

## PONTESBURY PARISH COUNCIL



### **Full Council Meeting held at The Pavilion on Monday 13th January 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 and D Jones

**Clerk of the Meeting:** Debbie Marais

**Public present:** 1 member of the public

#### **141.24 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Heywood, Cllr D Gregory, J Pritchard and Cllr S Davies

#### **142.24 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – None**

#### **143.24 Public Questions and Comments**

Local resident wished to raise concerns of residents on Signal Drive, about the behaviour of drivers at the mini-roundabout coming into Pontesbury from Minsterley. He reported a number of near-misses and people driving the wrong way round the roundabout and over the roundabout. These concerns have been reported to the local policing team and Cllr Hignett.

Cllr Windows asked if there have been any accidents recorded at the roundabout and Cllr Hignett replied that there had been.

#### **144.24 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 Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**145.24 Police Matters –** Clerk had circulated a local newsletter from the Safer Neighbourhood policing team.

145.24.1 After a proposal from Cllr Lewis, seconded by Cllr Jones, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE rural crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs and speeding as policing priorities for Quarter 1 2025.**

**146.24 Shropshire Council Member Report** Shropshire Councillor Nick Hignett gave a verbal report including:

ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER - This was published by the government mid-December 2024, and is likely to have an impact on Shropshire Council. The reorganisation of Councils could make Shropshire part of either a strategic or combined authority with new

powers to get things done in a broader geographic area, covering things such as transport, housing, planning, skills and employment. The paper says that single-tier Unitary Councils such as Shropshire should represent a population of 500,000. With Shropshire currently representing around 350,000, combining with other neighbouring authorities to form a new larger council might be needed. Clarification on these and other points is being sought from Government.

**FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT**—In December the Government announced the draft financial settlement for the next financial year. Council Officers are working through the details and will produce a draft medium-term financial strategy by mid-January.

**SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE**—proposals for a smaller senior management team at Shropshire Council have gone out to consultation until 17th January. The structure proposes fewer Executive Director and Assistant Director posts, with services focused around functional areas, led by service directors. If approved, the new arrangements will be in place by early 2025.

**GUILDHALL**—The move from Shirehall to Guildhall will continue throughout January, with all committee meetings expected to be held in the new venue by February.

**RIVERSIDE**—The second planning application for Shropshire Councils' Smithfield Riverside regeneration project was submitted on 2nd December. This is an outline application which seeks to secure the principle of development for 3 key plots located between Smithfield road, Raven Meadows and the new park on Roushill. The application number is 24/04476/EIA and is on the Councils' online planning register, with a decision due to be made at a planning committee meeting in March.

**UK HIGH STREETS**—Shrewsbury is officially home to “the U.K.’s best high street” according to travel experts, who have named Shropshire’s County Town as number 1 in a list of top shopping destinations. Wyle Cop was singled out as a “curving climbing high street lined with 39 listed buildings, ranging from medieval half-timbered to Victorian ornate”—and with bustling independent businesses.

**SHROPSHIRE ARCHIVES**—For 2025 the Archives will be reducing public opening to 1 day a week, this being Thursdays. This is a temporary service reduction, while Archives staff take on a major project to inventory and relocate 55,000 boxes of corporate records, currently stored at Shirehall. All volunteering projects will be paused until January 2026, as it is anticipated that the project will take 12 months to complete.

## **147.24 Planning**

147.24.1 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 4<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024.

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

147.24.3 Planning Application Reference: 24/04458/LBC: Address: Barn 2 Barns At Brookside Farm, Pontesford, Shrewsbury. Shropshire. Proposal: Revised extension to existing building which already has extant permission ref: 15/01489/LBC, together with weatherboarding to single storey element. **Comment submitted: Parish Council supports this application which respects the character of the barn in terms of matching materials, lean to shape and scale. The setting of barn and listed cottage will not be significantly harmed as the extension is at the rear, covers less than half width of barn, is single storey and will not hide any important barn features.**

147.24.4 Planning Application Reference: 24/04621/VAR: Address: Barn 2 Barns At Brookside Farm, Pontesford, Shrewsbury. Shropshire. Proposal: Variation of Condition No.2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 15/01726/FUL to allow for an amended design to Barn 2. **Comment submitted: Parish Council supports this application as the extension will appear subservient to existing barn and materials of extension will**

match existing building. Existing high boundary fence should prevent any significant impact on privacy of neighbouring dwelling (The Firs). The former existence of rear lean-to supports an extension.

#### **148.24 Finance & General Purposes Committee**

148.24.1 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE that RFO be added to the list of signatories for the Public Sector Deposit Fund and for Chair/Vice-Chair to sign the Change of Signatories Form as per the bank mandate.**

148.24.2 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Windows, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the updating of the Financial Regulations to allow RFO to transfer up to £15,000 to the Unity Current Account for payments. All transfers will be reported to Full Council.**

#### **149.24 Statutory Business and Finance**

149.24.1 Income of £6,197.58 . This was **NOTED.**

149.24.2 After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve December 2024/January 2025 payments of £35,596.64 as attached.**

149.24.3 After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Trow, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to approve transfer of £15,000 from CCLA to Unity for December/January payments**

149.24.4 After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Evans, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE payment of £15,000 to Shropshire Council towards the running of Pontesbury Library for 2025-26 and Clerk to write to Friends of Pontesbury Library to ask for their contribution of £3,500 for 2024-25 (agreed previously) and for an increased contribution for 2025-26. Any legal documents associated with the funding agreement and Licence to Occupy will be brought to a future Full Council meeting for approval.**

149.24.5 After a proposal from Cllr Windows, seconded by Cllr Mackenzie-Slight, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** a payment of £220 for an additional solar lighting panel for solar light no. 12 on the Pontesbury-Minsterley cycleway. Minsterley Parish Council have agreed to make a contribution of 50% of the costs.

149.24.6 The Interim Internal Audit document was **NOTED** and the recommended actions for issues raised. **Cllr Fletcher wished to thank the RFO for all her hard work preparing documents for the Interim Internal Audit.**

149.24.7 **Budget recommendations** – The budget recommendation from the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was reviewed. The expenditure budget of £258,544, (including use of £3,000 from Earmarked Reserves) and income budget of £38,025 was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour and resolved.

149.24.8 Precept Request for 2025-26. After a proposal from Cllr Fletcher, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the precept request of £217,519** which is a 8p/week decrease on a Band D property. Clerk to put an explanatory note about the budget into the newsletter. Cllr Fletcher thanked RFO/Clerk for all their hard work.

#### **150.24 Health & Safety Matters – None.**

**151.24 Mini roundabout by Lawrence Park.** A local resident had raised concerns with the parish council about driver's behaviour and actions on the mini roundabout by

Lawrence Park/Signal Drive. These concerns had been passed onto Cllr Nick Hignett and the local policing team. The parish council had not supported a mini roundabout when the planning application came before them and instead had asked for traffic lights, deemed to be safer. The local policing team had responded with information about Operation Snap where local residents can submit digital footage of potential traffic offences online on the West Mercia police website. Clerk to put this information in the February parish newsletter. Clerk also asked to write to Shropshire Council Highways Officers requesting a site visit as the roundabout was supposed to be reviewed before the development was signed off by Shropshire Council. In addition, Clerk was asked to request that the local policing team keep up monitoring of the roundabout.

#### **152.24 Pontesbury Trust**

After a proposal from Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Hignett, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE the renewed term of trustees as requested by Pontesbury Trust.**

**153.24 Clerk's Report** - A report from the Parish Clerk was received and noted. In addition Clerk reported that the original firm that was going to supply the new noticeboard for Habberley Village Hall had gone into liquidation and a new firm was being approached, but this will lead to a delay in the board being delivered. Fortunately no payment had been made to the original company. Clerk is still chasing the contractors about the repairs to the public toilets and hopes to have a report for the Facilities Working Group at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

#### **154.24 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
- Cllr Evans raised concern about the potholes in the Plealey area that been repaired but failed again within weeks and the state of the road in Edge/Farley. Clerk was asked to write to SC Highways about this matter.
- Cllr Jones reported the mud/flooding on the cycleway between Minsterley and Pontesbury which had caused significant hazards for pedestrians and cyclists particularly during icy conditions. Cllr Jones also raised the issue of the planning application for a building on Station Road. Cllr Jones/Hodges would liaise about this.
- Cllr Sandells raised the concerns and frustration of residents in Cruckmeole/Cruckton about the flooding by Cruckton Hall School. These concerns were also voiced by Cllr Hodges. If the Cruckton bridge also flooded then residents were cut off and emergency vehicles had to make long detours/couldn't get through, the drainage cover also poses a real risk of injury to pedestrians/cyclists. Clerk was asked to write to request a site visit with SC Highways Officers and for them to attend a parish council to talk about this matter and issues raised by Cllr Evans. Cllr Sandells also raised the issue of overgrown hedges by Cruckmeole House causing problems for passing lorries.
- Cllr Lewis asked how long the excess stone would be stored on the parking spaces outside the Trading Post. Cllr Hignett would chase the Rights of Way team.
- Cllr Hignett reported that a resident had requested yellow edging for the steps down to Cricketer's Meadow from the Co-op car park. The steps have been adopted by SC so Cllr Hignett would report on FixMyStreet. Cllr Hignett also reported that a resident had advised him about tractor wheel marks on the grass in the play area. Cllrs Fletcher/Hignett would follow this up.

**156.24 Exclusion of the Press & Public** After a proposal by Cllr Trow, seconded by Cllr Hignett 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).

156.24.1 After a proposal from Cllr Hodges, seconded by Cllr Mackenzie-Slight, all in favour, it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE APPROVE all recommendations from the Personnel Report dated February 2025. Cllr Evans and Cllr Jones abstained from the item on staff mileage expenses.**

**157.24 Date and Time of Next Meeting. The next meeting of Pontesbury Parish Council will be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February at The Pavilion, starting at 6.30pm.**  
**The meeting closed at 7.50pm**

Signed: .....  
Chairman Pontesbury Parish Council

Date: .....