

## **Wistanstow Parish Council**

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### **The Minutes of the Zoom Virtual Meeting of Wistanstow Parish Council held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 commencing at 7.00pm**

#### **Present:**

Mr M Flanagan, Mrs J Woodroffe MBE, Mr J Morris, Mr A Carney, Mr M White, Mrs Andrea Minton Beddoes  
Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies:**

Mr P Jones, Mr P Powell and Mr D Bytheway

The Parish Council agreed that members of the Parish Council who are unable to attend or link to a virtual Parish Council meeting during the Coronavirus 19 crisis be granted appropriate leave of absence.

#### **2. Items from members of the Public**

No members of the public present.

#### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Nil

#### **4. Minutes**

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 and were approved.

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

No Items

#### **6. Chairman's Communications**

The Government had legislated that there will be no Annual Parish Meeting this year, Officers will remain in place until May 2021 when there will be the four-yearly election of Parish and Town Councillors.

The Chairman read out his Annual Report:

This is my first report as Chairman of Wistanstow Parish Council, having taken over from David Bytheway who was a Chairman of many years' experience. I should like to thank all my Councillor colleagues and our Shropshire Council Representatives for their help and support during the past year and Eric Williams for his hard work and invaluable guidance. I should also like to thank Phil Clarke for his work in ensuring our footpaths are properly maintained and Vin Davies for his continuing good work in the Closed Churchyard.

In the main the year progressed, as in previous years with routine issues being Highways, Lighting, the Parish Churchyard and Parish Clock and normal financial matters. In addition, the Council contributed to the refurbishment of the play area adjoining the Village Hall. I think the new equipment is an excellent asset for the Village and I hope that our children continue to use it for many years to come.

Bob Brown decided during the year that the time had come to give up his place on the Council. Jan Woodroffe and I went to see him and presented him with an oil painting on behalf of the Parish Council. He seemed very pleased with the picture. His departure led to a vacancy and this was published on the various Parish Notice boards. There were two candidates offering their services and following a vote of Councillors, Andrea Minton Beddoes filled the vacancy.

During the financial year the Council took over the Ann Ball and Others Charity from Stewart Minton Beddoes. Four of our Councillors became the new Trustees and the Parish Clerk became Secretary.

The Craven Arms and Rural Action Place Plan was updated and circulated during the year and Mike White proposed additions on behalf of Wistanstow Parish. These proposals were submitted by our Clerk.

Following a presentation by Sgt. Aston of West Mercia Police, the Council agreed to fund the provision of Smartwater kits to each house in the parish at a provisional cost of £2,000 after a 25% contribution by Police and Crime Commissioner. Initially it was suggested that a public presentation in the Village Hall was the best way to get productive take up but following the coronavirus lock down the police agreed to dispatch a kit to each household.

Network Rail published plans to carry out repairs to the Felhampton Rail Bridge commencing January 2020 and scheduled to be completed in early April. This caused consternation in Bushmoor because the road from the village to the A49 would be closed to road traffic under the bridge throughout. The bus service to Shrewsbury/Ludlow would be cancelled for the duration of works. A public meeting was held in November and suggestions to mitigate the difficulties to the village were put forward, but none were accepted. The poor weather in January caused delays and Network Rail then decided to carry out repainting work so the rescheduled opening was delayed till the end of May. As if this was not bad enough, Storm Keira in February caused

flooding and mud slides in Bushmoor and the members of the village, including David & Judith Randell, Mark Wells, John Howells had to rally round to clear up the mess. Many thanks to Councillors Carney and White who have carried out sterling work throughout this difficult time for the residents of Bushmoor.

At the Parish Council meeting in January the Clerk presented his suggested budget which meant that there would be no need for an increase in the Parish Precept in the forthcoming year.

#### **8. Planning Items:**

A letter had been received from Mr and Mrs Carless concerning the recent refusal of a Planning application for a marketable housing development which was also not supported by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would support the development of an Affordable House which could be considered for exceptional sites under Shropshire Councils existing housing policy for open country development.

#### **9. Highway/Amenity/Footpath Items:**

a) The Parish Council noted that the repairs to Felhampton Rail Bridge had been completed and the roadway open in what had been a considerable impact to access for local residents.

b) The Clerk provided an update on the We Don't Buy Crime- Protected Village Project Smartwater Scheme previously approved by the Parish Council.

To ensure that the scheme is implemented, and kits delivered during June the Police and Crime Commissioner has agreed to fund the cost of posting the Smartwater kits to individual properties.

All properties contained on the current Register Electors List will receive a Smartwater Kit with an explanatory leaflet which will then be individually registered by address with Smartwater.

The Parish Council approved payment for 307 kits at a total cost of £2,298.66 this representing 75% of the cost of the scheme with the Police and Crime Commissioner funding 25% of the cost-plus postage.

Signage for entrance to the village highlighting that this area is protected by Smartwater will also be provided but siting will need to be agreed by the Parish Council.

#### **11. Financial Items:**

a) The Parish Council approved the following accounts for payment:

SALC – Annual subscription - £339.59

Shropshire Council – Play Inspection Fee - £96.00

Came and Co- Annual Insurance - £349.30

K Adams – Audit Fee - £157.50

Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee - £40.00

b) The Parish Council agreed the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 a copy of which is on the Parish council Website.

c) The Parish Council adopted to Revised Financial Regulations which enables the provision of online banking and for the Clerk of the Council to become a signatory to the bank accounts.

#### **12. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 however this will be dependent on the Coronavirus 19 restrictions

Chairman