

## PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



### **Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm**

#### **PRESENT**

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, M Trow, A Hodges, R Evans, N Lewis, D Jones, P Heywood, C Sandells, S Davies, D Gregory and A Windows

**Clerk of the Meeting:** Debbie Marais

**Public present:** PC Rich Walters in attendance

#### **221.23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Brookes and Cllr J Pritchard

**222.23 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** – Cllr Davies declared an interest in Agenda item 13. Request for funding from Pontesbury Sports Association, as Secretary to the group.

**223.23 Public Questions and Comments** – None

#### **224.23 Minutes of Council**

After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Pontesbury Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**225.23 Police Matters** – a verbal report was received from PC Rich Walters which was **NOTED**. PC Walters included the following points:

- On 20<sup>th</sup> March there had been a large operation which had led to 7 arrests and seizure of firearms etc.
- Request for councillors to encourage residents to report sightings of drones in suspicious places
- Poster to be put up around the parish about wild bird egg theft and request for local residents to report any suspicious vehicles
- There has been some anti-social behaviour at the bus stop at the top of Hall Bank and the team are trying to increase patrols in the area. Unfortunately there has only been 1 official report to the police

Cllr Gregory mentioned social media reports over the weekend of cats being caught in traps around the village. PC Walters would look into this and encouraged people to report such incidences on 101

Cllr Fletcher thanked PC Walters for attending and asked him to pass on the parish council thanks to the local team

**226.23 Community Report** – a verbal report from Cllr Davies was received and **NOTED**.

Cllr Davies reported that the team of 12 volunteers had clocked up over 250 hours of volunteer time doing coffee mornings, admin & meetings and luncheon club etc. There had been donations of cooking equipment to the Pontesbury Sports Association and easter eggs to Severn Hospice staff and food bank recipients. The luncheon clubs have stopped now for the summer.

**227.23 Shropshire Council Member Report** Shropshire Councillor Roger Evans gave a verbal report including:

- There is a garden waste consultation about the introduction of charges and the threat to some of the Home Recycling Centres
- The parish council boundary review is in progress. There are no changes proposed for Pontesbury parish
- The Riverside complex improvements have begun
- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan has been agreed
- Cabinet have approved changes to parking charges in Shrewsbury with an increase of charge times to 8pm and Sundays, and a 60% increase in charges all over the county. This decision has been called in
- Cabinet will be considering the Public Protection Order/Dog Control Order shortly as well as a strategy on rough sleepers
- The new budget papers are on the SC website

Cllr Windows asked if the grant had been awarded to SC for EV charging points which Cllr Evans would follow up. Shropshire currently has the highest increases in EV charging points outside London.

Cllr Hignett reported that SC Leader Cllr Lezley Picton and Cllr Ian Nellins will be at The Pavilion on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April for people to ask questions. It is possible to book an appointment.

**228.23 Planning**

228.23.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hodgest, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

228.23.2 Cllr Hodges, Chairman of the Planning Committee gave a verbal update on the planning committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 which was **NOTED**.

228.23.3 PLANNING REFERENCE: 24/01140/FUL Proposal: Proposed Dwelling. Location: Plot 3 To the south of Breidden Cottage Shrewsbury Road Pontesbury Shrewsbury Shropshire

**Comment: The parish council opposes this application. Whilst within the development boundary and in a sustainable position it is contrary to both the Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan CS11. In recent years a preponderance of large four bedroom houses has been approved/built on Shrewsbury Road and elsewhere in Pontesbury, leading to an imbalance in the size and type of housing provided contrary to CS11.**

**Policy HOU2 of the Pontesbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan states that infill housing will be supported where one or more properties provides for the needs of older or younger generations subject to clear evidence of**

such needs, which has been clearly demonstrated in the two recent housing surveys which underpin this Neighbourhood Plan policy.

The parish council will look more favourably on a dwelling on this plot which is in line with Neighbourhood Plan policy.

### **229.23 Statutory Business and Finance**

229.23.1 Income of £7152.60. This was **NOTED**.

229.23.2 After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve payments of £22,884.66 as attached list.

229.23.3 After a proposal from Cllr Heywood, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the transfer of £30,000 from CCLA reserves to Unity current account to cover general payments until precept received.

229.23.4 After a proposal from Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve a payment of £150 for inspection/cleaning of solar lighting along Minsterley to Pontesbury cycleway

229.23.5 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve a payment of £405.25 for cyber liability insurance for 2024-25

229.23.6 After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Lewis, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve use of the parish council Unity account for funds received and payments made associated with the 2025 Pontesbury festival. A separate cost code would be used.

### **230.23 Health & Safety matters**

230.23.1 At the March Full Council meeting the state of the path through the play area off Station Road had been raised. Cllr Hignett reported that a grant bid had been submitted by the Shropshire Council Rights of Way team to provide a surface suitable for wheelchairs, prams and all other users of the old railway footpath from Pontesbury to Pontesford. Cllr Hignett would check that the route through the play area would be included and find out more information about the bid.

