

# **HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

An Ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 4<sup>TH</sup> July 2017 at 7pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

**Present:** Cllr. D.Tremellen – Chair, Cllrs. M.Brooks, R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne. T.Holford, J.Marshall, N.Barker, D.Thakrar, D.Bache, G.Court, J.Law, R.Broome, D.Bayley  
Clerk: Mrs.E.Preston  
Parishioners – 3

**00. Parishioners Time – Mrs.R.Round** and Mrs.S.Daizall attended the meeting with their concerns regarding the area around the Skate Ramps. They stated that Children were sustaining injuries on the gravelled area and that there was no clear definition between the car parking area and the skate ramps and children's area. This issue to be brought to the attention of the Seven Centre and put on the Agenda for further discussion at the September Parish Council meeting.

Mr.N.Donnolly asked if the Parish Council could do anything about the tree in the Barke Street Alleyway. Chair D.Tremellen and Cllr.N.Barker to look into this issue.

**Declaration of Pecuniary interests: Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer.**

**01. Apologies for absence.** Apologies received Cllrs. P.Atkinson, M.Phipson – personal. **RESOLVED** to accept apologies

**02. To confirm the minutes of the meeting dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 –.** Following amendments requested by Cllr. R.Honeybourne on item 08. Paragraph two, regarding future grant procedures .Cllr. Honeybourne stated that she did not think that this issue was resolved as stated but that it should have been added as an Agenda item for the meeting. This to now be added as an **AGENDA** item for September. With these amendments it was **RESOLVED** to accept minutes as a true and correct record.

### **03. Matters arising from minutes:-**

#### **Road Safety Schemes**

Barrier Repairs Ashleigh Garden –Awaiting further information.

Severn Centre- Shropshire Council - Awaiting start date for the scheme.

Redstone Drive. – Alice Dilly provided updated details of the Traffic Calming Scheme at Redstone Drive.

**Problem Parking Areas,** Woodhill Road, Main Road, High Street, Borle Brook Court, parking bays in the village centre – awaiting a reply from Shropshire Council.

**Churchyard** –Report on Agenda

**Replacement of Setts – Village Centre** – Graham Downes replied that they would look at incorporating the thoughts of the Parish Council into the scheme.

Swimming Pool Update – Cllr. Brooks stated that the final payment from the LEADER fund had now been received. The results from the consultations on the second phase of the pool had been in favour of the learner pool being turned into a splash pad. Quotations for the work are now being sought.

CCTV System – Awaiting a response regarding funding application from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Andrew Gough from Shropshire Council informed the Parish Council that no decision on the applications would be taken until September 2017.

Dog Fouling – Awaiting response from St. Marys PCC on this issue.

Castle Inn – Clerk reported that she had contacted the Empty Homes Team at Shropshire Council who have stated that they have been unable to gain contact with the owners of the Castle, so the Council is looking at pursuing the owners to recover the debts owed with a view to applying for a Charging Order which will give them the opportunity to move the property forward. This is being led by the Council Tax team who are instructing the legal officers regarding the action.

Footpath Oak Street/Wilkins Close – Andy Oliver said that a section 81 notice had been raised.

Environmental Maintenance Grant – Clerk said that Shropshire Council had awarded Highley Parish Council a further £504.16 which now makes the grant £1,931.06.

#### **04. Correspondence:**

Severn Valley Country Park – Bulletin

Rural Services Network – Newsletter

Mrs. Gay Lilley – Request for Donation for Scout/Guide Hut – **AGENDA** September meeting.

SALC – Information on the discussion to continue on Maintain Safe, Effective and Dignified Urgent and Emergency Care.

SALC – Healthwatch Stakeholder Event – 17<sup>th</sup> July.

SALC – Be a Better Councillor – Training – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Cllrs. Marshall, Bayley, Court, Brooks to attend.

John Campion – Police and Crime Commissioner - Newsletter

SALC Information Bulletin – June

#### **05. To look at any planning applications received.**

17/02688/REM – Approval of Reserved Matters (Landscaping for consideration) pursuant to 12/00853/OUT for the erection of four dwellings – RESOLVED to ask for more detail on the application and the Planning Committee to respond to Shropshire Council on behalf of the Parish Council. .

#### **06. Report from Village Maintenance Working Party**

The Village Maintenance working party met on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to discuss the issue of the village floral displays. It was decided by the Maintenance Working Party, as this was an urgent issue, to look for someone to take over the watering of the plants as the Severn Centre were not able to carry this out this year. It was agreed that a sum of £100 per week be offered and if necessary the purchase of a towbar. Cllr. George Court to speak to someone who might be interested in the position. Cllr. Court to also visit all the shops in the village centre to ask them if they could help by watering the baskets outside of their shops. Hanging Baskets and barrier baskets are being delivered Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It had been agreed by the Working Party that the work of watering the plants be given to Mr.P.Petrigallillo.

Concern expressed by some Councillors that this issue should have come back to the Council for further discussion. It was explained that as the plants had already been delivered and that if they were not watered they would die that it had been felt that an urgent decision had needed to be taken. In

future if such a decision is needed Clerk to contact as many Councillors of the **Intermediate Committee** as possible to ask their views.

### **07. Report from Churchyard Maintenance Working Party**

Churchyard Maintenance Group meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. Present were Cllr.D.Tremellen, M.Brooks, T.Holford, N.Barker, M.Phipson, Rev.Mike Harris, Mr. Smith, Ms. Linda Ross. Shropshire Council – Mr. Mark Foxall. Apologies: R.Broome

Mr.Foxall gave a brief overview of the Burial Services at Shropshire Council, Mr. Keith Smith detailed the problems with the remaining space at the Churchyard. It was proposed that Cllr.Holford and Revd. Harris approach the neighbouring landowner to ask if it would be possible for some of the land to be used as an extension to the churchyard.

