

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 14th October 2020

Via Zoom

Present: Councillors: Tony Broom, Peter Clare, Sue Crow, Craig Emery, Neil Evans, Robert Macey (Chairman), Mike McKenna, Erica Morgan, Lenny Worthing

Hosting the meeting via Zoom: I.F.Cruise-Taylor - Locum Clerk to the Council

Minute taking: Cllr Crow

1216	Apologies and reasons for absence were noted from Cllrs Tony Bird (Covid/Zoom), Huw Ellis (technical difficulties) Absent: Cllrs Simon Westwood-Bate, Steve West Wynn
1217	Disclosable Pecuniary Interests 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. None b) To consider any applications for dispensation None
1218	The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9 th September 20 were Approved
1219	Public Participation session – there were no members of the public
1220	Reports a) Locum Clerk – Items from the Action List that were discussed: i) <i>Dog Warden</i> - Officer in charge on leave. No immediate prospect of a Warden being appointed. ii) <i>Armistice Day</i> –Road closure to be cancelled; Cllr Macey would communicate with The Churches and forward information to Councillors; He would contact Councillors in Selattyn re wreath laying at Selattyn iii) <i>Winter planting</i> - Agreed that the planting in the village would be done as per usual. b) Shropshire Council – Cllr Robert Macey reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Planning White Paper</i> – Cllr would forward Shropshire Council's response to Councillors. The overall housing number was being challenged▪ SALC(response already forwarded to Councillors), NALC and Shropshire Council are all in agreement; Lobbying MPs to lobby the Government on their behalf▪ <i>Community and Rural Strategy</i> - out for consultation –There had been input from SALC and local Councils; number of priorities in the Oswestry area; Review of PC boundaries (Cllr Macey will inform this Council on this)▪ Repairs to bridge on the Selattyn Road taking place▪ Requests from Councillors To chase up removal of barriers in Gobowen Village▪ State of road between Gobowen Road and Hengoed Cross Roads needs urgent attention

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was informed the Bridget Laraway had been offered the position of Parish Council Clerk/RFO which she has accepted. She must give 4 weeks' notice • A support package will be needed • Councillors need training on their responsibilities as employers. Locum Clerk to contact SALC
1221	<p>Financial Matters (Appendix A previously circulated)</p> <p>a) Monthly statement b) Payments c) Income</p> <p>All the above were unanimously Approved</p>
1222	<p>Amenities and Services Committee report:</p> <p>(i) The appointment of Cllr McKenna as Chairman, on the resignation of Cllr Emery was Noted.</p> <p>(ii) Pavilion/Playing field hire proposed policy and charges The Council Agreed to adopt the policy but to defer the charges. (these to be included in the normal budget cycle)</p> <p>(iii) Hedge Maintenance – Cllr Macey to contact the relevant team requesting that they send letters, if deemed appropriate, to owners of hedges overgrowing pavements</p>
1223	<p>Hengoed Cemetery –</p> <p>i) Update –Cllr McKenna reported that levelling of graves, as per list agreed, will be taking place in the next 2 weeks</p> <p>ii) It was Agreed that the Council take up membership of ICCM at a cost of £95 p.a. Estimate the cost to April 2021 will be £50. Some training will be available from ICCM</p>
1224	<p>National Planning Guidance proposals – to consider and determine a response Previously circulated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Macey will circulate SCs response to Councillors • 5 levels instead of 3 • Shropshire have a brown field site register though there are not a lot of sites available
1225	<p>Review of recent report from Shropshire Council Place Overview Committee – Cllr P Clare</p> <p>The soundtrack of the meeting can still be found on YouTube and Cllr Clare encourage all councillors to tune in.</p> <p>Present at the event were officers from Shropshire Council as well as reps. from NFU, Highways, Police and Shropshire Councillors including two from Oswestry councillors Milner and Barrow, the latter chairing the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to set up a liaison committee to focus on the issues considered and I have intimated a willingness to participate in such a forum.</p> <p>For the full report see Appendix B attached</p>
1226	<p>To discuss and consider next steps regarding child road safety along School Lane Gobowen (former councillor A Davies)</p> <p>Cllr Macey proposed that he contact Dave Gradwell to check the status of the previous plan for School Lane. To meet with the Headmaster (he will mention that parking is available at the Pavilion); possible consultation with residents via a leaflet drop.</p>

1227	<p>Future Agenda Items</p> <p>Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.</p> <p>Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.</p> <p>Severn and Trent Community Fund (£2000 - £200,000) to A&S budget meeting for consideration. Includes Environmental Improvements look at what is in the Council's plans that would be suitable</p> <p>Request the reintroduction of Police Reports</p>
1228	<p>To note the date of next meeting. Wednesday 11th November 2020</p>

Appendix B the Problem before the Meeting.

Shropshire has many miles of narrow country lanes, including many with blind bends with few having speed restrictions other than the National Speed Limit. Secondly, the local authority lacks the funds to give these adequate maintenance. Thirdly, despite this these have to carry modern forms of transport, often with axle weights which only increase deterioration. A high proportion of these tracks are required to service the county's farming industry. The situation is aggravated by 1) the increasing weight, width and speed of agricultural vehicles and equipment, and 2) the growth in the use, by landowners of agricultural contracting concerns, which firms are paid at an hourly rate thus, leading to increased tractor speeds. Tractor use of mobile phones, illegally, is another concern as is their use of field lights on public roads.

It could be argued that the growth of agricultural contracting is leading to an increasing disconnect between farmers and the communities in the midst of where they operate.

The meeting heard complaints from a Shropshire farmer and agricultural engineer that the laws in relation to tractor usage were being extensively abused and not enforced. The response from the police officers present seemed inadequate and in a subsequent discussion with the chairperson, Councillor Barrow made it clear that she wanted the police reps. back for the November 5th meeting. Both myself and another Hengoed resident had submitted questions to be answered by senior council officers present, but in both cases I considered that the responses were inadequate.

Comment

Unfortunately no mention was made during the meeting of the impact of this problem on the many established dwellings and other buildings adjacent to these narrow and insubstantial tracks within the county and for which the local authority is bound by a duty of care.

Finally, if the law will not support residents and other lane users and if the police will not enforce existing laws and if the county's agricultural fraternity will not give consideration to the needs of the local community then what are parishioners affected to do, particularly when the fabric of their property is being undermined?

Peter Clare 16/10/20