

Bitterley Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bitterley Parish Council, at 7pm 21st October 2024

Present: Cllrs A Holman (Chair), G Dolphin, J Gatehouse, R J Osborne, T Millard, K Parry, J Reardon-Smith, D W Rogers and R Watkins. **In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

2024/257 Apologies Received: None

2024/258 Declarations of Interest

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

2024/259 Public Participation: No members of the public were in attendance.

2024/260 To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on the 16th September 2024
RESOLVED: to accept the minutes and they were signed by the chair.

2024/261 Shropshire Councillor Report – Cllr Richard Huffer was not in attendance

2024/262 Clerks Report – H Coonick reported that the Parish Council now has the data protection registration certificate. So far there has only been one request for a grant request form, but no applications. Any applications will be considered at the November meeting. She attended the planning training which was helpful and clarified some issues regarding Permitted Development. As requested, she has spoken to a possible Environmental Maintenance contractor, and he has provided his insurance. He is based in Tenbury and willing to consider at any work the PC may have.

2024/263 Consider LED Replacement Costs for Streetlights: Cllr Osborne reported that to remove each streetlight would cost in the region of £1,800 each or to replace the bulbs with LED would be £450 per light which would be a saving of £150 annually on electricity.
RESOLVED: to use uncommitted reserves of £2,250 to replace the bulbs with LED part night bulbs on 5 streetlights at Bedlam, Middleton and three in Bitterley. If the new LED bulbs fail, they will not be replaced unless specifically requested by parishioners.

2024/264 Review the Condition of the War Memorial and Reading Room: as both the memorial and reading room are on private land. It is not clear who is responsible for their maintenance.
RESOLVED: to investigate who is responsible for the maintenance of the memorial and what grants might be available to maintain it.

2024/265 Consider Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor: Cllr Holman has almost completed the map of drains, ditches and scrapes across the road network. A group will review the work required and present proposals at the next meeting.

2024/266 Planning:

- i. [24/03514/FUL](#) Demolition of single storey extension and replace with a two-storey extension, Cress Cottage, 4 Clee Stanton Road, Bitterley SY8 3HH:
RESOLVED: to object on the following grounds: the Council does not think the second set of plans enhances the overall appearance of the cottages with regard to the roofline. They would support the application if the roofline was constructed as

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per the original set of plans and flowed across the properties in a continuous ridge line. They do not think the choice of materials- in particular, the upper floor external cladding of wood is in keeping with the existing building or surroundings. If this was done Bitterley Parish Council could support the application Note: the council has reviewed the plans and noticed that fire escape access/routes for the upstairs and downstairs bedrooms are via the kitchen area and if these plans are passed via the kitchen and utility rooms- We would ask that a review of the fire escape routes is undertaken as part of the planning or building regulation process to ensure they are adequate and safe.

- ii. [24/03670/FUL](#) Erection of detached double garage with external staircase to first floor (storage) (modification to previously approved). Willow House, Bitterley, SY8 3HJ.

RESOLVED: to support this application as per the conditions on the previous application.

2024/267 Finance

- i. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliations: As of the 9th April 2024 the savings account held £10,783.93 and as of the 20th September 2024 the current account held £9749.11

RESOLVED: to accept the report and the reconciliations was signed as correct by Cllr Millard.

- ii. Approve Payments:

- a) H Coonick Reimbursement for Stationery and Training £41.89
- b) Shropshire Council (Electricity) £239.89,
- c) Rocking Horse Media (Website Inv 044) £40

RESOLVED: to make the above payments.

- iii. Update on Changes to Signatories and Internet Banking: Cllr Holman reported that she is adding Cllr Parry and Reardon-Smith to the list of signatories.
- iv. Consider the Asset Register: there was an addition of the bus shelter at Cleeton St Mary. Otherwise confirmed as correct.

2024/268 Review and Adopt the Biodiversity Policy: it was suggested that the clerk should keep a register of biodiversity conditions from approved planning applications. Cllr Reardon-Smith will complete an audit of Ledwyche Solar Farm bio-diversity conditions.
RESOLVED: to adopt the policy.

2024/269 Consider the Memorial Day Service at Bitterley Church: It is not clear if there will be a service.
RESOLVED: to purchase a wreath up to the value of £30

2024/270 Review the Findings Regarding Wheelchair Access to NATS Gate on Titterstone: Cllr Holman visited the site and also examined the Shropshire Council footpath map. She believes it does not fall under the responsibility of Shropshire Council. The Clerk will contact The Commoners Committee and Outdoor Partnerships to investigate who owns the gate and whether it can be removed as it appears to serve no purpose.

2024/271 Update on Shropshire Council's Exploring Future Option Survey: Shropshire Council have informed parish councils that they have concluded that without the realistic potential to apply a uniform approach across Shropshire, the timescales we must work

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to make it too impractical to achieve significant benefits. They will suspend current interactions with local councils on this subject.

- 2024/272** **Consider Email from Shropshire Council's Tree & Urban Forest Apprentice:** the contact details for the apprentice will be forwarded to Cllr Rogers as tree warden.
- 2024/273** **Councillors Reports:** Cllr Holman reported that she had spoken to Mr Hollis at Sycamore Landscapes who would be able to install the notice boards, replace the floor and cut away the overgrown hedge at the Bedlam telephone box and cut away overgrowth around the bus shelter. CIL money will be used to fund the installation of the notice boards and the telephone box. The overgrowth around the bus shelter and telephone box would be paid for by the Environmental Maintenance Grant. Cllr Reardon-Smith reported that a year ago they put a motion to SALC to look at how to work with Shropshire Planning to get conditions legally binding for the lifetime of a project. He will ask for a face-to-face meeting with SALC to try to progress this. Cllr Rogers asked if there had been any response from Planning Enforcement regarding the report made in April – the Clerk reported that there had not and will follow this up.
- 2024/274** **Review the Action Plan:** Defer to the next meeting.
- 2024/275** **Items for the next Meeting: 7.00 Monday 18th November 2024 at Bitterley Village Hall:** Review the Action Plan

Signed by the Chair

Date: