

**MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 14th NOVEMBER 2023 AT
7.00PM AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL**

Present Councillors: Mr J Horne (Chairman); Mr Neil Pulker; Mr D Himsworth; Mrs P Hodgetts; Mrs S Whittam; Mr Alan Edwards; Unitary Cllr Mr K Turley and Mr Gordon Tonkinson.

In attendance Clerk to the Council – Mrs Jennifer Cree, Mrs Horne, Mrs Himsworth, PCC John Campion, Local Policing Team.

111/23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Mrs A Sutcliffe and Mrs L Edwards.

112/23. Declaration of Councillors' Pecuniary Interests.

Cllr N Pulker declared an interest as he is a Director of the Sheriffhales Solar Farm.

113/23. To receive for confirmation and adoption and agree the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 5th September 2023.

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. On a vote these were agreed.

114/23. PCC John Campion to attend the meeting along with the local serving officers

PCC John Campion addressed the Council on the following items:-

- He acts as Governor for the police and a duty to reduce crime.
- His population is 1.3 million people that he is responsible for.
- Parish Council survey that runs each year is very useful information to relay back to the Police.
- Visibility of officers is important, and he has increased the serving members by 500 officers.
- Shifnal Police base, is in place because of Shifnal Town Council funding and supporting this, so officers have a local base.
- Strategy – make sure we see Officers more regularly and how we work with Council's to support and work together to prevent crime.
- Parish Community engagement – local policing community charter, this is to engage with Parish Councils every three months to find out the issues and what may be happening and feedback any progress and updates.
- Response times – West Mercia is a large rural area for the main, and very spread-out. Improvement has been made in responding to emergencies, but steps are in place to continue to improve.
- In the past calls made to 999 were a 50 / 50 split of emergency calls and other calls like 101. Now , the emergency performance has dipped slightly, as this split has increased, the expected time to answer a 999 call is 10 seconds. At the moment 75% are answered in that time. Further resources will be put into to do this.
- Community Officers are made of safer Neighbourhood Police Officers, supported by PCSO's. Warranted Officers need to work alongside the PCSO's to support them.

Cllr N Pulker asked that the Chief constable is measured by crime stats going up or down how is the PCC role measured. The PCC replied that he works out a Safer Policing plan and sets priorities, and he is judged at the ballot box when election time is due. He publishes an annual report in April each year, and this is on his website, he will forward a copy to the Clerk for circulation.

Cllr G Tonkinson asked about hare coursing concerns which is increasing in the rural areas, in other areas, vehicles are ceased, and the dogs are rehomed, is this possible for this area. When suspicious vehicles are seen, how do they report them to the Police.

PCC John Campion replied that with regard to intelligence in the community, the person seeing this should be reporting it to 101 or local officers. With regard to Hare coursing getting the information to the officers will allow the officers to take action.

It was noted that any reported that all intelligence helps the officers, and there is also an online notification system to get information back to residents on localised incidents.

PC Knock is the Wildlife Officer, circulated his contact details for ease to report incidents or suspicions. There is new legislation from 2022 to deal with Hare coursing crimes, and the first conviction took place in November 22. The penalties are similar to those Cllr G Tonkinson raised, vehicles and dogs are seized.

If there is something that the Officers need to be put forward for our community, it can be circulated to the Parish Magazine, to let people know, and also do a community event, for cyber-crime etc. Also they could attend the community café on a Friday afternoon. The Chairman will liaise with the local policing team to help organise their attendance.

Cllr D Himsworth –he commented on the perception of the public and the press is negative, and this perception needs to be improved particularly with the younger people and their lack of respect needs to be tackled, political correctness in his opinion needs to be looked at.

PCC John Campion reported that the majority of people do support the Police, and his job is to work to the legislation. Police Officers have to make decisions with that they are faced with, so leadership comes from the Chief Constable. This is a position he is currently filling. The positives do not get published like the negatives do, so this should be improving in the public eye shortly.

Cllr A Edwards thanked the team for the traffic monitoring that has been undertaken on the B4379. The results of the latest speed monitoring that took place recently, showed that there was not a requirement for Community Speed-watch Group. Traffic speed markers have since been put down and those results have come back, and the results now support Community Speed-watch, so this being looked into. Shropshire Council have now allowed VAS and so the Parish Council can now apply for funding.

Cllr D Himsworth asked if outcomes from arrests / sentencing is not fed back to the public / person that has reported the issue. PCC John Campion reported that if it is a traffic offence there may not be a link back, but burglaries information for instance may be fed back.

Operation Snap does allow data from Dashcams to be uploaded to the Police re dangerous driving, and the footage is looked at, although the person reporting it may not get feedback on this matter.

Mrs Himsworth stated that she would like to know who the Officers so people have a name to a face, this should improve with better Community Engagement.

Cllr K Turley reported that he has to work alongside the Police from time to time and he is grateful for the work that they do. There is a committee meeting 5 times a year with the PCC, and those present are on the Councils and challenge /discuss matters with him on a regular basis.

It would be great for Community Speed-watch to come to the area, with the speed van in place, other vehicles do warn other drivers, this is technically hindering the Police, but not an offence. It was noted that the speed camera van locations are published for that day, so it is public knowledge.

Members thanked the PCC for attending the meeting along with his colleagues.

115/23. Public Participation

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

2 residents attended the meeting that are relations of the former owner of the Old Smithy, they would like to develop the land. One lives in Wenlock and the other is a small developer. He has spoken to Shropshire Council and there is no requirement for housing in Sheriffhales, but people do still want to move to a village. They would like to gauge the Councils opinion on developing the land and what would Sheriffhales like to see being developed. They will forward details / information to the Clerk.

Standing orders were re-instated.

116/23. Unitary Councillor feedback and questions

Cllr K Turley reported:-

- He has had a drive round with Graham Downs to look at the area, he looked at Church Lane and the area by the Church to get it onto the capital expenditure program. Decent drainage, curb edgings etc, are required he would like the Parish Council to make representations to support his request.
- Many people are trying to move from Sheriffhales to Shifnal for smaller properties due to the bedroom tax. There are little options to move. Could there be a link to get access improved for people of Sheriffhales to Telford and Shifnal. The Chairman has spoken to the Clerk at Shifnal as they work with Tong, so it may be an option to work with Sheriffhales. The previous Solar Panel Committee did fund a taxi service for residents, but it was not used. Cllr N Pulker at the previous Solar Farm Committee did look at this for disabled, retired and unemployed people. This was organised by a local member of the public, unfortunately this service was not taken up. So, it was suspended. If people need this service, they should email Sheriffhales Solar Farm to start this again. It appears that the Shuttle is operating to Sheriffhales, and Cllr K Turley will look into this.
- The busses running from Shifnal are Commercial bus routes and he is trying to keep services open.
- Area behind Pinfold a question was raised by a councillor, he will look into this, and any questions send them to Cllr K Turley, and he will do his best to respond.

117/23. To receive an update on the final celebrations that took place in October for the Coronation of King Charles III

The weather was very good, there were many people that attended, and the community planted the tree. The Council thanked all the Councillors and volunteers that worked so hard to make all of these events a success this year.

118/23. Planning applications received, Decisions and Enforcement matters made by Shropshire Council

Planning applications

23/04089/FUL Erection of domestic garage/home workshop extension to existing garden Office/studio with provision of new hardstanding access track - LOCATION: Hunger Hill Farm, Sheriffhales, Shifnal,

23/04406/FUL Erection of domestic garage/home workshop extension to existing garden office/studio, formation of a new vehicular access and access track - LOCATION: - Hunger Hill Farm, Sheriffhales, Shifnal,

23/04400/FUL 72 Heath Hill, Sheriffhales
Erection of double extension and renovation of property.

23/04430/TCA The Beeches, The Rock
Crown reduce to 10m above ground level 1no Horse
The above applications were noted.

Decisions

Reference: 23/03569/CPE (validated: 15/08/2023)
Address: 32A Marsh Lane, Sheriffhales, Shropshire
Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use as C3 dwelling House
Decision: Certificate - Lawful

Reference: 23/03487/FUL (validated: 21/08/2023)
Address: Waterside, Burlington Court, Burlington, Sheriffhales, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8BW
Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the installation of 20No solar panels to the south facing roof of the property, Installation of an air source heat pump on the external south facing wall, retrospective permission for

the installation of an air conditioning inverter on the external south facing wall
Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 23/03698/FUL (validated: 01/09/2023)

Address: Amberleigh Care Ltd, The Oaks, Redhill, Shifnal, Sheriffhales, Shropshire, TF2 9NZ

Proposal: To convert the roof space into office and archive rooms with a link to the existing second floor area. To extend to the side to provide access to loft conversion. To extend to the side with a single storey extension to provide additional dining and living space at ground floor.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 23/02979/FUL (validated: 10/07/2023)

Address: St Marys Church, Sheriffhales, Shropshire

Proposal: Change of use of land to the north of St Marys Church from agricultural land to graveyard

Decision: Grant Permission

Enforcement

Telford and Wrekin Council contacted directly re Concrete plant – awaiting response.
Cllr K Turley looking into the Hire business enforcement on the A5.

119/23. To discuss and set a budget and associated Precept for 2024/5

The accounts to the 30th September and the draft budget are attached as appendix 1 to these minutes.

The accounts were noted and accepted.

It was proposed by Cllr Mr N Pulker and seconded by Cllr Mr A Edwards to set a precept at the level of £16962.00 with the associated budget, and allocated reserves as per appendix 1 to these minutes and information below. On a vote this was carried.

Proposed Budget notes 2024/25

1 The estimated outturn for 2023/4 income

Projected income **£18497.00**

2 The estimated outturn for 2023/4 expenditure

Projected expenditure **£27,982.00**

3 The estimated outturn for 2023/4 for Reserve fund schemes and the estimated opening balance for 2023/4

Estimated overspend on budget **£9,199.56** to be taken from Parish Council ear marked reserves, i.e Contingencies, general reserves and Coronation lines.

4 The estimated outturn for 2023/4 for Lightsource funded schemes and the estimated reduced opening balance for 2024/5

The opening balance of Lightsource funds is **£20,500.00** this will be reduced to **£19750** for the opening balance for 2024/5 (this is reduced by £800 for the work to the War Memorial which is still to be invoiced)

5 The proposed base budget for income for 2024/5

The proposed income budget **£18513.00** (this is a take from reserves of £0.00)

6 The proposed base budget for expenditure for 2024/5

The proposed Exp **£18513.00**

The Parish Reserves were agreed as below:-

Part 3 Parish Council Reserves

Bank Balance as at 31/3/23 £
37,125.29

Of which Lightsource Balance to be removed from the total £
20,500.00

Total sum of reserves as at 31/3/23 available for the Parish Council £
16,625.29

Parish Council Earmarked funds as at 31/3/23 **Amended Sept 23**

Playing Field Refurbishment (some funds spent already on repairs to play area)	£3,644.00	£3,459.23
Elections	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Parish Plan	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
General Reserve	£2,356.90	£0.00

Contingencies			£2550 paid for bus shelter + £599 for laptop + £1167.50 insurance claim received in last financial year £3649.56 from general reserves
	£4,424.39	£0.00	
Coronation	£3,000.00	£0.00	Spent this year

Total **£16,625.29** **£6,659.23**

Lightsource funds as at 31/03/2023 **£20,500.00** **Amended Sept 23**
£19,750.00

To be allocated for the following projects:-

General Contingencies	£ 10,500.00	£ 10,500.00
War Memorial ***	£ 5,000.00	£ 4,250.00
Playing field refurbishment	£ 5,000.00	£ 5,000.00

Reduced as work complete to refurbish

War memorial repaired *** so balance no longer required

120/23. To discuss and agree Parish Councillors roles and responsibilities

This was deferred to the next meeting.

121/23. Clerks report including - Updates on outstanding items

On school liaison meeting – deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Mrs L Edwards sent her apologies for the meeting.

Missing Hedge at Burlington – Cllr J Horne said he has contact details for the landowner and is reaching out to them. It was agreed that Cllr D Himsworth will take this forward.

Planters / SIDS – No further progress with Shropshire Council has taken, but the PCC has advised that Shropshire Council will support these items and he would support funding both these projects from his fund, therefore the Clerk will submit grant applications for both a VAS and gateway markers.

20's plenty – No further progress with Shropshire Council

Drs Invite – Cllr N Pulker reported that he will progress when the doctors have moved into their new premises.

Bins – All damaged bins have been reported again to Shropshire Council.

Parking by school – photographs forwarded to Shropshire Council Highways Department and the Police.

Noticeboard - papers are curling due to damp so unreadable, Cllr Mrs P Hodgetts said she will put any notices in and kindly offered to laminate them also.

Attwell Park walk – a member of the public has requested that the Council ask for a bench to be located halfway down Mr Goughs drive, to help people walking. It was agreed that if there is more of a public interest then this would be looked at. The Clerk to go back to the person that has requested the bench and let them know the Council's decision.

A request to purchase 2 additional silent soldiers at a cost of circa £300 has been received, so it was agreed for the Clerk to purchase two more and in addition, it was agreed to purchase 10 large lamppost poppies the Clerk to organise at the same time. On a vote this was agreed.

Free Tree Scheme was noted.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council presented flowers to the Clerk to thank her for her work on behalf of the Council, Mrs Himsworth and Mrs Horne for their help in providing refreshments for the Council meetings and their support.

122/23. Accounts for payment

The accounts detailed below were accepted as detailed below:-

01/09/2023	109.40	124	HMRC
09/09/2023	162.00	125	Dittons
05/09/2023	31.26	126	J Cree
07/09/2023	20.00	127	Pest Control
06/09/2023	718.80	128	J R K
18/09/2023	90.22	129	Ashridge Nurseries
27/09/2023	52.04	130	NALC
19/09/2023	389.70	131	Brunel Engraving
01/10/2023	109.40	132	HMRC
09/10/2023	162.00	133	Dittons
01/10/2023	437.60	134	J Cree
14/10/2023	26.47	135	Ionos

23/10/2023	59.48	136	Sainsburys
23/10/2023	5220.00	137	Watts Agricultural

123/23. Development of the playing field and village assets

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

124/23. Top 3 priorities of the Council, for next 12 months

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

125/23. Feedback from the Village Hall meeting / Committee

A minutes since was held for Tina Whitehouse who sadly passed away in October.

The Chairman reported that the village hall was struggling to get Committee members to run the facility. A public meeting was held prior to the recent Committee meeting, and they have now got a few new members to keep the Village Hall Committee going.

The Chairman currently serves as the Council representative, Cllr Mrs P Hodgetts is happy to take this role on to lessen the Chairmans burden. This was agreed by the Council.

126/23. Future Agenda items

Development of the playing field and village assets, Top 3 priorities of the Council, for next 12 months, Roles and Responsibilities.

127/23. Dates and Times of next meeting - 9th January 2024

Appendix 1 to the minutes of Sheriffhales Parish Council held on the 14th November 2023

Budget Comparison						
PART 1						
Receipts						Proposed
	Budget	Actual	Balance	projected Income		Budget
	2023/24	Income	Remaining			2024/25
Precept	£16,962.00	£16,962.00	£0.00	£16,962.00		£16,962.00
EMG Grant	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00		£1,500.00
Interest	£1.00	£17.01	£16.01	£35.00	6 months more interest to receive	£51.00
Total	£18,463.00	£18,479.01	£16.01	£18,497.00		£18,513.00
PART 2						
Payments	Budget	Actual	Balance	Projected Exp		Proposed
	2023/24	Paid	Remaining			Budget
	2023/24					2023/24
Salaries	£6,563.00	£3,282.00	£3,281.00	£6,563.00		£6,563.00
Stationery/postage/printing/exp.	£250.00	£897.54	-£647.54	£1,000.00	Lap top bought at £599 (paid from contingencies)	£250.00
Mobile Phone	£240.00	£211.32	£28.68	£211.00		£240.00
Transport Expenses	£120.00	£62.58	£57.42	£120.00		£120.00
Parish Magazine this is S137 expenditure	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	£250.00		£250.00
Audit	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00		£100.00
Cllr/Clerks Training/conferen	£150.00	£105.89	£44.11	£150.00	Course booked £30	£150.00
Elections	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00
Subscriptions	£600.00	£386.20	£213.80	£600.00		£600.00
Insurance	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£500.00	Due in January	£550.00
hire of venues	£250.00	£240.00	£10.00	£240.00	This is for last years meetings	£250.00
Coronation event					Total so far spent £2751.96, refreshments for Oct to be added budget £3000 allocated from reserves for this project	£0.00
	£3,000.00	£2,751.96	£248.04	£3,000.00		£0.00
Civic / Community	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00		£1,000.00
Community Grants This is S137 expenditure	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00		£500.00
Playing field maintenance	£2,000.00	£1,130.00	£870.00	£2,000.00		£2,000.00
Playing Field Loan	£3,240.00	£1,618.91	£1,621.09	£3,240.00	2nd payment to be made	£3,240.00
Funding to deliver new prioritised programme for EMG (match funding)	£1,500.00	£240.00	£1,260.00	£4,590.00	£1500 grant and £1500 match funding giving £3000 total exp.	£1,500.00
Christmas Display	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	Electricity for display	£100.00
Specialist Services inc. Legal and professional advice	£250.00	£3,717.50	-£3,467.50	£3,718.00	Defib insurance claim £1167.50 income received last year) and £2550 for repairing bus shelter this to be funded from reserves	£250.00
War Memorial / Remembrance	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	£800.00	Invoice due for repair works to be funded from Lightsource funds	£50.00
Website	£300.00	£135.33	£164.67	£300.00		£300.00
Chairman's Discretionary exp	£500.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00		£500.00
Total Expenditure	£21,463.00	£15,379.23	£6,083.77	£27,982.00		£18,513.00
Total Income	£18,463.00	£18,479.01	-£16.01	£18,497.00		£18,513.00
Difference	£3,000.00	-£3,099.78	£6,099.78	-£9,199.56		£0.00