

BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES 15TH JULY 2024

Members: Cllrs A Holman (Chair), J Gatehouse, P J Martin, T Millard, R J Osborne, K Parry, J Reardon-Smith and D W Rogers. **In Attendance:** Cllr Richard Huffer (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk/RFO).

2024/212 Apologies: Cllr G Dolphin.

2024/213 Declarations of Interest

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

2024/214 Public Participation: No members of the public were in attendance.

2024/215 Approve the Minutes of the Meeting on the 17th June 2024:

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes as an accurate record, signed by the chair.

2024/216 PCSO Lisa Thomas from West Mercia Police reported that Bitterley Parish Council Area has a low crime rate with one theft since April and a few domestic issues. 'Neighbourhood Matters' is useful for people to know what is going on in their area. Farm packs of SmartWater are available – contact the Neighbourhood teams. Cllr Holman raised the matter of speed. The Safer Roads Partnership should assess the speed of traffic since the installation of the new speed limit at Henley. Acoustic equipment to check noise nuisance from vehicles might be available via Environmental Health. If vehicles have been modified, then the police can check that they are still roadworthy. Residents can inform the Safer Neighbourhood Team when there are particular issues with noise nuisance. Cllr Holman raised the issue of the incorrect information on the police website – Bitterley is in Ludlow area not Clee. If a crime is in progress continue to report via 999, but if reporting a crime that has already occurred report via 101. If you record an incident outside your property, it can be shared with the police, but it may break regulations if shared on social media etc. **RESOLVED:** to raise awareness of how to report crimes via the website, notice boards and flyers. Send a list of meeting dates to Sgt Jenni Price.

2024/217 Set the Policing Priorities for the Parish: the Parish Council has not received the form to complete. The Clerk will request a form. **RESOLVED:** defer to the next meeting.

2024/218 Police and Crime Commissioner's Town and Parish Council Survey 2024: Cllrs contributed to the survey and Cllr Holman will complete it.

2024/219 Shropshire Councillor Report: Cllr Huffer reported that hopefully Shropshire Council may get a fairer settlement from the new government. Cllr Reardon-Smith reported that there had been an incident of fly-tipping of garden waste in the area which has been reported but not collected by Shropshire Council. He asked for Cllr Huffer to report this to Shropshire Council. This was of concern due to the decision to charge for green waste collection.

2024/220 Clerks Report: The council has not yet been registered with the Information Commissioners Office – she hopes to do this before the next meeting. Training for defibrillator volunteers is on the 22nd July.

2024/221

Planning

- i. Elect a Chair of the Planning Committee: the committee consists of Cllrs Reardon Smith, Gatehouse, Holman and Millard. Cllr Gatehouse proposed, and Cllr Martin seconded:
RESOLVED: Cllr Reardon-Smith was elected as chair.
- ii. [24/01719/FUL](#) Lower Court Farm, Bitterley, SY8 3HF. Replacement of current barns for storage of general agricultural materials including hay and straw for the over winter period of cattle. Decision by Shropshire Council: Grant Permission. Noted.
- iii. [24/02353/FUL](#) Farm Barn, Middleton. External alteration to barn in connection with permitted change of use for the sale of farm produce, associated goods and light refreshments, erection of toilet block, re siting of and alterations to one silo to form field shelter, demolition of pole barn, installation of package (sewage) treatment plant:
RESOLVED: to make no comment

2024/222

Ledwyche – Progress on Liaison Group: The issues that are still causing concerns are: The area between the red and blue lines on the site map needs clarification with regards to maintenance. The new position of the DNO has still not been clarified. The LEMP document has been submitted and is a good document. There is a meeting of the CLG on the 22nd July which should address these matters.

2024/223

Consider Extending the Deadline for Grant Submissions: this has not been advertised and no applications have been received.

RESOLVED: to advertise on notice boards, website and West of Cleve Magazine and extend the application period to the 8th November for consideration at the November meeting.

2024/224

Financial Matters:

- i. Review the Finance Report Including Expenditure Against Budget: Expenditure since 1st April to 17th June 2024 was £3,022.41.
RESOLVED: to accept the report.
- ii. Agree and Sign the Bank Reconciliation: As of the 17th June 2024 the current account holds £14,277.44 and the savings account holds £10,793.92.
RESOLVED: the bank reconciliations are correct and were signed by Cllr Millard.
- iii. Review the Banking Mandate:
RESOLVED: Cllrs Holman and Osborne will remain as signatories and Cllrs Reardon-Smith and Parry will be added. Cllr Martin will be removed as a signatory at his request.
- iv. Note Income: A precept of £8,367.72 had been received from Shropshire Council
- v. Approve Payments:
 - a. Rocking Horse Media Inv 32 £40
 - b. H Coonick (Reimbursement for Printer Inks) £30.97**RESOLVED:** to approve payments a. and b.

2024/225

Review and Adopt the Risk Assessment: an action list will be developed.
RESOLVED: to adopt the assessment.

2024/226

Review and Adopt the Biodiversity Policy: defer to the next meeting.

2024/227

Elect a Tree and Environment Warden: Cllr Holman Proposed and Cllr Martin seconded.

Heather Coonick (Clerk/RFO) Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow SY8 2BE.
07817607355 Email bitterleyipc@gmail.com

RESOLVED: Cllr Rogers was elected.

- 2024/228** **Review of the Reduction of the Environmental Maintenance Grant:** Due to budgetary pressures Shropshire Council have reduced the grant by 50%. Bitterley Parish Council will receive £390 for 2024-25.
RESOLVED: to write to Shropshire Council stating that the notice of the reduction was very short and if the grant remains at the lower level for next year the level of service provided by the Parish Council contractor will be less. To ask Shropshire Council what work it intends to carry out in the Parish in this financial year. To use reserves to perform the same level of work as during the last financial year.
- 2024/229** **Consider Full Fibre Rollout in Clee Hill Area:** Openreach are holding a meeting on the 15th August at Clee Hill to inform residents of the plans.
- 2024/230** **Councillors Report:** Cllr Holman reported that she attended the meeting on the 9th July. The points of discussion were the new Rural Housing Enabler, Rookeries 2025 Project, election of officers, vacant properties, solar farm planning conditions. The next meeting will be in September.
- 2024/231** **Action List:** Cllr Millard is working on SmartWater distribution. Cllr Holman has leafletted Bedlam regarding the new streetlight. Cllr Reardon-Smith has ordered two new notice boards. Cllr Osborne reported that the No Through Road sign at Snitton Gate needs replacing. Cllr Holman reported that a new website volunteer is required. The clerk will pursue the erection of two new signs. Firstly, a no-through road sign at Snitton Gate. Secondly at the entrance of Stony Lane off the A4117 going towards Bitterley. A sign which says the track is not suitable for specifically ambulances is needed.
- 2024/232** **Items for the next Agenda:** a. Policing Priorities b. Biodiversity Policy

Next Meeting: 7.00pm Monday 16th September 2024 at Bitterley Village Hall