

SHREWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Shrewley Parish Council held at Shrewley Village Hall on Thursday 20th May 2021 at 7.45pm

Present at the Meeting:

Cllr R G Wesbury
Cllr N Soutter
Cllr H Darwen
Cllr E Forty
Cllr M Wood
D Cllr G Illingworth

Chairman
Vice Chairman

Clerk Eleanor Choudry
Members of the Public: 1

1/21. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DECLARATION OF OFFICE – Cllr Wesbury was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Darwen and seconded by Cllr Forty. Cllr Wesbury was unanimously elected to the post of Chairman with immediate effect.

2/21. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN – Cllr Soutter announced that he was standing down as Vice Chairman and resigning as a Councillor primarily due to work commitments. Cllr Wesbury said that it was a dreadful shame as Cllr Soutter had been a great help over the last 6 years and Cllrs agreed that he will be missed. Cllr Soutter thanked Cllr Wesbury, all councillors and the Clerk. The resignation was accepted. The Parish Council will continue without a Vice Chairman and Cllrs agreed in the Chairman's absence another Cllr will step in to Chair the meeting.

3/21. APOLOGIES – Cllr D Lawrie, Cllr J Day, WCC Cllr J Matecki, WDC Cllr R Hales, WDC Cllr Cooke.

4/21. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – None.

5/21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1st March 2021 approved and signed as a true record.

6/21. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – None

7/21. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM – Paul Tilley, resident of Hatton Station, thanked the Parish Council for all their work which he said is greatly appreciated.

8/21. PLANNING –

W/20/1860 The Dell, Green Lane, Shrewley, Warwick, CV35 7HJ WITHDRAWN 17/3/21
W/20/1944 High Acres, Nunhold Road, Pinley, Warwick, CV35 8NB GRANTED 16/3/21.
W/20/2022 Great Pinley Farm, Nunhold Road, Shrewley, Warwick, CV35 8NB PC HASNO OBJECTION 18/3/21
W/21/0208 9 Antrobus Close, Shrewley, Warwick, CV35 7BW NO OBJECTION
W/21/0446 Shrewley Gate Nursery, Old Warwick Road, Shrewley, Warwick, CV35 7AX
Appeals
APP/T3725/W/20/3257986 The White House, Five Ways Road, Shrewley, Warwick, CV35 7HT The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for demolition of existing building with replacement dwelling. 31/3/21.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....

9/21. WCC REPORT – Cllr Caborn did not stand for re-election. Our new WCC Councillor is Jan Matecki who we will welcome at our future meeting.

10/21. WDC REPORT – As a result of the recent District Council Annual Meeting there have been some changes affecting WDC councillors. Richard Hales remains Deputy Leader of the Council but takes on a new portfolio primarily concerned with the closer working with Stratford District Council and related changes. John Cooke continues to hold the portfolio for development concentrating on the new Local Plan and infrastructure issues, whilst a new portfolio holder is taking on the responsibility for the areas of development management and enforcement. George Illingworth returns to his pre-District Chairman role as Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee. Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are working together to produce a new South Warwickshire Local Plan to cover our combined geographic area.

11/21. OTHER PARISH BUSINESS

11.1. Fraudulent payment to Shrewley Village Hall – Discussion took place regarding two payments made from the Parish Council to Shrewley Village Hall that had been fraudulently intercepted. The payments were £1000 grant and two payments of £160 for hire of the Village Hall. The Clerk realised that the payments had not been received by the Village Hall in May 2019 and May 2020 when making the grant payment for 2021. The Clerk informed the Village Hall Treasurer, Darrell Mottram. The Clerk launched an investigation. The fraud was reported by the Clerk to Lloyds Bank and Action Fraud Police UK. Lloyds Bank refunded the May 2020 payment of £160 as it fell within the 12-month period in the Lloyds bank policy for reimbursement of fraudulent losses. Unfortunately, the bank would not refund the £1000 and £160 from May 2019 as it occurred over the 12-month set period. Cllrs agreed not to contact the Ombudsman regarding Lloyds Bank policy. Cllr Wesbury proposed that the £160 refunded by Lloyds Bank will be paid to the Village Hall in July. The £1160 is to be written off. Cllrs agreed that the £1000 budgeted for the grant payment to the Village Hall will not be included in the Parish Council budget in future years as it was considered that the financial situation of the Village Hall is much improved, and they do not necessarily need the grant. Any future applications from the Village Hall will be considered on their merit. Cllr Wood noted that extra measures had been put in place by the Clerk to ensure that this type of fraud is not repeated.

11.2. Traffic Calming in Shrewley – There is a delay on materials required for the speed gates caused by Brexit.

11.3. Little Shrewley notice board refurbishment – Cllr Soutter has completed the refurbishment and will be installing the new board.

11.4. Community Emergency Plan – Cllr Forty agreed to check the crash box held in the Village Hall. Cllr Soutter will send the Emergency Plan to Cllr Forty.

11.5. Parish Councillor vacancy – No applications have been received to date. Another vacancy has been created with the resignation of Cllr Soutter. Vacancies are to be advertised on the notice boards and website. The Clerk to look at advertising on social media and ask Sheona Alemi to advertise on the Phone Box Group.

