

Wistanstow Parish Council

Clerk C E Williams 2 Jockeyfields Ludlow Shropshire SY8 1PU (01584 874661)

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The Minutes of the Annual Public and Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Wistanstow Village Hall on Wednesday 5th June 2024 commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr M Flanagan, Mrs J Woodroffe MBE, Mr J Morris, Mr P Alderson, Mr M White, Mr A Carney, Mrs Andrea Minton Beddoes, Mrs N Kershaw, Mr P Powell

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:

Mr M White, Mr D Evans Shropshire Councillor

Annual Public Meeting:

Chairmans Report:

The Chairman Mr M Flanagan presented his annual report:

In September Peter Jones a long serving Parish Councillor died unexpectedly and is sadly missed as a member of the local community. The vacancy created on the Parish Council was filled by the co-option of Mrs N Kershaw at the November meeting.

Defibrillators have been installed throughout the parish area and the village hall has also raised funds for one which is now installed at the Hall.

There continues to be issues with parking around the school and parents have been asked to park responsibly by the school when dropping off and picking up children, although the matter was reported to Shropshire Council no further action was deemed necessary.

Work has been undertaken on trees in the Closed Churchyard, enquires undertaken in respect of the future of the phone box in Wistanstow which may in the future be subject to decommissioning but is currently not subject to closure, issues remain with drainage at Bushmoor it is hope that Shropshire Council will undertake an improvement scheme during 2024/25.

Concern has been expressed about the Craven Arms Recycling Centre and its possible closure and the condition of the Travellers Rest which is subject to Planning Enforcement.

The Chairman thanked Councillor colleagues for their help and support during the year, to the work carried out by Vin Davies on the Closed Churchyard, Phil Clarke the Parish Councils footpath officer and Eric Williams the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Report from Hilary Luff Shropshire Council:

Cllr Hilary Luff provided a report to the Parish Council.

Shropshire Council is committed to serving the people of Shropshire this year we have a £63 million shortfall in our budget to pay for services. the Council are confident that this can be met. To make these savings the council need to deliver services differently.

The Council will look at Libraries and Leisure Services, Recycling Centres which the Council are not looking to close and other services with decisions of outcomes to be considered by cabinet in July and then debated and voted on by full Council.

The Councils largest expense is adult services and looked after children this keeps rising every year with the Council Tax increase capped by Government at 2.99% for adult social care and looked after children. The other 2% increase used is to run the county services with government top up.

Potholes still seem to be a issue although we have repaired approx. 15,000, Flooding is another problem throughout the county.

David Evans was re-elected Chair of the South Planning committee and as Chair of Standards Committee and sits on the Licensing Committee.

Hilary Luff our other unitary Councillor sits on Peoples Overview Scrutiny Committee and the South Planning Committee.

Village Hall Report:

Mr P Powell reported on the Village Hall which was regularly used and booked for functions. Improvement for the forthcoming Year would be the redecoration of the outside of the Hall.

Financial Report:

The Clerk presented the financial report which showed balances at the 31st March 2024 of £24,438.

The Accounts for the financial year 2023/24 had been independently verified.

Other Items:

The Clerk read a letter from Wistanstow Primary School on behalf of the Children of class two who were undertaking a project which included 'Courageous Advocacy' and wished to raise the condition of the footpath which leads to the village hall and for several month of the year is flooded.

It is understood that the footpath belongs to the Village Hall and the adjoining field which is the source of the flooding is privately owned however further enquiries will be undertaken.

Annual Parish Meeting:

1. Election of Chairman for the Ensuing Year:

Mr M Flannagan was elected Chairman for the year 2024/25 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman for the Ensuing Year:

Mrs Andrea Minton Beddoes was elected Vice-Chair for the year 2024/25.

3. Appointment of Town Council representatives to the following organisations:

South Shropshire Area of Parish and Town Councils – Mr M White

4. Appointment of Representative to the Village Hall Committee: - Mr P Powell

5. Footpaths Officer: Mr P Clarke

5. Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest

6. Minutes

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th March 2024 and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes:

No matters arising from the minutes.

8. Chairman's Communications

No Matter to report

9. Planning Items:

Planning application 24/01557/Full – Proposed siting of 3 timber clad static caravans to provide holiday let accommodation etc. Site North of 3 Horderley Dingle Horderley – Object to the application.

10. Highway/Amenity/Footpath Items:

Mrs J Woodroffe reported that the tree work in the Closed Church yard had been completed and the footpath laid with new stone.

11. Financial Items:

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had balance of £35,525 this after the payment of the following items:

K Adams – Audit Fee - £150

C E Williams – Disbursement - £440

SALC – Annual Subscription - £388.76

ACE Trees – Tree Works Closed Churchyard - £1,000.00

Shropshire Council – Street Light Energy - £654.24

Gallagher – Annual Insurance - £420.73

Jewson's – Stone – Closed Churchyard footpath

The Parish Council agreed the Annual Governance and Financial Statement and the Exempt External Audit Certificate

12. Next Meetings for the Year 2023/24:

Wednesday 17th July 2024, Wednesday 25th September 2024, Wednesday 27th November 2024, Wednesday 29th January 2025, Wednesday 26th March 2025, Wednesday 28th May 2025

Chairman