### **231.23 Pontesbury Youth Project update report**

Clerk read out a report from Revd. Greg Smith

After a slow start, Pontesbury Youth Project is now thriving. Initially the project was inhibited by the difficulty of recruiting a sufficiently experienced and qualified youth worker, having had to advertise three times, but since Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 Joe Barnes has been in post and has already made a significant impact. During the interim period, a sessional worker was employed to give some additional capacity.

The youth café operates on Wednesday afternoons, immediately after school, and is targeted at Mary Webb students, who live in Pontesbury, Years 7-11. The most recent session attracted 9 young people, who come to play games, share difficulties, relax with friends, and eat pizza.

Expenditure to the end of February is £2,321.81, which includes salaries, training, DBS checks and the provision of a laptop.

Cllr Fletcher wished to offer the parish council's full support for the project.

### **232.23 Environmental Maintenance Grant 2024-25**

Various footpaths in Plealey, from Cruckmeole to Hanwood and from Halston Cottages to Lea Cross were discussed as needing foliage clearing to make walking along the footpath safer.

After a proposal by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Clerk, Cllrs Fletcher and Evans to make an application for a grant (maximum grant is £1500), with a maximum match funding of £1500 from the parish council reserves.**

### **233.23 Request for funding from Pontesbury Sports Association**

Cllr Davies explained that much work had been done on the changing rooms and the kitchen at the sports pavilion but to complete phase 1. hard-wearing flooring was still needed for the building. There is a fundraising event planned for the weekend towards the costs of £6170. Three quotes had been sought but only one company had responded and the season is due to start imminently. Cllr Davies also reported the major flooding problem on the site. PSA reps, parish councillors, Mary Webb school rep and the SC Flooding Officer had met to draw up a plan for flood alleviation and separate grant funding has been obtained for this work to be done.

After a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a grant of £4000 to Pontesbury Sports Association towards the cost of the flooring. This would come out of unallocated CIL Neighbourhood Funds.**

### **234.23 Place Plans and Quiet Lanes**

Cllr Evans gave a verbal update about Place Plans being approved by Shropshire Council but in many cases parish councils had found that not all of the local projects they had submitted for inclusion, had been in the final PP approved. Cllr Evans would send the approved Minsterley and Pontesbury Place Plan to Clerk for comparison. Clerk to contact Mathew Mead (assigned Place Plan Officer) and express concern that the parish council had not been notified of any changes to the PP and to ask Mathew to attend the May parish council meeting.

Cllr Evans also reported that consideration of requests for Quiet Lane status would not happen until Local Transport Plan 4 had been reviewed by SC.

### **235.23 Clerk's Report**

A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted. Clerk reported that the conversion of streetlights to LED had been delayed due to bereavement within the company. It was hoped that the light conversion would be completed by the end of April 2024.

**236.23 Parish Business** the following parish business was reported:

Cllr Jones        The work to create a wildflower meadow along the cycleway has been carried out and the signs could go up

Cllr Sandells    both councillors raised the flooding issues on the bend by Cruckton Hall  
Cllr Hodges     school and Cruckton Bridge. An emergency vehicle and delivery lorries have at times not been able to get through. A letter from a local resident had also been received by Clerk. The matter has previously been reported to SC and a response received. The school are working with the local farmer to try and resolve the flooding near the school. Regular cleaning of the culvert is needed by Cruckton Bridge. Cllr Evans would follow this up. Cllr Hodges would update the local resident.

- Cllr Gregory concerned that the streetlights along Main Road, which had been reported several times, have still not been replaced. Cllr Hignett had investigated and the lights were in the SC work programme and would be done when possible.
- Cllr Hignett reported that the concrete and railings around St George's church have been replaced. Clerk was asked to write and thank SC Highways Officers for such a good job done.
- Cllr Fletcher reported that:
- A tour around the new development off Mount Close will be arranged and Cllr Fletcher would advise councillors on the date set.
  - The issue of mud on the road along Hinton Lane and Habberley road drains needing clearing had been raised and Cllr Fletcher would report on FixMyStreet.
  - There had been a very successful Friends of Pontesbury Library/Pontesbury Climate Emergency Action group event at The Pavilion which was very well attended by local residents. There had been a talk about the new community garden.

**237.23 Exclusion of the Press & Public** After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** that exclusion of the Press & Public be made on the grounds that the consideration of the following items may involve the likely disclosure of confidential information (s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960).

#### **238.23 Recommendations from the Personnel Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

238.23.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

238.23.2 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that staff be consulted on the new employment contracts prepared by Worknest and approved by Personnel Committee.** The consultation period would run between 9<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

238.23.3 After a proposal by Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE an additional 2 hours per week for the Building Assistant to reflect extra duties, watering Pavilion planters, defibrillator checks and updating parish noticeboards on School Green/Pavilion from 1 April 2024.**

238.23.4 After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Training & Development policy as amended by Clerk.**

**239.23 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at The Pavilion, Hall Bank, starting at 7.30pm.**

**The meeting closed at 20.50pm**

Signed: .....  
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: .....