11.6. Vehicle activated sign on B4439 at Barn Close Nurseries – It is at least 3 years since the sign was demolished. There has been much to and fro between WCC and the Legal Services Team. Resident landowner John Miers reported another car had gone off the road destroying part of his fence which he has had to repair again. There used to be anti-slip surface on the bend that reduced accidents, but this has now deteriorated. Cllr Wesbury to contact WCC again for an update.

11.7. Vegetation removal on Station Road bend – The landowner has agreed to the work. WCC Cllr Matecki to be contacted for an update.

11.8. Tree Charter- Western Power noted that an oak tree on Shrewley Common was looking unsafe. Cllr Wesbury contacted WCC who do not have the tree on their list but will add it. A query was raised regarding ownership of the village green by the Shrewley Common bus shelter. The Land Registry to be checked.

Cllr Wesbury to check the area along the motorway to see if it is suitable for tree planting. WDC will provide the trees and a community effort may be needed to plant them.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....

12/21. ONGOING ACTION ITEMS

12.1. Friends of Hatton Station (FOHS) – Nothing to report.

12.2. Shrewley website update / Statutory publication of documents on website – No update is available due to issues with interpreting the google statistics.

13/21. HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH/TOWPATH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR –

13.1. New WCC Fault Reporting System – Cllr Wesbury to check the progress of the integration of the two reporting systems.

13.2. Footpath fault report – The Bramblers (Solihull Ramblers footpath maintenance group) have cleared the path to Quarry Lane and are looking to fix all our reported footpath problems by the end of June. Thanks were given to John Miers who repaired the broken stile near Barn Close Nurseries.

13.3. Highway fault report – Cllr Darwen to ask The Canal & River Trust to raise the towpath so the water runs straight off into the canal to prevent the flooding on the towpath. Thanks were given to resident Jean Andrews for treating the bench at Shrewley Common crossroads with woodstain.

14/21. CORRESPONDENCE – WDC are to discontinue the Chairmans visits to Parish Councils and instead invite Councillors to meet at WDC.

15/21. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE - The hall has been closed except for Children’s tuition (when permitted) during the pandemic, but it has been regularly and carefully maintained so that it will be ready for resumption of normal social activities when the law allows. Shrewley Parish Parents have been very successful in amassing the funds needed to construct the children’s play area on the field at the back of the hall, and it has now been passed by the safety inspector for use as soon as the ground dries out sufficiently. The Hall finances have benefited from a number of Government grants aimed at helping village halls to be ready to continue their service to the community when pandemic restrictions allow. A major financial setback was experienced when Water Plus invoiced the hall for over £31,000 for a quarter’s service, and despite our objection went ahead and took the funds from the bank by direct debit. The problem was that the water meter is illegible, and the reader misread the minimal indication on the meter. Water Plus have promised to return the money less the nominal water usage fee, and to replace the meter. The problem cannot be resolved until the meter is replaced. The grant promised by bank transfer to the Hall in March 2019 by the Parish Council was not received into the Hall’s bank. This was the result of an internet fraudster substituting his own bank details for those of the Hall. Fortunately, when our clerk checked the Hall’s bank details before making a payment early this year she noticed that they were different from those she had on record, so the incident will not be repeated. Sadly, none of our efforts to recoup the loss have succeeded, and the Parish Council’s insurance does not cover internet fraud.

16/21. MEETINGS ATTENDED BY CLLRS – – Clerk - WALC How to Find New Town and Parish Councillors 3/3/21.

17/21. FINANCE

17.1 Insurance renewal – Insurance renewed with Community Action Suffolk for a three-year rate stability agreement. Three quotes sought and best value achieved.

17.2 2020/21 Certificate of Exemption approved and signed for submission to PKF Littlejohn.

17.3 2020/21 Internal Audit Report received. Thanks were given to Beverley Baker.

17.4 Approval and signing of 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement - Proposed by Cllr Soutter and seconded by Cllr Wood unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

17.5 Approval and signing of 2020/21 Accounting Statement in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return - Proposed by Cllr Soutter and seconded by Cllr Wood unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....

17.6. Permission to pay items listed below proposed by Cllr Darwen, seconded by Cllr Forty and unanimously approved.

Cheque/ BACS	Payee	Amount £
BACS	Clerk April Salary(Net),Postage £0, Printing Ink £0 Stationery folder £3, poly pockets £6.99, Dividers £2.74	253.80 12.73 20.31
	Course attendance WALC How to Find New Town and Parish Councillors 3/3/21	
BACS	HMRC April Income tax	68.52
BACS	Clerk May Salary, Mileage £0, Postage £0	253.80
BACS	HMRC May Income Tax	63.45
BACS	WALC subscription renewal	327.00
BACS	Community Action Suffolk Insurance 3 year agreement	173.69
BACS	Beverley Baker Audit Fee	100.00
BACS	Village Hall Room Hire 2020/21 7 x meetings	160.00
BACS	WALC course attended by Cllr Soutter – Responding to Planning Applications 4/11/2020	30.00
BACS	Total	1,463.30

18/21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 12th July 2021.

19/21. CLOSURE OF MEETING – The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....(Chair)

Date.....