### HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 7.30pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.**

**Present**: Chair P., Vinall, Councillors; M. Moore, T. Pinches, D. Thakrar, J. Law, C. Stanley, A. Rodgers, E. Moore, T. Quinn, E. Aspin

Clerk: H. Bowkett

Parishioners: David Bradley

**00. Parishioners Time**

Mr Bradley attended to state he is hoping to go ahead with his planning application to change location of the previously discussed footpath in proximity to his house. He also explained that he has written another letter informing the Parish Council that he is also the landowner.

**01.Apologies and reasons for Absence**

Cllr J. Marshall due to personal reasons. **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT.**

John Felix absent without apologies.

**02.To confirm the minutes of the meetings dated Tuesday 4th April 2023**

It was RESOLVED TO ACCEPT these minutes.

**03. Election of Chairman**

Cllr Vinall nominated Cllr T Quinn

It was **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT** Cllr T. Quinn as the new Chairman of Highley Parish Council. It was noted to extend great thanks to Cllr P. Vinall for all his hard work over the last 12 months as Highley Parish Council Chairman.

It was **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT** Cllr T. Pinches as Vice Chair for Highley Parish Council.

**04. Clerks Update**

The last month has unfortunately contained a lot of chasing up of items such as litter picking equipment which has still not arrived and is delaying the proposed joint litter pick within the community, and the reimbursement for works on Redstone drive- which now should be received within the next three days.

This month has meant the end of the financial year and preparations have begun for upcoming audits. We have now received our precept for this financial year- alongside the neighbourhood fund. Consideration needs to be taken by councillors this year on how would be most appropriate to use the neighbourhood fund within the community.

Several complaints have come forward this month- illegal parking, speeding and anti-social behaviour. These have all been passed on to the relevant bodies- such as our Shropshire Councillor Mark Williams, the police, and Shropshire Council.

Time has been spent preparing for our annual parish meeting and organising who will attend. No communications have been received from the police within the last month, they were invited to our Annual Parish meeting but did not provide a response, nor have council received a monthly report.

The bill for this current financial year now for electricity stands at £8371.61. This is a vast improvement on recent years and thanks once again to Councillor Rodgers for helping to secure this. We are now in a great position for our energy.

Thank you for councillors’ patience during recent times of family illness.

It was noted that the lack of response from the Police this last month has been frustrating. This is to be taken further through the appropriate channels and will be escalated.

**05.Correspondence- Including emails circulated to councillors and anything received after publication of the agenda**

D. Bradley- Further Letter regarding footpaths which was discussed. It was noted that the footpath is not owned by Shropshire Council. It was once again stated that the Parish Council cannot make comment on a planning application until it has come through the official appropriate channels and then an official comment can be made.

SALC- Information Bulletins

UK Shared Prosperity Fund- grants Cllr E. Moore has enquired after this funding and stated the importance of having somebody who is able to advise on what grants could be gained for the community. It was noted that it would be beneficial to consult SALCC if they can advise if there is any support available in this area.

SALC- Community solar farms

SALC- thriving children and families’ fund

Shropshire Council Street work team- Netherton Lane Road Closure. Cllr Moore brought to the attention that the map states that it is not directly taking place on Netherton Lane but in fact Borle Mill. Clerk to investigate the resurfacing and drainage of Netherton Lane which was promised by Highways for this financial year.

Local Government Boundary Commission- draft recommendations

**06. Update from Severn Centre Advisory Board Meeting- Cllr Vinall/ Cllr Pinches**

Cllr Pinches informed Council that there will be an upcoming community day on 27th May which is the same date as the swimming pool opening for the season. It was noted that the tables are due to be replaced shortly. Bouncy castle sessions have been running on a Saturday morning. Cllr Vinall stated that new pumps are currently being fitted within the swimming pool which has been a significant investment from Halo. Cllr Thakrar stated he would like clarity on the reason for a loan being taken out which was secured on the Severn Centre. Cllr Vinall stated this had been clarified during a previous meeting, but that Halo had stated the loan is being used due to the low interest rate and the money has not been spent. Cllr Vinall informed council that Halo now have ownership of the Severn Centre which backdates to taking place in 2017. It was stated the trustees made the decision to give ownership of the Severn Centre Trust. It was queried who were the Trustees and it was noted that no Highley Residents are currently trustees on the Severn Centre Trust Board. This will once again be pursued through Cllr Quinn.

