

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 10th February 2025 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, R Evans, N Lewis, M Trow, C Sandells, T Mackenzie-Slight, A Windows, N Manning, A Hodges, D Gregory, P Heywood and D Jones

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: 1 member of the public and PC Rich Walters

158.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Pritchard and S Davies

159.24 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None

160.24 Public Questions and Comments

Local resident wished to raise concerns of residents in Polesgate about the unregulated use and expansion of land on Polesgate, for siting of caravans, running of a business and waste disposal. The matter has been reported to Shropshire Council and Julian Beeston the Chief Enforcement Officer has been in contact with both the landowner concerned and local residents. Residents have been told that the landowner is required to submit a retrospective planning application. Residents feel that the timescales involved are unacceptable as the situation is causing a great deal of uncertainty and stress for local residents.

Cllr Hignett had been working with residents and was asked to contact the SC Enforcement Officer to expedite action being taken.

The parish council were asked to lend their support to local residents and put pressure on SC and other authorities involved to seek an immediate resolution to the situation.

PC Walsh reported that the local policing team have increased patrols in the area and spoken to the SC Enforcement Officer. PC Walsh urged local residents to use 101 to report any crimes associated with the problem or contact Crimestoppers if they wish to remain anonymous.

161.24 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2025. Cllr Evans asked for the minutes associated with the recommendations from the Personnel Committee to be minuted in a Confidential Report.

162.24 Police Matters – Clerk had circulated a local newsletter from the Safer Neighbourhood policing team. PC Rich Walters gave a verbal update on the local policing team activities including working with Polesgate residents, liaising with Mary Webb about anti-social behaviour by young people concerning the Church. The team are working with the Pontesbury Festival organisers.

Cllr Trow asked if the team were aware of the incident of a road traffic accident in Cruckton and PC Walters responded that they were.

Cllr Windows raised concerns about the parking around Connections and down to the Chapel St junction which had been made worse by parking associated with work on the new development. Cllr Hodges would check the Transport Plan associated with the planning application

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

FINANCES – Councillors are concerned that SC General Reserves will fall to the lowest level yet by the end of 2024-25. The 2025-26 budget consultation has closed with 3564 responses including 16,000 comments.

COUNCIL TAX—There is a proposal being put forward to raise Council Tax by the maximum permitted amount of 4.99% for 2025-26

NORTH WEST RELIEF ROAD—there should be a decision made by the end of February 2025 but as yet no planning permission has been issued.

LOCAL PLAN FOR SHROPSHIRE—A response from the Planning Inspector has been received with a number of amendments required. A discussion about starting an entirely revised plan will be held this week and there are concerns that SC may not be able to meet the 5 year housing targets.

DEVOLUTION — There will be more unitary authorities created and some councils have had their May 2025 elections postponed. SC local elections will go ahead.

Cllr Gregory raised concerns about traffic lights on the Hope Rd. Cllr Kidd is dealing with this.

Cllr Heywood asked about the planned ‘Super-authorities’, no details about how SC may be amalgamated with other authorities are yet available.

164.24 Planning

Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**.

165.24 Pavilion Committee

165.24.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the minutes of the Pavilion Committee held on 2nd January 2025.**

165.24.2 Cllr Fletcher gave a verbal report which was **NOTED**. Cllr Fletcher thanked the Deputy Clerk for all her hard work on the solar panels project.

165.24.3 The decision of the Pavilion Committee to use unallocated Pavilion reserves for the solar panel project and the update on the solar panel project were **NOTED**.

166.24 Facilities Working group

166.24.1 The notes from the FWG were received and **NOTED**. Clerk explained the information about position of West Mercia police to CCTV footage and would amend the notes to provide clarification.

166.24.2 After a proposal by Cllr Mackenzie-Slight, seconded by Cllr Lewis, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the re-opening of the public toilets from 8.30am – 3.30pm**. The FWG would monitor use of the toilets closely.

166.24.3 After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the decision that requests for salt bins/retrospective streetlighting on new developments would be considered on a case by case basis. In the case of Cricketer's Meadow the council resolved not to support the request.**

167.24 Statutory Business and Finance

167.24.1 Income of £4752.92 . This was **NOTED**.

167.24.2 After a proposal from Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Gregory, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve February 2025 payments of £47,572.96 as attached.**

167.24.3 After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to retrospectively approve transfer of £20,000 from CCLA to Unity for February payments**

167.24.4 After a proposal from Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE payment of £14,000 to Shropshire Council towards the running of Pontesbury Library for 2024-25**

167.24.5 Quarter 3 2024-25 Bank reconciliation for all accounts was **NOTED**.

167.24.6 Quarter 3 2024-25 Budget Monitoring report was **NOTED**.

167.24.7 Report received from Internal Checker. All in good order. Couple of procedural issues to be reviewed by Newsletter Working Group.

167.24.8 VAT calculation by external organisation deferred until next meeting as quote not yet received

167.24.9 After a proposal by Cllr Gregory, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE a maximum budget of £600 for the annual streetlight condition survey**. An action plan for ageing concrete poles would be drawn up by Facilities Working group.

167.24.10 After a proposal by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Sandells, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the transfer of £12,000 EMR for carbon Pavilion carbon saving projects from CCLA to Unity to Lloyds account to cover solar panel project advance payment.**

167.24.11 After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Trow, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE delegated authority to Cllrs Fletcher, Trow and Clerk to research moving council staff/councillor emails to a gov.uk domain, and report back to future meeting.**

Cllr Mackenzie-Slight left the meeting

168.24 Health & Safety Matters – None raised.

168.24.1 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Lewis, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the Defibrillator Maintenance Policy as amended by Deputy Clerk. No significant changes had been made.**

169.24 Parish Council Insurance.

169.24.1 After a proposal by Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE combining the insurance cover for The Pavilion with the general parish council insurance rather than having two separate policies. This will take effect from 28th February 2025 when the current Pavilion cover runs out.**

169.24.2 Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Clear Council Insurance who provide the general parish council insurance cover to update the council that Clear Council Insurance are now in partnership with Ecclesiastical rather than Aviva. This was **NOTED**.

170.24 Shropshire Library Service Funding Agreement. it was agreed that Chair/Clerk would consider the Funding Agreement and queries raised and report back to the 9th March Extraordinary Parish Council meeting

171.24 VE Day Celebrations. After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE ringing of the bells in St George's Church to commemorate VE day on 8th May 2025.** Clerk to write to Revd Greg Smith to ask if this was possible.

172.24 Environmental Maintenance Quotes - After a proposal by Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Jones, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE quotes of £120 and £300 to spray in Plealey/Lea Cross and give an immediate cut to the Laurel behind the public toilets and to review the area behind the public toilets in September 2025 to see if a further cut is necessary.**

173.24 Clerk's Report - A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted. Cllr Fletcher invited all councillors to attend the Climate Fresk on 15th March at The Pavilion.

174.24 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:
Cllr Trow was still chasing the 2 missing chevrons on the verge on the A4386. The issue had been reported on FixMyStreet and included in the email to Highways and a date of 10th February had been given but no work done so far.
Cllr Hignett had contacted the Rights of Way team to look at the basket swing in the play area and whether they could carry out a repair.
Cllr Jones solar light no.12 on cycleway was still out of order. Clerk would chase contractor
Cllr Evans raised the concerns and frustration of residents in Cruckmeole/Cruckton about the flooding by Fitzroy Academy and felt that SC Flood Officer should be invited to the next parish council meeting.
Cllr Hodges expressed frustration at the response from SC about flooding by Fitzroy Academy and felt that it was unsatisfactory and agreed with Cllr Evans that SC Flood Officer should be invited to the next meeting. It was agreed that Clerk should write a piece for the newsletter that the parish council, although not having the power to resolve the flooding issues raised by residents, did support residents and would chase up outstanding issues with SC or other responsible authorities.

175.24 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting, followed by an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting will be held on Monday 10th March 2025 at Pontesbury Public Hall at 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed:

Date:

Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council