

DRAFT MINUTES OF BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Monday 20th November 2023

Clerk: Michelle Parker Tel: 07943762988

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Present: Mrs. A. Holman (Chair), Mrs. K. Wheeler (Vice Chair), Mr. R. Osborne, Mr T. Millard, Mr. C. Chillingworth, Mr. P. Martin, Mr. D. Rogers, Mr J. Reardon-Smith and Mr. J. Gatehouse.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Michelle Parker (Clerk) Jane Jones and Ian Childs

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm

	ITEM	ACTION
2023/96	Apologies: Mr G. Dolphin	
2023/97	Public participation: A member of the public (MOTP), Jane Jones expressed satisfaction with the bridge repairs to the bridge in Bitterley but queried why there is a gap between the road surface and bridge which has been replaced by earth and grass seed. It has already been damaged. Query to roads – could this space be tarmacked as well? MOTP, Ian Childs received a note of alleged breach of planning control at The Wharf (Bitterley – by Bedlam turning). It concerns damage to roadside furniture (assumed could be a signpost) and the verge. The PC will wait for further information from Shropshire Council and/or Mr Childs. It was suggested that the damaged sign might be better re-sited.	Clerk
2023/98	Declarations of Interest: Members confirmed the absence of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. Katharyn Wheeler disclosed that the Wharf, discussed in the public forum, is on her property.	
2023/99	Minutes Approval: The minutes from the meeting on October 16th, 2023, were accepted as accurate. Alison Holman signed and approved the final draft.	
2023/100	Clerk's Report: Newly appointed Clerk Michelle Parker is to introduce a spreadsheet to present road closure information. She will investigate making this available on the website. Councillors to give feedback at January meeting. Councillors suggested a radius for road information of 8/10 miles including Cleeton St Mary, A49, A4117 and roads to Bridgenorth.	Clerk

	As she is new in her position the Clerk has requested feedback from all councillors so she could better understand how to support them.	
2023/101	<p>Grant Applications:</p> <p>Churchyard maintenance at St Mary's Church, Bitterley</p> <p>All councillors were given the opportunity to speak for or against this grant application.</p> <p>Cllr Holman proposed that a grant be made to Bitterley Church. Seconded by Cllr Osborne. 7 voted for with 1 abstention.</p> <p>Cllr Holman proposed that the grant to the Church be of a value of £500. Seconded by Cllr Osborne 5 voted for 3 voted against</p> <p>Cheque to be raised.</p> <p>Seed funding for Brown Clee Medical Practice Community Group.</p> <p>After discussion Cllr Holman proposed to decline the request for funding. Cllr Gatehouse seconded. All agreed.</p> <p>Letter to be sent informing the group of PC decision.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
2023/102	<p>Tree planting and Woodland Creation:</p> <p>After examination of the information provided by Ross Cowle from The Tree Team at Shropshire Council, the conclusion was reached that the offer of trees was relevant to councils with land. As Bitterley PC does not fit into this category nothing would be pursued.</p>	
2023/103	<p>Facebook Administrators:</p> <p>There is currently a Bitterley Parish Facebook page which is administered by Henry Chance. Cllr Osborne is also an administrator but does not post either for himself or just on behalf of the Parish Council but items that may be of interest in the parish such as local events. The PC needs to clarify the purpose of the site as it is not the Bitterley Parish Council Website,</p> <p>Cllr Osborne proposed that he contact Henry Chance to clarify the purpose of the site. Seconded by Cllr Wheeler. All agreed</p>	RO
2023/104	<p>Roads:</p> <p>a/ Road Closure Information – discussed under clerks report.</p> <p>b/ Shropshire Council Request for Storm Babet information</p> <p>Information on flooding of businesses and personal property – it is up to the individual to do. The clerk will put the link on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>Information on flooding affecting roads and transport. Councillors to send reports to Clerk who will collate and send to Shropshire Council. Date for submissions to clerk 15th December 2023</p> <p>Cllr Osborne supported by Cllr Holman to review information as well.</p> <p>Cllr Huffer has confirmed that the council does not have a statutory obligation to provide and distribute Sandbags. A limited supply was available at Craven Arms on a first come first come basis.</p> <p>Damage to wall at Bridge Cottage. where the bridge narrows.</p> <p>Potential solutions like width restrictions, speed restrictions, and sleeping policemen were raised. Cllr Holman proposed contacting</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>RO, AH</p> <p>AH, RO, MP</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	Nick Newington from Highways seconded by Cllr Gatehouse. All agreed. d/ Blocked drains at Cleeton St Mary reported by Ros Woodward to be reported by Clerk on Fix My Street.	Clerk
2023/105	PCC Invitation: Invitation to be extended to John Campion Police and Crime Commissioner to attend the Parish Council Meeting in January. Cllr Reardon Smith proposed that questions be sent to the PCC in advance of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Osborne. Clerk will draft generic questions with input from Councillors. These will be circulated for comment by councillors prior to sending them to the PCC. Areas of concern were lack of statistical information on crime in the Parish and Police manpower. The deadline for submitting questions is set for January 1st.	Clerk Clerk
2023/106	Website: Although the current website is not perfect Cllr Holman expressed concern that no councillor had time to follow through with the project of migrating the website at present. Cllr Holman proposed staying with the current provider for 12 months. Seconded by Cllr Osborne. 6 for 2 against. However, because of concerns raised regarding accessibility and security around the use of personal email addresses the Clerk agreed to continue looking into the matter and would provide a progress report in January.	Clerk
2023/107	Planning Applications: Potteries Farm, Angel Bank Erection of general-purpose agricultural building. It was decided to let it proceed with no comment. Cleeton Cottage, Cleeton St Mary, Erection of a single-storey extension and the formation of an enlarged terrace. Permission was granted. The Wharf, Bitterley, Alleged breach of planning control. The council noted the issue without further comment. Padel Court application update It was resubmitted with a change to flexible commercial use, excluding leisure but still including the Padel Court. Notification only, not able to raise objections or support.	
2023/108	NALC Pay Scales 2023/2024: The council received forwarded NALC pay scales for the year 2023/2024. Cllr Holman proposed adoption of pay scales. Cllr Osborne seconded. All agreed. The clerk is tasked with submitting the claim for back pay by Sue Jones, the previous clerk, as the new pay rates are dated back to the 1 st April 2023.	Clerk

