonkinson was unable to attend so it is hoped that these actions will be to his satisfaction.

The contractor has now completed the tree works at Heath Hill and Cllr Mr A Edwards will check the work that's been completed. Members thanked him for his hard work and organising this project.

This was noted.

8/23. Flooding on Church Lane / The Rock

Update received from Shropshire Council - Manny has had a team from Kier working in The Rock this week. The task was to investigate the drainage system at the junction of The Rock and Church Lane. There is still potentially additional problems at this site that may need further investigation, Manny has arranged for one of our in house Jetter teams to visit site to further understand condition and extents of the Highway drainage system.

As discussed in the public participation - It was suggested by Cllr Mr N Pulker that we write to Highways to ask for an update on the flooding at The Rock and Church Lane, in addition to be included the issues at the top of Church Lane / B4379, and the damage to the road surface caused by the flooding and copy Cllr Mr K Turley so he also can progress this further.

9/23. The job of the clerk...

It was request as an update so members of the council could better understand the role of the Clerk if she could give a brief summary on her role and issues / areas of concern. It was noted that her appraisal is due.

The Clerk reported that:-

On average I receive about 20 emails per day, the majority are selling services play equipment etc., all of the relevant correspondence is forwarded to Cllrs as soon as possible.

Shropshire Local Councils Association send through quite a number of emails, on varying topics from training to requests from other local councils on what other Parishes do in certain situations. They hold regular Clerks network meetings, which I try to attend if they are via TEAMS and are not clashing with my other evening council meetings or in a morning when I am contracted to work at Kinver Parish Council Office.

It is better for me as Clerk if there are any areas of concern or updates wanted if they can let me have them before a meeting so I can try to get an update from the relevant party, I have a list of regular items to chase, but as we know Shropshire Council (as most large authorities) do not always move the quickest and we are only a very small Parish to them. Cllr Turley is amazing and always seems to be able to help and point me in the right direction...

The hours I am contracted do cover my time worked, in the past this has not been the case (particularly through Covid when 1 month I clocked up 40 hours), but it has levelled out now.

I feel that I am very supported by the Chairman which always makes a happy working environment.

The best way to communicate is if you can email, this is easier than me taking calls when I am at Kinver in the mornings. I will always try to respond as quickly as possible and to any voice mails left on the mobile.

Members thanked the Clerk for all her hard work for the Council. It would be good for local Clerks to work together.

10/23. Aims and Objectives for the Council

Three initial thoughts from Cllr Alan Edwards :-

RECRUITMENT OF NEW COUNCILLORS

This is a topic frequently discussed at Council meetings.

Most of our more recent attempts at attracting new councillors have been well intentioned but perhaps ad hoc; e.g., we have all probably tried to recruit neighbours or parishioners met at events we have attended, but all to no avail.

Therefore, perhaps we should give thought to a written policy on recruitment, if we don't already have one, so that we can demonstrate that we have made all possible efforts to increase our numbers.

I'm not certain that we can overcome the epidemic of apathy that seems to be prevailing throughout the UK but at least we should make another attempt to prove that we are a Council worth participating in.

When the Chairman writes his report for the Parish Magazine article, he does ask that we have vacancies, and it was asked if he can ask for a front page ½ page to highlight issues in the Parish and also in the future ask what residents' priorities are for Sheriffhales.

TREE PLANTING

Cllrs Mr G Tonkinson and Mr A Edwards suggested tree planting on spare land that must be available within the Parish.

Another option would be to consider donating a tree for planting at each property in the Parish.

This could be funded by re-directing Lightsource funds which Cllr Tonkinson suggested may not be required for Playing Field improvements.

An added benefit would be to provide income to local businesses e.g., Lilyhurst Plant Centre and/or Bloomsbury Garden Centre.

WAR MEMORIAL

The refurbishment of the War Memorial is another topic which has seemingly dragged on because of the high cost of the original quote(s).

Could we address this again by approaching other contractors, previously mentioned by Jenny, and either form a plan for completion of the work or, reluctantly, accept that the cost cannot be justified.

Action: It was agreed that the Clerk get quotes to re-paint the names on the memorial and bring this back to the next meeting.

Cllr Mr D Himsforth suggested that we don't always identify needs, and we lose sight of what the village needs. This would help objectively managing what the village require. He is concerned that local influence over the years has subsided and there are more decisions taken at central Government. A suggestion was perhaps putting out a survey / questions sheet to residents in the village to ask for feedback.

Cllr Mr G Tonkinson said localism should come back, the Clerk suggested perhaps using the vehicle of the EMG to do this.

If any Councillors have any ideas to bring them forward onto the agenda.

11/23. To receive an update on the Blacksmiths Site

An update has been requested from Mark Berrow at Shropshire Council.

12/23. To receive a statement from the new Shifnal and Priorslee Medical Practice at Shifnal invite to the next meeting for a statement,

No response has been received from the practice and the Clerk will try to invite them to a future meeting.

13/23. Clerks report.

Correspondence received

An email was received from the Village Hall Committee – following the last meeting and the Clerk responded to the Committee the position of the legal position of the Parish Council. The action taken by the Clerk was agreed as the correct course of action. On a vote this was agreed, and no further paperwork will be issued in relation to this matter. On a vote this was agreed and Cllr Mr G Tonkinson asked his name be recorded against this .

Notice from the Auditors for next 5 years Audit details.

Smart water – Signage has been agreed to be erected by the Police although we have not achieved the required registered packs. They need to know locations for the signage. Members suggested all entrance roads into the villages and surrounding areas of the Parish, such as they A5 / A41 side , by noticeboard Church Lane, The Rock, Sheriffhales sign on B4379 and also the outlying hamlets.

14/23. Future Agenda items

To be with the Clerk by the 6th of March 2023.

15/23. Dates and Times of future meetings.

14th March 2023 at 6.00pm APM

14th March 2023 at 7.15pm

The meeting was closed at this point on the agenda 8.30pm.