Cllr.Holford stated he had been in contact with the nearby landowner who was willing to look at the possibility of the purchase of land to extend the churchyard but that to date he had not had any contact from Revd.M.Harris regarding this issue so was unable to update the Parish Council any further.

**08. Shropshire Councillors Report.** Cllr.Tremellen reported that with the @lull' in activity caused by the general election following so closely on the local elections, June had been a relatively quiet month at Shirehall. As an 'alternate' for Councillor Kevin Turley, on the 19<sup>th</sup> I attended the Police & Crime Panel at County Hall, Worcester. The main presentation was by PCC John Campion who was promoting his bid to ae over governance of an amalgamated Police and Fire serve. Despite the proposal being me with mixed feelings the majority of the Panel vote to accept his proposals, with only two voting against – myself ad Roger Evans, Leader of the SC's Liberal Democratic group. The PCC's proposal is likely to meet opposition when it goes out to the regions, which means it will be called in by the Home Office minister, although given that John Campions move is in response to the governments introducing the option for amalgamation the outcome of that calling-in is likely to be a rubber-stamping of the proposal. The 20<sup>th</sup> was day of briefings and training at Shirehall, 'Safeguarding of Vulnerable Children' and 'Media Training', the former extremely useful, the latter less so because it was primarily a series of statements of the obvious that had to do with avoiding causing embarrassment to the Administration, a standpoint that ignored the function of an effective Opposition. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was Full Council, but with a sparse agenda dealing with issues local to Shrewsbury – the disposal of Council-owned land I ad around the county town – I chose to submit apologies for absence and instead attended tow local meetings, The Highley Action Group which covered issues ranging from ownership of local social housing by outside Local Authorities to dog fouling, and the Churchyard Working Party, which considered the possible acquisition of land to extend the life of the burial ground. It was resolved that Cllr.Holford and Rev. Harris approach the identified land owners to assess the feasibility of such a purchase and then, depending on the outcome of that initial approach, to consider in detail the viability of such a scheme before putting it to full parish council. The 26<sup>th</sup> was a briefing session on the role of the Community Enablement team, given by its senior officers, that highlighted how important the team has become in the implementation of the often staggeringly different approach to local governance that has come about over the last three or four years. I personally regret the role of officers becoming so much more "political" often placing them in the embarrassing position of having to duck questions – as happened at a meeting in Chelmarsh last year – because the "executive councillor" or "Commissioner with responsibilities" who should have been present to field such questions, chose not to be there. In the case of three questions from the floor, the senior Community Enablement Officer present had to respond by saying : 'I'm sorry I can't answer that question because its political" I got an assurance at that meeting that such a situation would not be allowed to happen at any future similar meetings. My holiday in the middle of the month ~ (booked at the end of last year) meant that I had to submit my apology for absence from the first of this Councils sessions Licensing Committee meetings. Because

an essential training session was tacked on to that meeting it created a situation where, although I am still a full member of the Strategic Licencing Committee, it is not clear whether I am qualified to sit on any of its sub-commutes – one officer says I am, another says there is some doubt. We await legal clarification. Luckily, as I was not alone in missing out on what was a last-minute training session, a second training session is scheduled for September. I did attend a Licensing Panel meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>, as an observer, and was amazed at the amount of time and effort that goes into the investigation of breaches of the Licensing Act. That session involved Trading Stands, Public Protection and the police, because on shoe-keeper thought he could ignore the law regarding sales to under-age persons and ignore all subsequent formal notices, falsifying documents, giving also names, in short laying throughout. His license was revoked. The strategic Licensing Committee is one of, if not the busiest and certainly the most interesting of all the committees and has the singular advantage of being totally non-political. Briefing on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> dealt with Ethical Conduct and information Governance, which is essentially all matters to do with the Councils Code of Conduct. Whilst the actual Code itself is dry-as dust, the subsequent discussing around its application was anything but, although specific cases were not gone into, especially not the most headline grabbing case of its breach. After a short break, there was a further presentation dealing with the Freedom of Information act and the Data protection Act. Friday 30<sup>th</sup>, was a briefing on Equality and Diversity that spent most of its time concentrating on Shropshire’s Demographic profile and the “metrics” involved, which always makes me fidget because whilst the outcome of research is presented in some detail, what is actually learnt that is of practical use to the Administration in determining policy remains a deeply hidden secret, I’m not alone in wondering why that is. At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board some time back, one of the voluntary-sector members (who generally have a more down-to-earth, practical approach to things) asked if it was possible to “see what was in the black box that, presumably, is at the centre of all these metrics “. It wasn’t a facetious question.

**09. Finance:**

SALC	Planning Training	£325.00
SALC	Chairman’s Training	£25.00
Eon	Street Lights	£112.46
Viking Direct	Stationery	167.84
M.E.Preston	Salary - July	£910.47
Post Office Ltd	Tax an National Insurance July	£68.86
M.E.Preston	Salary - August	£910.47
Post Office Counters	Tax and National Insurance July	£68.86
Severn Centre	Churchyard Maintenance April	£1133.50
Severn Centre Trust	Churchyard Maintenance May	£1133.50
Jody Petrigallo	Watering Plants	£222.00

**RESOLVED** to accept cheques. Objection Cllr.R.Broome.

**Meeting closed 9.00pm**

Signed .....

Date: .....