

PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 11th November 2024 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: D Fletcher, N Hignett, R Evans, Cllr D Gregory, N Lewis, M Trow, T Mackenzie-Slight, J Pritchard, A Windows, N Manning, A Hodges, D Jones and Cllr S Davies

Clerk of the Meeting: Debbie Marais

Public present: 1 member of the public

In Attendance: Janet Cobb/Charles Edwards from Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust

115.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from P Heywood and C Sandells,

116.24 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None

117.24 Public Questions and Comments

Local resident wished to ask about safe crossing spaces in the village, in particular at the top and bottom of Hall Bank. Cllrs Fletcher/Hignett explained that due to the extent of local opposition to the Shropshire Council planned improvement works at the bottom of Hall Bank, this project has been put on hold. Part of the work, to widen the footpath at the bottom of Hall Bank are hoped to go ahead and Cllr Hignett would follow this up to ensure that they are included in the Highways budget for 2025-26.

There followed a presentation from Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust about their work to encourage conservation activities within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape area working with the Shropshire Hills National Landscape Partnership. The Trust can offer grant funding for community projects to develop biodiversity in their areas due to the current nature recovery crisis and exponential reduction in species nationally. There is also an opportunity for the parish council to become a supporter of the Trust which gives many benefits. It was agreed for Clerk to send information out about an upcoming conference aimed at local councils creating Nature Recovery Plans for their communities and to add an agenda item at the next PC meeting about becoming a supporter. Clerk would also forward a link to the local Nature Recovery Strategy.

118.24 Minutes of Council

After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Hodges, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 2024.

119.24 Police Matters – Clerk had circulated a local newsletter from the Safer Neighbourhood policing team. Councillors found this very useful and asked Clerk to feed this back to PC Walters and ask if this will be a regular publication. Cllr Davies mentioned

that signing up for Neighbourhood Matters was also a useful way or receiving regular updates on local policing activity.

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

Finances: The quarter 2 report which is due on 12th November is showing a slight improvement in the general reserves, due in part to income for the green waste collection and a year end overspend of £35m.

The raises in employer NI contributions and minimum wages will be covered by Central Government. This will not be the case for local councils. The budget also included funding to improve bus services. It is not clear what the impact of this will be yet for Shropshire buses.

Grants: The joint SC/Veolia community grants scheme is open again

CCTV: The Shrewsbury CCTV is now an unmanned facility

Leisure Services review: There is to be a review consultation launched w/b 18th November

121.24 Planning

121.24.1 After a proposal from Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 7th October 2024.

121.24.2 Cllr Hodges gave a verbal report which was **Noted**.

122.24 Pavilion Committee

122.24.1 After a proposal by Cllr Trow and seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 22nd April 2024

122.24.2 After a proposal by Cllr Trow and seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the following recommendations from the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 28th October 2024:

122.24.2.1 approve the updated Pavilion Concessions policy as prepared by Deputy Clerk

122.24.2.2 approve an application for an Marches LEP Energy grant, via Worcestershire County Council for solar panels on the Pavilion roof (this project was agreed at the October meeting as being included in the Parish Council Strategic Plan for 2025-26)

122.24.2.3 approve Pavilion Committee to investigate costs, obtain three quotes and for these to be considered at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 5th December 2024 and a recommendation made to full council at the meeting on 9th December 2024.

123.24 Statutory Business and Finance

123.24.1 Income of £7,140.15. This was **NOTED**.

123.24.2 After a proposal from Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve November payments of £21,114.81 as attached**.

123.24.3 After a proposal from Cllr Pritchard, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve transfer of £20,000 from CCLA to Unity for November payments**

123.24.4 The Quarter 2 2024-25 Bank reconciliation for all accounts was **NOTED**.

123.24.5 The Quarter 2 2024-25 Budget Monitoring report was **NOTED**.

123.24.6 Cllr Trow gave a verbal report on the Internal Checks for Quarter 2. All monies and processes were in good order and Cllr Trow had no concerns. A couple of process

issues had been raised which had been resolved by Pavilion Committee and Newsletter Working Group

123.24.7 After a proposal from Cllr Hignett, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme as updated by Clerk**

123.24.8 the NJC pay agreement for 2024-25 was **NOTED**. After a proposal by Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the pay increase be backdated to April 2024 as recommended by National Association of Local Councils.**

124.24 Health & Safety Matters – A resident request for solar lighting along the footways on Cricketer’s Meadow was deferred to the next meeting of the Facilities Working Group for consideration.

