

# MINUTES OF BITTERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

Clerk: Michelle Parker; [bitterleypc@gmail.com](mailto:bitterleypc@gmail.com)

Website: [bitterly.org.uk](http://bitterly.org.uk)

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Mrs A Holman (Chair), Mrs K Wheeler (Vice-Chair), Mr Richard Osborne, Mr D Rogers, Mr J Gatehouse, Mr P Martin and Mr T Millard.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** H Coonick (Temporary Clerk).

Cllr Holman introduced Michelle Parker who starts work as the new Clerk on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The email address for the council remains the same but there will be a new telephone number.

**The meeting commenced at 7.00pm**

	ITEM	ACTION
2023/82	<b>Apologies:</b> Mr J Reardon-Smith (holiday), Mr C Chillingham (unwell) and Mr G Dolphin (unwell).	
2023/83	<b>Public Participation:</b> A member of the public raised concerns about the state of the roads in the parish. Cllrs reported that issues had been raised via Fix My Street but not all have been addressed by Shropshire Council. Cllr Holman will write to Shropshire Councillor Richard Huffer.	AH
2023/84	<b>Declaration of Interests:</b> None	
2023/85	<b>Approval of Minutes:</b> The minutes of the meetings held on the 13 <sup>th</sup> September) 2023 were accepted as correct and signed by the Chair. The minutes of the extraordinary meeting on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 were amended to read under item 5, para 6 'The grass was cut but the hay crop was left and not removed'.	
2023/86	<b>Clerks Report:</b> The stones left after the repairs to the bridge are not a matter of concern. The Davies family have not been in contact with Cllr Gatehouse. Cllr Holman will check with the previous Clerk that they have been given Cllr Gatehouse's contact details.	AH
2023/87	<b>Roads:</b> Cllr Holman has not yet prepared her plan of Snitton Lane drains. She has a map which will be useful for marking drains and scrapes etc. Two issues with drains have been reported outside Lower Court House and near the notice board in Cleeton St Mary. The drain at Millcroft Field is also blocked. The overgrown hedge on the pavement on Angel Bank has been reported to Shropshire Council. They need to be asked to request that the landowner cuts back the hedge.	
2023/88	<b>Policies:</b> a. Public Participation Policy: was adopted with minor alterations. b. Press and Media Policy: was adopted. c. Social Media Policy: the section on Twitter was removed and replaced with 'When any other social media platforms are considered the policy needs to be reviewed. – adopted with amendments.	
2023/89	<b>Website:</b> Mr Matthew Tovey has taken over the ownership of the website and domain. The options were considered. Cllrs will review the Parish Online and Hugo Fox options before the next meeting. Cllr Holman will check the present contract terms. Decision deferred to next meeting	All Cllrs and AH
2023/90	<b>Update Policing Priorities:</b> The new priorities will be a. rural crime b. speeding c. antisocial behaviour. Cllrs were concerned they were not getting feedback from the police. A representative from the PCC would be invited to a future meeting and a list of questions prepared	

	beforehand.	
<b>2023/91</b>	<b>Planning Applications:</b> Cllr Wheeler updated the council on the following applications: a. Cleeton Cottage – has been resubmitted. b. Granary, Angel Bank – applicants are appealing against the refusal. c. Paddle Court at Meesons – resubmitted for private use only. d. Long House – no further comments.	
<b>2023/92</b>	<b>Finance:</b> a. <b>Payments made since the last meeting:</b> None. b. <b>Approve Payments to:</b> S Jones (Salary July – Sept) £788.05, S Jones (HMRC July – Sept) £197, A Clayton (Maintenance of ditches, scrapes) £240. All payments were approved. Council would like to thank Mr Clayton for his excellent work. c. <b>Update on Bank Mandate:</b> Sue Jones to be removed as a signatory, Cllrs Holman, Martin and Osborne will remain as signatories. Once Michelle Parker, the new Clerk, has completed her probationary period she will be added as a signatory.	
<b>2023/93</b>	<b>Councillors Reports and Action List:</b> Cllr Wheeler reported on the Deadend Sign at Snitton Gate, Satnav sign on Stone Lane and repairs to the Cleeton St Mary road. She is concerned that the Parish Council does not forget these tasks need to be completed. Cllr Chillingham will resign after the November meeting. The council thanked him for his hard work over the years and he will be missed. Cllr Millard reported that 48.32% of the parish now had Smartwater kits. A further 78 were needed to have the signs erected around the parish. Cllr Osborne reported on the streetlights – action still to be taken. Cllr Osborne is following up the traffic priority issue at Roundthorn. The village hall is considering installing solar panels on the roof. Cllr Reardon-Smith is acquiring quotes for notice boards. Cllr Reardon -Smith will talk to the landowner for Henley 1 regarding issues raised at the meeting on the 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023. Cllr Watkins – condition of the culvert – no known. Cllrs Holman and Gatehouse will work together to get the drains and scrapes recorded on the map. An item regarding conditions applied through planning to Solar Farms has been added to SALC AGM agenda. Cllr Reardon-Smith will speak. Cllr Holman is asking Shropshire Planning to allocate a specific officer to work with the Parish Council to look at the planning conditions attached to the Ledwyche Solar Farm. Needs chasing with Tabitha Lythe. There has been no response from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the wildflower meadow. This needs to be followed up.	<b>Clerk</b>  <b>AH, TM, RO, JRS, KW</b>  <b>RO RO</b>  <b>JRS</b>  <b>RW AH, JG</b>  <b>JRS</b>  <b>AH</b>  <b>Clerk</b>
<b>2023/94</b>	<b>Items for the next agenda:</b> a. Facebook Administrators b. Website	
<b>2023/95</b>	<b>Meeting Closed at 9pm</b>	