**07. Severn Centre- 6 monthly management fee**

It was noted by Cllr E. Moore that the Severn Centre Trust is now wholly owned by Halo and queried of whether a management fee should be paid. Cllr Quinn explained that the 10-year agreement was put in place prior to this, and Highley Parish Council are contractually bound to continue with the 10-year management which was agreed and signed in 2017. It was noted that the fee is not fixed at the same rate every year. It was **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT** the payment. Cllr E. Moore abstained from this vote.

**08. Restructure of Working Groups- Deferred to be discussed at the next full council meeting.**

**09. Proposed Electrical Vehicle Charging Point Location**

It was noted that restrictions on parking would be a loss to residents with parking. It was highlighted by councillors that this area was felt to be the most inappropriate in the village to house Electrical Vehicle Charging Points. It was noted that the chargers are not being run by Shropshire Council but by a private firm with limited parking hours. Cllr Griffin highlighted it needs to be investigated whether these charging points fall within conservation areas. It was noted that escalation is needed beyond Shropshire Council as they have not listened to any of Highley Parish Councils concerns regarding this.

It was **RESOLVED TO ACCEPT** to write a letter detailing concerns and complaints regarding the process to date, inappropriate location, loss of parking spaces, data protection of the app, and lack of communication to Philip Dunne MP, Lezley Picton and the relevant governmental department.

**10. Reports (if available) to be circulated**

1. **Shropshire Councillors Report**- **none received.**

Shropshire Councillor Mark Williams was present and provided information regarding the changing of the Highley Ward. Cllr Williams has noted information from Shropshire Council within this stating that Billingsley will be absorbed by Highley. This information has not been circulated to Shropshire Councillor M. Williams. At this stage it does not affect the area at the Highley Parish Council level and Chair T. Quinn reinforced that he has previously been informed that Parish Council boundaries are very unlikely to change. Cllr Williams informed Parish Council that the road closure that is taking place on Borle Mill is work on kerbing and drains at the bottom of Borle Mill. Cllr Williams reinforced that he has also not been consulted on any aspect of the Electrical Charging Points.Cllr Williams to investigate potholes which parishioners have complained regarding.

1. **Policing Report- none received.**

**11. Planning applications received- plus any further applications after issue of Agenda**

**Applications:**

Reference:  23/01635/FUL  (validated: 14/04/2023)  
Address:  Prestwood, Netherton Lane, Highley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6NJ  
Proposal:  Erection of single storey side extension and additional windows to first floor  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Welch

It was RESOLVED TO SUPPORT this application with no objection.

PLANNING REFERENCE: 23/01727/FUL

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED: Erection of rear single storey extension following demolition of existing extension.

LOCATION: The Willows, 1 Cockshutt Lane, Highley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. OS REFERENCE: 373889 – 283686

APPLICANT: Mr Dan Walker

It was RESOLVED TO SUPPORT this application.

**12.Finance:**

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| H. Bowkett | Salary | 1057.09 |
| HMRC | Tax and NI | 46.04 |
| Viking | Stationary | 232.12 |
| EON | Street Light Repairs | 215.95 |
| H.Bowkett | Expenses | 13.99 |
| Severn Centre | Management Fee | 24,915.00 |
| St Mary’s Church | Maintenance Contribution | 3,800 |
| AJGIBI | Parish Insurance Renewal | 1614.63 |
| Web Orchard | Website Maintenance | 228 |
| Shropshire Council | Quarterly Energy Cost | 2511.48 |
| Severn Centre | Youth Club Room Hire | 226.44 |
| Severn Centre | Room Hire and Office Hire | 830.60 |
| EE | Mobile Phone | 38.44 |

Signed Chair ……………………………………………….. Date……………………………………………..

**It was RESOLVED TO ACCEPT these Finances.**