

Wistanstow Parish Council

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The Minutes of the Annual Public and Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Wistanstow Village Hall on Tuesday 24th May 2022 commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr M Flanagan, Mrs J Woodroffe MBE, Mr J Morris, Mrs Andrea Minton Beddoes, Mr P Alderson, Mr P Jones and Mr P Powell.

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Members of the public were present.

Shropshire Councillor D Evans

Annual Public Meeting

1. Apologies:

Mr A Carney and Mr M White

2. Chairmans Report:

Mr M Flanagan presented the annual report, highlighting issues relating to marketable housing provision within Wistanstow, planning issues with the Traveller's Rest Affcott, highway issues particularly in Bushmoor, the removal of the four fir trees along the boundary wall of the Closed Church Yard, the provision of Defibrillators within the Parish and Footpath Amendments and the proposed provision of a footway bridge over the railway at Newington.

For the financial year 2022/23 the Parish Council had approved a zero increase in the Parish Council Tax.

The Chair thanked Councillor colleagues for their help and support during the past year, Vin Davies for his work in the Closed Churchyard, Phil Clarke for his work as the parish councils voluntary footpaths officer and finally the Clerk for his work and invaluable guidance.

3. Financial Report:

The Clerk had produced a Statement for the Financial Year 2021/22 showing details of Income and Expenditure and balances held at the 31st March 2022 of £29,255.

4. Shropshire Councillor Report and the Report of Wistanstow Village Hall Representative:

Cllr D Evans reported on Shropshire Council matters which included planning and highway matters and his role the Council which included membership of the Southern Area Planning Committee and the Standards Committee.

The Shropshire Local Plan which details Employment Land and Housing Land to the Year 2036 was now awaiting approval from the Planning Inspectorate.

Although there is a balance budget for the financial Year 2022/23 there is an anticipated shortfall of £50million for the financial year 2023/24 unless additional fund is made available by the Government. Shropshire Council had established a Task and Finish Group to look at the current Ambulance service.

Cllr D Evans then answered questions relating to highway matters and the enforcement issues relating to the Travellers Rest at Affcott.

Cllr Evans would look at the policy of Shropshire Council in the cutting of grass verges particularly where they presented a road safety issue.

Mr P Powell reported on the activities being undertaken at the Village Hall which was now starting to recover from the impact of the Covid Epidemic which resulted in the closure of the hall for a considerable period. A new caretaker had been appointed and future improvements included the resurfacing of the Car Park area.

5. Items from members of the Public:

No items raised by members of the Public

Annual Parish Council Meeting

1. Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the ensuing Year:

Mr M Flanagan was re-elected Chair and Mrs Andrea Minton Beddoes re-elected Vice Chairman.

3. Representative to the Village Hall Committee:

Mr P Powell was nominated as the Parish Council Representative

4. Footpaths Officer:

The Parish Council nominated Mr P Clarke as the Footpath Officer and wished to record a vote of thanks to Phil for all the volunteer work that he undertakes on the footpaths within Wistanstow Parish.

5. Minutes

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th March and the 27th April 2022 which were signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes:

No Matters arising.

7. Chairman's Communications

No items/

8. Planning Items:

No new applications for the Parish Council to consider.

The Clerk reported that the planning application in respect of the proposed Footpath Bridge over the rail line at Newington Craven Arms will be referred to the Southern Planning Committee for determination this will be held on the 28th June 2022 to which the Parish Council can make representation.

9. Highway/Amenity/Footpath Items:

a) **Defibrillators:** The Clerk reported that he had requested Shropshire Council to undertake the appropriate consultation on the suggested closure of the payphone box at Cheney Longville which would then be adopted to enable the installation of a defibrillator.

The Consultation process once commenced would take a minimum of 90 days to comply with regulations for the closure of a phone box which also has to be approved by BT.

b) **Emergency Planning:** In view the recent incident involving a train at Newington Shropshire Councillor was arranging a meeting with the Emergency Planning Officer at Shropshire Council to look at the production of a joint Emergency Plan between Craven Arms Town Council and Wistanstow Parish Council.

d) **Closed Church Yard Fir Trees:** Mrs J Woodroffe reported that the Church had now obtained the required faculty for the removal of the four fir trees on the boundary of the Closed Cemetery with the work due to be undertaken at the end of June 2022 the cost of which will be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

e) **Bench/Notice Boards:** The Parish Council agreed to fund a replacement bench at the small green in Stretford at a cost of £350. Mr P Jones will arrange were required for the maintenance and repair of the Parish Council Notice Boards

f) **Tree:** Mrs J Woodroffe had arranged for the purchase of a commemorative tree which will be planted at the Village Hall in respect of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The Chair of the Parish Council will undertake the Planting of the Tree

10. Financial Items:

The Parish Council approved the following payments:

K Adams – Internal Audit Fee - £140

Gallagher – Annual Insurance - £473

J Woodroffe – Purchase of Tree -£100

SALC – Annual Subscription - £373.39.

The Clerk reported that at the 31st March 2021 the Parish Council had balances of £26,171 and that the accounts for the financial year 2020-21 had been independently audited with no items of concern raised.

The Parish Council approved the Annual Governance and Financial Return for the financial year 2020-21 and the appropriate Certification of Exemption for the requirement of an external audit.

11. Other Items:

No other items to report.

12. Next Meeting:

Meetings for the Year 2022/23 – Wednesday 13th July 2022, Wednesday 28th September 2022, Wednesday 30th November 2022, Wednesday 25th January 2023, Wednesday 29th March 2023, Tuesday 23rd May 2023

Chairperson

DRAFT