

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 13th JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present Councillors Ms J.L. Clements
R.J. Cotham
D.S. Cowie (Chairman)
S.J. Lawrence (for part of meeting)
Mrs. J.C. Marsh
R.S. Parr
Mrs. V. Williams (for part of meeting)

Also present: Shropshire Councillor Mrs. Tina Woodward, Mr. D.A. Whitmore (for part of meeting)

Apologies: Councillor J.R. Caswell - business reasons, Councillor D.A. Cook – business reasons,
Councillor M.J. Edwards – personal reasons, Councillor D. Harris – business reasons

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared

MINUTES of the meeting held on 9th December 2013, having been distributed to all Councillors, were confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

01/14 Claverley in Bloom

Councillor Parr had submitted a report which had been forwarded to all members of the Council.

The second and final phase of the “Jubilee” shrub planting project on the Aston Lane bank will take place on Saturday, 25th January. The weed killer had killed the rampant clover near Boundary Close. In the Spring, Claverley in Bloom will be sowing the bare patch with a mixture of non-vigorous low growing grasses and wildflowers including red poppies. The wildflower mixture will include red poppies to commemorate the start of World War I.

Discussion took place about signage to depict that Claverley had been successful in achieving Gold status in the Heart of Britain in Bloom competitions. Councillors thought this was a good idea.

Action: Claverley in Bloom to investigate costs.

Councillor Parr reminded everyone that the Claverley in Bloom winter quiz will take place on Wednesday, 29th January in The Plough, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

02/14 QEII Jubilee Field

There was nothing to report.

03/14 Claverley Website

Councillor Williams reported that Kensa will be coming to Claverley to undertake training for councillors interested in learning how to manage the website. Councillors Clements,

Lawrence and Parr expressed an interest. The Parish Council will maintain control of access and uploading.

Action: Councillor Williams will contact councillors absent from the meeting to see if they were interested in participating in the training.

04/14 Parish Plan

The Clerk reported that the working group had met on 11th December. Sally Beaman's group was critically appraising and proof reading the draft questionnaire and will report back to the working group. The questionnaire will then be circulated to members of the Parish Council. Work was continuing on the Young People's questionnaire. The next meeting of the working group will be on 15th January.

05/14 Street Lights

5 High Street

The Clerk to Kinver Parish Council had informed the Clerk that although the Parish Council had street lights fixed to properties they did not have licence agreements with the householders and had not carried out stress tests prior to fixing them.

Jason Hughes, Shropshire Council's Street Lighting & Traffic Signals Manager had informed the Clerk a wayleave agreement with the property owner would be required in order to install/reinstall a street light.

Dave Clark, Street Lighting Maintenance Contractor Manager for Ringway Infrastructure Services had concurred with Mr. Reade's opinion that no company would be prepared to guarantee a stress test on such an old property.

Action: Clerk to check with E.ON if the new lantern could be fitted to the existing bracket and whether a street light column could be installed in place of fitting the replacement light to the wall of No. 5.

Councillor Lawrence joined the meeting.

Replacement Lights

E.ON had advised it was not possible to repair the street light outside the Old Gate Inn. As the Mercury lantern would have to be replaced in 2015 due to EU Directives, the whole installation could be replaced with a new pole light, box bracket arm installed at a cost of £500.00 plus VAT. Alternatively, the asbestos could be removed and the photocell repaired at a cost of £184.73 plus VAT but the lantern would have to be replaced next year. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Cotham, seconded by Councillor Parr and agreed by the Council to accept E.ON's quote of £500.00 plus VAT to replace the whole installation.

Action: Clerk to accept quotation and to ask for the removal of asbestos from the other street light in Heathton which had been detailed in E.ON's list of maintenance defects.

Councillor Parr suggested a sub-committee be formed to discuss matters relating to the street lights.

Action: Councillor Cotham offered to obtain callipers to measure the swan neck columns when the Christmas lights were taken down.

06/14 Christmas Lights

Favourable comments had been received about the new Christmas tree lights.

It was agreed to take down the Christmas lights on Sunday, 19th January commencing at 8.00 a.m. Councillor Lawrence hoped to be able to report back at the next meeting regarding the dimensions and cost of a storage container. For the time being the lights will be stored at Ludstone.

Action: Clerk to inform the householders that could be disturbed by the work and to ask them not to park their vehicles in High Street or the Bull Ring.

The Clerk had purchased a gift token for Mr. Jones but he had refused to accept it and had returned the gift to the Clerk.

07/14 Proposed Claverley Youth Club

Councillor Lawrence's update had been circulated to Councillors. He had provided the Village Hall Committee with a written outline of his expectations and requests in readiness for their meeting on 2nd January. As this had not been circulated to members of the Committee prior to their meeting, it had been decided to defer making a decision until their next meeting on 6th February to allow everyone time to read Councillor Lawrence's notes. Councillor Williams had suggested that Councillor Lawrence should be present to answer questions but the Committee had decided this was not appropriate and would inform him of their decision in writing.

As a surplus had been made at the bonfire and fireworks event, discussion took place regarding the Parish Council offering financial support for the proposed Youth Club. It was proposed by Councillor Parr, seconded by Councillor Williams and agreed by the Council that in principle financial support will be offered.

Councillor Williams left the meeting.

08/14 Place Plan – Annual Review 2013-2014

Discussion took place about Claverley's Place Plan as the Annual Review form had to be returned to Shropshire Council by 31st January. Councillor Parr considered the contents should be realistic and brought up to date. It was therefore decided to make the following amendments: sections relating to additional police presence and consistent postcode throughout parish to be deleted; notes regarding additional hedge trimming, developing a Pride in the Parish Scheme and installing additional litter bins and having litter picks to be deleted as covered by Claverley in Bloom; Seek Quiet Lane designation to be deleted. A figure of £8000 to be inserted under the "Cost" of the first phase of replacing existing street lights and 'rolling programme for replacement of existing lights with conservation style lamps' to be inserted under "Notes".

Councillor Woodward had obtained information relating to the distribution of collected CIL money for Claverley. £2359.80 was available for funding local infrastructure priorities identified in the Claverley Place Plan.

Action: Clerk to forward information to all the Councillors

09/14 Digbeth Lane rubbish skips

As Councillor Harris was not present, it was agreed to defer discussion to the next meeting.

Mr. Whitmore left the meeting.

10/14 **UNITARY REPORT**

Shropshire Councillor Mrs. Woodward reported she was checking the site history of the chalet site.

11/14 **PLANNING**

Permission Refused

13/04354/FUL Erection of one dwelling; formation of new vehicular access, land adjacent
7 Sunny Bank Cottage, Hill End, Claverley for Mr. D. Barker

Reasons for refusal

1. The site is within the Green Belt and the proposed development is not considered to be appropriate development as set out in the adopted Core Strategy policy CS5, Saved Bridgnorth District Local Plan policy S3 and the guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework Part 9. The development is therefore harmful to the Green Belt. The Local Planning Authority has considered the reasons advanced, but does not consider that these reasons constitute the very special circumstances required to justify inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

2. The proposed development would be an unnecessary visual intrusion into the Green Belt and would be prejudicial to the openness, character and amenity of this part of the Green Belt, contrary to the policies set out in policy CS5 and CS6 of the adopted Core Strategy.

12/14 **DRAFT BUDGET/PRECEPT FOR 2015/2015**

Before setting the precept for 2014/2015 discussion took place about the draft budget. E.ON had identified work to street lights that required attention as soon as possible and had recommended other less urgent work. There would be a rolling programme to replace street lights. The collected CIL of £2359 to help fund local infrastructure identified by the Parish Council in the Place Plan to be inserted under 'Income' for 2014/15 and Claverley Football Club will be charged for the use of the football pitch next season. There was unlikely to be a surplus in the current financial year so reserves will be used to cover the anticipated deficit in 2014/2015.

Shropshire Council had advised that in order to show a 0% increase in the Band D Council Tax charge for 2014/2015, the precept requirement net of Council Tax Support Grant for 2014/2015 would need to be £19,917 compared to £19,386 requested in 2013/2014. After discussion, it was agreed there should not be an increase in the Band D Council Tax and it was proposed by Councillor Parr, seconded by Councillor Lawrence and agreed by the Council to precept for £19,917, net of Council Tax Support Grant.

13/14 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

If the village hall was available, it was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 28th April. After discussion it was decided not to have a speaker.

14/14 **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**

The Clerk reported that Mr. Whitmore had expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor and had attended the meeting to observe proceedings.

15/14 **PARISH MATTERS**

Councillor Parr reported that the road surface in Watery Lane was deteriorating and there were numerous potholes.

Councillor Cotham reported that edge of the verge between Claverley and Hopstone had been damaged by vehicles trying to pass one another.

Councillor Cowie reported there was a block drain by Newlands, Heathton.

Action: Clerk to inform Shropshire Highways

16/14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Shropshire and Marches Campaign for Better Broadband in Rural Areas

Patrick Cosgrove of the Shropshire and Marches Campaign for Better Broadband in Rural Areas was seeking support for the campaign to extend faster broadband to those parts of Shropshire that are unlikely to see improvements beyond the minimum guarantee of 2Mb. It was agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting.

Notification of Road Closure

Notification had been received from Shropshire Council that a section of the B4176 from the Upper Aston junction to the Staffordshire County Boundary will be closed from Monday, 10th February for three weeks for carriageway resurfacing.

Action: Clerk to ask South Staffordshire Council to improve the flooding near Whittimere Farm

17/14 **REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

Rights of Way

Councillor Cotham reported that four wheel drive vehicles had become stuck in the bridleway between the War Memorial and Damson Hollow at 12.30 a.m. Fencing had been damaged and the bridleway was now unfit for use.

18/14 **CHEQUES**

Chq. No. 001152 G.T. Drury – Providing PA equipment and music for New

Year's Eve ceremony.....	£50.00
001153 E.ON Sustainable Energy – repairs to 4 street lights.....	£246.56
001154 Npower Ltd. – energy for street lights 01/10/12 to 31/12/13.....	£787.31
001155 Mrs. G.M. Price – Clerk's salary (13 weeks) 30/09/2013 to 29/12/2013.....	£686.27

001156 Mrs G.M. Price - reimbursement of charge for Broadband
07/10/2013 to 06/01/2014 £61.05
Bottle of whisky for Mr. G.Jones £15.99 £77.04

It was proposed by Councillor Lawrence, seconded by Councillor Clements and agreed by the Council to pass the cheques for payment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 p.m.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 10th February at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall