

## **Wistanstow Parish Council**

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### **The Minutes of the Annual Public and Annual Meeting of Wistanstow Parish Council held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at Wistanstow Village Hall Annex Room commencing at 7.00pm**

#### **Present:**

Mr D Bytheway                      Mr R Brown  
Mrs J Woodroffe MBE      Mr P Powell  
Mr J Morris                          Mr A Carney  
Mr M Flanagan  
Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

#### **Apologies:**

Mr P Jones

### **ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING**

#### **1. Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman reported that last year had been relatively quiet with the Council mainly dealing with routine matters including, Highways, Street Lighting, The Parish Clock, Upkeep of the Close Churchyard and Financial matters.

The Precept had been increased by £2,000 this to cover any increases in cost and to compensate for the annual loss of the annual Environmental grant from Shropshire Council.

Following discussion with Shropshire Council as part of the Shropshire local Plan Review Wistanstow Village has been included in the proposed list of Community Clusters which will enable limited open market housing on a small scale.

The Village hall is a much admired and special building and a focal point of the community and the Parish Council were pleased to make a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of replacement windows all the members of the Village Hall Committee should be congratulated on their work.

Phil Clarke as the Footpaths Officer maintains the network of footpaths and bridleways in the Parish for the benefit of all users and was thanked for his work.

The Chairman thanked fellow Councillors, the Clerk and Shropshire Councillors for their work on behalf of the Parish Council and local community.

#### **2. Shropshire Council**

From Cllr Lee Chapman and Cllr David Evans.

It's been another difficult year. There are still cuts to be made within Shropshire Council owing to our settlement from central Government.

The new highways contract is now in place with Keir they took over the job has from April 1st this year with a £5 million cut in the budget. Potholes are a major concern this year owing to the wet winter although we have been given extra money from government to help with potholes.

There was a Task and Finish group which regarding the Highway maintenance grant a recommendation was made to Cabinet that if the Council was going to get rid of it the grant should be phased out.

Council Tax went up by 6% this year this was front loaded because Council can only raise Council tax by so much over 3 years so next year it should level out by doing this it gives the Council £5 million to help ease the cuts.

The planning review for the whole of Shropshire this should complete by the end of 2019 and signed off by 2020, there are also changes to the NPPF regarding green belt and building in the ANOB.

The Community Enablement Team is currently being reviewed and how it should be paid for this group provides a valuable contribution to Parish and Town Councils.

Lee Chapman has a huge portfolio with Social and adult care, housing and much more his portfolio takes most of the Council's budget and will rise by around £10 million pounds per year owing to Shropshire having an ageing population.

David Evans Chairs the South Planning Committee meeting. Also sits on the Sub Standards Committee, Strategic Licensing Committee and various Task and Finish groups.

The Chairman thanked both Lee and David for their report and the work they do on behalf of the local community.

### **3. Financial report:**

The Clerk had produced a statement of Income and expenditure for the financial year 2017/18 which showed balances of £11,598 held by the Parish Council at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

### **4. Report from Wistanstow Village Hall Committee:**

Mrs J Woodroffe reported on the activities and improvements taking place at the Village hall with work on-going re-glazing the windows and planned improvements to the Play Area.

### **5. Footpaths Officer:**

Mr P Clarke reported on the work undertaken on the network of footpaths within the parish area and was thanked for his work.

### **6. Members of the Public:**

Members of the public raised questions with the Shropshire Councillors with reference to the condition of the highways and the number of potholes.

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Year**

Mr D Bytheway was elected Chairman for the Year

Mr M Flanagan was elected Vice-chairman for the Year

### **8. Appointment of Representatives for the Year:**

Craven Arms and Rural Area Local Joint Committee – Mr M Flanagan

Wistanstow Village Hall Committee – Mrs J Woodroffe

Footpaths Officer – Mr P Clarke

### **9. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

### **10. Minutes**

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meetings held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **11. Matters arising from the Minutes:**

No Items

### **12. Chairman's Communications:**

No items to report

### **13. Planning Items:**

Reference: 18/01568/FUL - Briar Edge Farm, Woolston, Erection of 1 No general purpose agricultural building and store – No Objection

### **14. Highway Items:**

The Clerk to report problems with the manhole cover on the A49 by the Grove Junction.

### **15. Reports from other Organisations:**

Nil

### **16. Financial Items:**

The Parish Council approved the following accounts for payment:

K Adams – Internal Audit Fee - £150

Came and Co – Annual Insurance - £344.11

Wistanstow Village Hall – Play Area Grant - £837.90

Wistanstow Village Hall – Repayment of Endowment Monies - £2,098.22 held separately by the Parish Council on behalf of the Village Hall.

The Parish Council approved the Certificate of Exemption in respect of External Audit of the Financial Accounts for the year 2017/18 because the Gross Expenditure and Income do not exceed £25,000.

The Parish Council approved the Internal Audit Report and the Annual Financial and Governance Statement.

**17. Data Protection Act 2018:**

The Clerk updated the meeting on the implications of the Data Protection Regulations 2018 with it now being agreed by the Government that although Parish and Town Councils are required to register with the Data Protection Officer as Data Controllers they will not be required to employ a Data Protection Officer.

**18. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Future meetings: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Chairman

DRAFT