125.24 Facilities Working Group. After a proposal from Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Mackenzie-Slight, all in favour it was **RESOLVED to approve the following recommendations from the FWG meeting on 4th November 2024:**

125.24.1 **approve the Terms of Reference as prepared by Clerk. Additional members were invited to join the group. Cllr Gregory and Cllr Mackenzie-Slight agreed to join.**

125.24.2 **approve the risk assessments for the play area and public toilets as prepared by Clerk.**

126.24 Newsletter Working Group. A written report from Deputy Clerk of the meeting held on 4th November 2024 was **NOTED**.

127.24 Pontesbury Festival. A written report from Rev. Greg Smith was **NOTED**.

128.24 Environmental Maintenance Grant 2024-5. A number of options were considered. After a proposal from Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve spraying around Plealey and Lea Cross in March to avoid having to apply for grants in 2025-26 for this work.**

129.24 Verges Project update – a verbal update was received and **NOTED**. Cllr Fletcher wished to thank Cllr Jones for all his hard work on this project.

130.24 Flowerbeds in 2025-26 - After a proposal from Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Mackenzie-Slight, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve the quote from Shrewsbury Town Council for £1124 for the supply of plants for planting in June and October 2025 and to budget £750 for the clearing/weeding and watering of the flowerbeds by the current local contractor during 2025-26.** This contract is approved under Financial Regulations 5.12.iv.

Clerk was asked to write to the local contractor to thank him for all his hard work on the upkeep of the flowerbeds during the year.

131.24 Poles Coppice – A written report from SC Officers was received and **NOTED**. After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hignett, it was **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £2500 to SC for the management of Poles Coppice in 2025-26. Cler was asked to write to the SC Officer and thank him and his team for all their hard work and to request a site visit for councillors in Spring 2025.

132.24 ANPR project. Cllrs considered an update report from the Safer Speed Shropshire Working Group and updated legal documents for the project. After a proposal from Cllr

Evans, seconded by Cllr Hignett, Cllr Windows abstained, it was **RESOLVED to approve the following recommendations:**

132.24.1 the move to and funding of Phase 2 of the project estimated at £2,514 for 2025-26

132.24.2 approve the supporting documents:

- **Updated Data Sharing Agreement**
- **Updated Privacy Policy**
- **Updated Project Core Principles.**

Cllr Gregory asked if the data reports to the police could be more frequently than quarterly. This would be reviewed by the Safer Speed Shropshire Working Group

133.24 Clerk's Report - A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted.

134.24 Parish Business the following parish business was reported:

Cllr Trow would report on FixmyStreet the 2 missing chevrons on the verge on the A4386

Cllr Pritchard reported potholes on Prison Lane, Cllr Hignett confirmed that these were listed on FixmyStreet.

Cllr Hignett reported that the work on the Old Railway Line had been finished and that there was some stone remaining outside the Trading Post and asked for volunteers to help fill the potholes outside the Trading Post. Clerk was asked to write and thank the Public Rights of Way team for their work on the Old Railway Line.

Cllr Manning reported the hedge cutting on the cycleway between Minsterley and Pontesbury had left a lot of thorns which had been reported by cyclists. Cllr Manning also asked for the signs at either end of the cycleway to be made bigger to inform cyclists about the cycleway.

Cllr Gregory asked if the Horseshoes Inn had been added as an asset of Community Value. Clerk responded that it had not.

Cllr Davies asked how the new LED lights gained shields. Clerk responded that if residents complained about the new lights the contractor was asked to fit shields/dim the lights

Cllr Evans asked if Quiet Lanes, a pedestrian crossing at Hanwood had been included in the Place Plan. Cllr Fletcher responded that they had. Cllr Evans also asked that an item on flooding could be included in the next newsletter. SC were collecting information about the impact of the recent flooding. Residents would be asked to send this information to Cllrs Evans/Hignett or Clerk. Cllr Evans also mentioned the SC consultation on about banners, bunting and lighting. Clerk would investigate. Cllr Evans reported that the pothole work in Plealey mentioned at the last meeting had been done.

Cllr Jones reported the solar light no.12 on the cycleway as faulty. Clerk would report to contractor. Cllr Jones raised concerns about the overgrown hedgerow along the footpath from Malehurst junction. Clerk was asked to obtain a quote to have this cut back. Cllr Jones queried whose responsibility it was to clear the hedge trimmings along the cycleway. Cllr Fletcher said that this would be raised at the upcoming meeting with SC Officer.

Cllr Fletcher reported that the Remembrance service on Sunday 10th November had been well attended by local residents and that the Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire, Anna Turner, had been present.

135.24 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th December 2024 at The Pavilion, starting at 6.30pm. The meeting closed at 20.07pm

Signed:
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: