

WHITTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Whittington Parish Council held on Tuesday 25th October 2022 at 7.30pm in the Senior Citizen's Hall, Station Road, Whittington.

Councillors Present: Lucy Beaumont (Chair), Jill Whitby, Keith Stanton, Vanessa Bromley, Steve Charmley, Rupert Harvey, Steve Pugh and Ian Johnson.

Also in attendance: Mrs Amy Jones (Clerk).

Parish Council MINUTES

326.22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Hickman, Cllr Davis and Cllr Manford.

327.22 Declarations of interest regarding the agenda

Members are reminded that the Council's Code of Conduct requires that any Member, having a financial or other interest (bias or predetermination) in any of the business to be transacted, must declare all such interests either at the start of the meeting or immediately before the item is discussed. Members are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable interest.

a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests.

Agenda Item 331.b.ii – Cllr Stanton declared a bias.

Agenda Item 330.b.i and 332a – Cllr Charmley declared a pecuniary interest

b) To consider any applications for dispensation. None received.

328.22 Confirmation of the Minutes

To approve and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27.09.22.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 27.09.22 and they were signed by the Chair as a true record.

329.22 Public Participation

To allow public participation in accordance with the Council's Standing Order procedure.

No members of public present.

330.22 Reports

a) Clerk's Progress Report – Consider matters arising since the last meeting (attached report).

The following report was **NOTED**.

<p>Road Safety / Highways (matters not included for discussion elsewhere on the agenda)</p> <p>Signage along Castle Street</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Oswestry directional sign sending people up Castle Street rather than Station Road. Reported to SC 23.01.2020. SC have confirmed that they will look to renew this sign/posts as part of their works programme (19.03.2020). They will also relocate sign to resolve issue with vehicles turning into the dead-end bit of Castle Street.2. 30mph signage – additional repeater signs requested. Confirmed that they will be put in 19.03.2020. <p>Update from Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer (12.03.21) – work delayed due to Covid.</p>	On-going
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Followed up 20.07.21 –We will work to progress these signing works as soon as we are able as part of our works programme for this financial year.

UPDATE 15.03.22 – The Traffic Engineer is liaising with WSP as to the redesign / relocation of the ADS sign in Castle Street. It will be ordered as part of 2022/23 small works budget.

Update requested July 2022.

UPDATE 04.08.22 - There is a plan and design of the ADS sign near Castle Street with WSP that has been designed by WSP. Regarding the 30mph repeaters, all the works in Whittington (these and the Car Park Lines, Bollards, extension of the 30mph on B5009 etc) may be joined together as one scheme to save costs and disruption to the road network etc.

Footpath through the development off Park Crescent – The path will be installed when the development is completed (minute 108.e.21 refers – Monitor.)

Implementation of Traffic Calming (a planning condition attached to the development off Park Crescent) – Monitor as although installed, it looks incomplete. This has been raised as a query.

Extension of the 30mph B5009 Gobowen to Whittington

UPDATE 04.08.22 - WSP are working to produce these plans now.

Parking issues on Top Street / Access issues onto Daisy Lane

Cllr Charmley has requested a site visit with Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer.

Installation of a pavement between The Venue and Inglis Road and Burma Road flooding (by the traffic calming, near the Venue).

UPDATE 02.08.22 - Update from Shropshire Council - here is not fixed date yet for lifting the embargo on expressions of interest for CIL though this is under review at present.

Penybryn Pedestrian Crossing

UPDATE 25.07.22 - Service Development Project Manager –The cost of a crossing would be on average between £60,000 to £125,000 depending on the type of crossing, the infrastructure in place and any prep work. This might increase or decrease depending on the outcomes of the design work. WSP currently putting together a quote for a Feasibility Study which the Parish Council will then consider funding. The feasibility study through WSP would look at the placement, type of crossing on do some preliminary checks. The Neighbourhood fund could be used to fund this if the Parish Council wanted to proceed.

Three Trees TRO

UPDATE 04.08.22 - Posts alongside the medieval wall to protect the verge, and TRO to control parking around the bus stop etc. The bollards may be separate from the TRO works but has made the list of schemes to be ordered for this Year.

Cllr Charmley arranging a site meeting which will also look at:

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hedge at Yew Tree House causing visibility issues at the junction • Overgrown hedge before the Top Street turning on the Ellesmere Road 	
<p>Streetlights / Lighting Column 191 (Pen-y-Bryn) – relocated. Not connected by SP. Enquiries from residents. Contact made with developers to request connection date so that residents can be informed. Issue with the SP connection. May need to wait until main site is completed. Solar option not feasible as too expensive.</p> <p>Contract – Four companies contacted to provide quotes. Deadline for submission 4th November.</p>	To note.
<p>Community Governance Reviews Proposal for no change submitted and submission acknowledged. No updates or further communication received.</p>	To note.
<p>Jubilee Tree – This has now been registered on the Queen’s Green Canopy Map. Whittington Under 5’s – will get in touch in the Autumn about planting a tree on the green next to the Play Area.</p>	To note.
<p>Play Areas Fitzgwarine Drive – Waiting for the ROSPA Report to assess the issues with the small climber and whether remedial work or replacement is required. Insurance Value to be reconsidered once this is known, following recent work in the Play Area. New Play Area – Shropshire Council to come back to the PC with possible options (if any) in Park Hall. No update from SC to report.</p>	To note.
<p>Park Hall Traveller Site Concerns raised regarding the inadequate fencing in a field where horses are being kept and the risk they pose if they escape onto the road. Reported to Shropshire Council’s Liaison Officer, they are aware and dealing with the situation.</p>	To note.
<p>Babbinswood Defibrillator – Notification from The Circuit that WMAS may have used the defibrillator on 16th October. Checks completed and the defibrillator was not used.</p>	To note.

b) Asset Maintenance Report

1. Defibrillators - Clerk to provide an annual report on maintenance checks and records.

- Checks are being completed monthly on all four defibrillators. No operational issues reported. Checks being logged on The Circuit.
- The stiff locks on the Park Hall and Babbinswood Cabinets have been fixed.
- The battery has been replaced on the Senior Citizen’s Defibrillator as it was 4 years old (max recommended age for a defibrillator battery).
- The Senior Citizen’s Defibrillator was recalled as part of a software updating process and returned back to service.
- No uses of the defibrillators to report to date.
- A bleed kit has appeared in the Senior Citizen’s Defib. Others asked to check their defibs. Clerk to investigate where this may have come from.

NOTED.

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2. Phonebox in Hindford – Ratify the quote provided to carry out the required maintenance work.

Cllr Charmley declared an interest and did not take part in any discussions or decisions on this item.

Following the September meeting, the Clerk contacted Oswestry Handyman and Gardening Services to provide a quote for the refurbishment of the Hindford Red Phonebox belonging to the Parish Council as the Council had previously been unsuccessful in its attempts to find someone to carry out the required work. Materials to carry out the work had already been purchased by the Parish Council, including new Defibrillator Signage. Following discussions with the Chair, it was agreed, to approve the quote under section 4.1 of Financial Regulations as the work needed to be completed while the weather was still dry and warm. It was **RESOLVED** to ratify approval of the quote which was done outside of the meeting, as it had enabled the work to be completed whilst the weather was still dry.

- b) **Whittington play area at Fitzgwarine** – Consider the latest visual inspection report provided to the council by Cllr Frank Davis and discuss the Annual ROSPA Report (if available).
The Clerk reported that the ROSPA Inspection Report has not yet been received but that the inspections have been completed. Cllr Davis was absent from the meeting so no visual inspection report was provided. **RESOLVED** to defer to the November meeting.
- c) **Police Report** – Consider.
The written report was considered and **NOTED**. No police representation at the meeting.
- d) **Community Speed Watch** – receive a report.
The CSW Volunteer provided a quarterly report. There has not been much monitoring taking place recently due to the lack of volunteer availability and lack of volunteers. An issue at Prenybryn was highlighted as motorists pulling out of Penybryn turning right are complaining they cannot see right. When monitoring is taking place in that location they step back out of the way. The hedgerow naturally wraps around (natural line of the hedge). It is not obstructing the pavement. A request has been submitted for a mirror to aid visibility. The concern is that there will be more traffic using this junction when the new development is complete. **RESOLVED** that this be raised as part of the site meeting Cllr Charmley is due to have with Highways. Volunteers have asked the Police to support at key times when there are repeat offenders but with no success. **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Parish Council follow this up with the Oswestry SNT to request their support. At the next quarter, a report covering the number of letters issued, number of further action taken etc will be presented at the December meeting. The volunteers were thanked for their time and efforts and the report was **NOTED**.
- e) **Shropshire Councillors Report** – To receive a report from Cllr Steve Charmley.
Cllr Charmley has no updates to report.
- f) **Councillor Reports** – To consider reports from Councillors (training courses attended, meetings attended as council representatives).
The written report submitted by Cllr Hickman, following the SALC Executive Committee was considered and noted. In the report it refers to ‘Shropshire’s Warm Welcome’. It was **RESOLVED** to share this information with Community Halls and the Church and assist with promoting and events and activities they have planned and look into funding that can be accessed. The Ripple and Facebook can be used to help spread and share information.

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Cllr Johnson attended Training on 'Levelling Up and the Regeneration Bill' and reported that it provided little information other than just covering the bill that was being prepared for Government – **NOTED**.

Cllr Whitby reported on recent School Governors meetings. A new Caretaker has been appointed. A meeting with Morda Governors has taken place and discussions around a federation between the two are on-going. A consultation is set to take place early in the new year, with all stakeholders being consulted. Reception is increasing its intake capacity from 30 to 45 as there is a new classroom.

331.22

Planning

a) To note recent planning decisions published by Shropshire Council

I. **Reference:** 22/03686/FUL (validated: 11/08/2022)

Address: Vine Cottage, 7 Top Street, Whittington, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4DR

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey infill extension and single-storey rear extension along with internal reconfiguration

Decision: Grant Permission

RESOLVED to note.

b) Consider the following Planning Applications:

II. **REFERENCE - 22/04583/FUL**

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED - Erection of one 40m to hub (67m to tip) wind turbine with control box and all associated works (re-submission)

LOCATION: - Bryn-Y-Plentyn Farm, Bryn-Y-Plentyn, Middleton, Oswestry, Shropshire.

20.13 – Cllr Stanton left the room (bias declared)

It was **RESOLVED** to **OBJECT** with the following comments:

Whilst the Parish Council note the noise impact report and the four houses that are identified within it, Councillors are surprised that the impact on the nearby hamlet of Babbinswood has not been referred to in the report.

The Parish Council have concerns about the visual impact that the proposed 67m turbine would have on a rural area and concerns regarding the safety of the bountiful wildlife – (please refer to the ecology report).

Again, the Parish Council wish to express their disappointment that there has been no pre-application engagement as this would have provided councillors with the opportunity to ask questions and seek further information as the impact of the turbine is complex and significant for residents.

20.32 – Cllr Stanton re-joined the meeting.

c) Consider Planning applications not listed above that are received after the issue of this agenda and are included on Shropshire Council's website.

None received.

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332.22

Finance and Accounts

a) Approve the following accounts for payment.

Cllr Charmley declared an interest and did not participate in discussions or the decision relating to the approval and payment of item 45.

RESOLVED to approve.

CHEQUE / BACS NUMBER	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT	GROSS (£)
43	Clerk	Salary Month 7 (Scale 27) (plus expenses (mileage, 16.00 home office allowance, 20 reimbursement for RBL Wreath)	1083.96	0.00	1083.96
44	HMRC	PAYE Payments (Month 7) Employer NI	61.84	0.00	61.84
45	Oswestry Handyman and Gardening Services	Refurbishment of Hindford Phonebox using materials supplied by the PC	140.00	0.00	140.00
46	SALC	Cllr Training (Cllr Harvey – Code of Conduct and Cllr Bromley Finance for Cllrs)	60.00	0.00	60.00
Direct Debit	NEST	Pension (Employer & Employee Contribution)	39.04	0.00	39.04

b) **Income** – To note income received. RESOLVED to note.

Date Received	From Whom and Description	Amount
30.09.22	NatWest – Interest	£15.14
30.09.22	Unity Trust – Interest	£46.97

c) **Reconciliation** - To approve the bank reconciliation up to and including 30th September 2022 (2nd Quarter). RESOLVED to approve.

d) **Internal Transfer** – Consider transferring funds from Natwest to Unity Trust to benefit from the best interest rates.

Councillors considered the following:

Figures as of 30.09.22 bank reconciliation

Natwest Reserve A/C there is currently £83,738.32 and paying 0.30% AER interest

Proposal:

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To transfer £45,000 to the Unity Trust Savings Account which is now paying 0.95% AER. This account currently has £30,046.97 in and £9362.72 in the current account (before October invoices are paid at the meeting) so with the transfer, it would be within the £85k FSCS limit.

It was noted that the Nationwide 95 day saver is full (£85k) and paying interest at 1.6%.

It was **RESOLVED** to carry out the transfer of £45,000 from the Natwest Savings Account to the Unity Trust Savings Account to benefit from the better interest rate. It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Finance and Executive Committee consider possible alternative investment opportunities and savings accounts to further benefit from the increasing interest rates and report back at the November meeting.

- e) **Budget Report** – Consider the 2nd Quarter Budget Report. **RESOLVED** to approve with no issues raised.

333.22

Highways, Pavements and Footpaths

a) **20's Plenty – Discuss**

The Police were not present to provide their views on the campaign. Cllr Charmley reported that he has been asked to canvas Parish Council's views on the proposals. It is assumed that as part of this 30mph signs will all be replaced with 20mph signs, starting with town centres and identified zones. It was **AGREED** that as there is currently no information available for Parish Council's regarding how it would impact villages, residential areas and rural roads, a comment or opinion can not be given at this stage.

b) **Receive an update regarding the installation of a pavement between The Venue and Inglis Road.**

The embargo on CIL remains in place so at present there is no further progress. **NOTED.**

c) **Receive an update regarding Burma Road flooding (by the traffic calming, near the Venue).**

d) **Penybryn Pedestrian Crossing – Consider the costs from Shropshire Council to carry out a Feasibility Study on the site.**

e) **Extension of the 30mph speed limit on B5009 Whittington – Gobowen Road – Receive an update.**

No update.

f) **Receive an update from Cllr Charmley following a site visit in Whittington with Shropshire Council's Traffic Engineer.**

Items b-f – No updates available. **RESOLVED** to defer to the November meeting and the Clerk continue to follow up.

334.22

Festive Lighting

Receive an update on plans for the 2022 display and the associated costs and permissions to site an additional tree at the Drenewydd Junction.

The Clerk reported that Shropshire Council have given permission for the cut tree to be sited at the Drenewydd Junction (where you turn for Park Hall off Oswestry Road). Cllr Davis has been asked to dig the hole in preparation. The cost of £100 for the additional cut tree was approved (the other tree located by the Car Park is given FOC). It was **AGREED** that no barriers around the new tree will be required and Highline will lend the Parish Council as set of white lights for this year. The 8 Bracket Lights have been ordered for Park Hall and The Church. Delivery date for the cut trees and light switch on date – TBC.

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335.22

Remembrance

Discuss arrangements.

- Wreath purchased by the Clerk and presented to the Chair ready for Remembrance Sunday.
- Cllr Johnson reported that the Poppies will be going up beginning of November.
- The Chair will be invited to lay the Wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the PC at the Remembrance Sunday Service.

NOTED.

336.22

Pen-y-Bryn Affordable Housing Development

Receive an update from Councillor Johnson on progress.

Cllr Johnson reported that a site visit took place on 23rd October. Most foundations are now in and completion is expected to be next August 2023. Houses will then be ready for release. Three months before completion they can be advertised as being available. People of Whittington who may be interested need to register their interest on HomePoint. If nobody from Whittington comes forward, properties will be offered to Oswestry and then Telford. The disconnected S/Light cannot be connected until development is complete. Next meeting will be in the New Year. **NOTED.**

NOTED.

337.22

Correspondence

To note correspondence received:

1. SALC / NALC – Bulletins, News in brief bulletins, NALC Legal Briefings and Newsletters
2. Shropshire Council Road Closure: Burma Road, Whittington. 3rd January - 5th January 2023. Purpose: Road Closure - New Water Connection. Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water
3. Shropshire Council Road Closure: Whittington Level Crossing, Whittington. Start Date: 15th December 2022 - Earlier Date Agreed 12/12/22. End Date: 16th December 2022. Purpose: Road Closure - Signal and Telecoms Testing 22:00 - 06:00. Works Promoter: Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
4. Shropshire Council Road Closure: Queens Head to Rednal. Start Date: 29th November 2022. End Date: 6th December 2022. Purpose: Site MV-8001. Carriageway repairs. Works Promoter: Shropshire Council
5. Shropshire Council Road Closure: Rednal Industrial Estate. Start Date: 23rd November 2022. End Date: 28th November 2022. Purpose: MV-2180 carriageway repairs. Works Promoter: Shropshire Council
6. Shropshire Council Road Closure: Ellesmere Winter Festival. 25th November 2022. Purpose: Ellesmere Christmas Winter Festival takes place on FRIDAY 25-NOV between 17:00 and 21:00. Roads closed: Cross Street, Wharf Road, Market Street, Scotland Street (from Victoria Street to High Street) and High Street.
7. U1047 - North Drive site has been identified via a combination of local engineering judgment and asset management data as needing essential maintenance. Work likely to be carried out between April – August 2023. The point was made as to whether this is an opportunity to put in place the infrastructure in preparation for the development included in the Local Plan? It was **RESOLVED** to feed this back.

338.22

Council Reports / Areas of Concerns / Items for future Agendas

Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. ***Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.***

- *Dog mess signs – still not put up in Oaklands Drive.*

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- *State of the signs around the Parish – falling down, dirty and overhanging trees. Welcome Gates on Ellesmere Road – poor state. Cllrs to report specific issues to the Clerk (with pictures and exact location where possible) and a list to be collated for SC.*
- *No cladding on Maestermyn Marina Building. Chase up with Planning Officer.*
- *Delivery of recycling bins – being done in Phases.*

339.22

Date and Time of Next Meeting

To note the date and time of the next meeting.

Tuesday 22nd November, 7.30pm.

Meeting was closed by the Chair at 21.22