

BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes the Ordinary Meeting of Bitterley Parish Council on 17th March 2025,

Present: Cllrs A Holman (Chair), G Dolphin, J Gatehouse, P Martin, T Millard, R J Osborne, K Parry, J Reardon-Smith, and D Rogers

2025/334 Apologies: Cllr R Huffer (Shropshire Council)

2025/335 Declarations of Interest

- i. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None
- ii. To declare any Non-Pecuniary Interests: None

2025/336 Public Participation (maximum 15 minutes): Two members of the public were present. No comments.

2025/337 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting on the 17th February 2025:
RESOLVED: to accept the minutes and they were signed by the chair.

2025/338 Shropshire Councillor Report – Cllr Huffer. Apologies received. No report.

2025/339 Clerks Report: The clerk reported that she had requested that Shropshire Drainage Engineer visit the railway line to consider remedies to flooding issue. Planning Enforcement had responded stating that the deviations from the planning had been recognised and the owner had appointed an agent to try to rectify the issues. The .gov.uk domain and email addresses had been requested. Mr Lewis has now completed the tasks under the Environmental Maintenance Contract. The Village Hall has been booked for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 12th May and she will contact Mr Hickson, Rights of Way Officer, Shropshire Council to make a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting. The bulb in the streetlight at 27/28 Bedlam Lane has been changed and the Clerk will notify Shropshire Council. A defibrillator pad was replaced in the unit on Angel Bank. The Angel Bank and Bedlam telephone boxes need repairs. She continues to work beyond her contracted hours due to the workload.
RESOLVED: The clerk to keep one spare defibrillator pads rather than a spare one in each telephone box. The clerk to contact Shropshire Councils heritage buildings department with regards to maintaining the telephone boxes which now contain the defibrillators.

2025/340 Discuss the Notice Board at Cleeton St Mary: Cllr Osborne will contact an associate who maybe able to do the repairs.

2025/341 Ledwyche Liaison Group Update: the environmental surveys have been delayed as will the work start date. They will update the council on the Community Benefit Grant.

2025/342 Consider a Motion to Put to SALC to Request that John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner) Attends a Future SALC South Shropshire Area Committee to Discuss the Crime Solving Rate in South Shropshire: Deferred to the next meeting to allow for the latest figures to be published.

2025/343 Financial Matters:

- i. Approve Payments:

Payee	Inv No	Amount
D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance)	706, 710	275.00

H Coonick (Reimbursement Microsoft 365 £84.99, MedUk Defib Pad £64.14, postage £18.40)		£167.53
Rocking Horse Media	064	£40.00
SALC (Data Protection Training Cllrs Parry, Holman, and Millard)	2576	£105
Shropshire Council (Streetlight Electricity)	7313939	£174.59
SALC (Internal Control Training, H Coonick, Clerk)	2570	35.00
Bitterley Village Hall (Room Hire)	2025030302	£275.00

RESOLVED to make the above payments.

- 2025/344 Consider the Expenditure of the Environmental Maintenance Grant and Approve the Grant Application for 2025-26:** Councillors raised areas where digger work on ditches was required including Cleeton St Mary, Middleton to Hopton Cangeford Road, Brook House Farm to Yew Tree, Ledwyche, Cleestanton Road, Bitterley Lane.
RESOLVED: to agree the application for the grant for £1,500 to allow for the additional digger contractor and Mr Lewis for 2025-26. To thank Mr Lewis for his work.
- 2025/345 Update on Volunteer Highway Maintenance Group:** Cllr Holman presented a timeline for the group which included a call for volunteers, inspection and clean up of Bitterley Lane to be repeated after the resurfacing with ongoing inspections to review the quality of the resurfacing. Cllr Osborne will look into providing tabards and highway signage for use by the group.
- 2025/346 Update on Highways:** It is not clear whether the lane to the church will be resurfaced at the same time as Bitterley Lane. Shropshire Council have been notified of the difficulty of closing the road to the church for resurfacing during April and May.
- 2025/347 Update on the Clerk's Annual Review and Consider Recommendations:** Cllrs Holman, Osborne and Millard met with the Clerk for her Annual Review and the report had been presented to councillors. The Clerk and Cllr Parry will identify a replacement laptop.
RESOLVED: to increase the Clerks hours from 4.5 to 5.5 per week from 1st April 2025. In a Confidential Section of the meeting Councillors have unanimously agreed the recommendations of the Personnel Committee that after a good review the clerk's spinal point should be increased by one to SCP Point 11. This increase in pay will apply from 1st April 2025.
- 2025/348 Review and Adopt the General Privacy Notice:**
RESOLVED: to adopt the notice. Cllr Reardon-Smith will work on a shorter version to be considered in 2026.
- 2025/349 Review and Adopt the Grants Awarding Policy for 2025-26:** The Regeneration and Levelling Up Act 2023 means that Councils need to consider requests for church property as they would any other funding request.
RESOLVED: to approve the policy once 'no grant can be provided for maintenance of church buildings' from section 2 of the conditions has been removed.
- 2025/350 Councillors Reports:** Cllr Reardon-Smith reported that he had attended the Openreach meeting. Residents are being encouraged look on Openreach's Connect My Community website to see if their home qualifies for the voucher scheme. Cllr Millard reported that the SmartWater scheme needed twenty-two more households registered

to trigger the installation of SmartWater signs. In a Confidential Section of the meeting Cllr Holman reported that Atlas Tower Group had not had a response from the landowners/tenants of the preferred sites for a mobile telephone mast. Although Councillors in principle, are in favour of a new mobile phone mast, understand that at this stage it is a matter for the provider and the landowner/tenant. If the opportunity arises then they will ask if contact between the parties has been made.

2025/351 Action List: Deferred to the next meeting.

2025/352 Items for the next Agenda: a. Consider a motion to Put to SALC to Request that John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner) Attends a Future SALC South Shropshire Area Committee to Discuss the Crime Solving Rate in South Shropshire b. Purchase of a laptop c. Notice board repairs at Cleeton St Mary. d. Ledwyche Community Benefit

Ordinary Meeting: 7.00pm Monday 14th April 2025 at Bitterley Village Hall