

Wistanstow Parish Council

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The Minutes of the Annual Public and Annual Parish Council Meeting held at Wistanstow Village Hall on Wednesday 24th May 2023 commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

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

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Members of the public were present.

Shropshire Councillor D Evans

Annual Public Meeting

There was a presentation by SWS Broadband concerning provision of fibre broadband facilities that were being made available in areas of the parish and the voucher scheme that was available to local residents to enable free installation of the facility and a monthly subscription for use of the broadband. payment

1. Apologies:

Mr P Jones and Mr M White

2. Chairmans Report:

Mr M Flanagan presented the annual report, highlighting issues relating to planning issues with the Traveller's Rest Affcott, highway issues, the removal of the four fir trees along the boundary wall of the Closed Church Yard, the provision of Defibrillators, the new Rail footway bridge and the Coronation event held at Wistanstow Village Hall.

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 Council's 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 2022/23 showing details of Income and Expenditure and balances held at the 31st March 2023 of £26,185.

The Accounts for 2022/23 had been independently verified by the Councils internal auditor.

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

Cllr D Evans reported on Shropshire Council matters which included budgetary issue, 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 still awaiting approval from the Planning Inspectorate.

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

Mr P Powell reported on the activities being undertaken at the Village Hall and the successful Coronation event, the resurfacing of the car park will shortly be undertaken.

5. Items from members of the Public:

A member of the public attended the meeting to express her concerns about the speeding of vehicles through the village and the dangers it presented to children and families using the local school.

It was suggested that the speed limit should be reduced to 20mph however the issue with the speed was how it could be monitored and enforced. The Parish Council will enquire about the speed limit, and look at other road safety schemes and would contact the local schools safety advisor.

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 2nd March 2023 which were signed by the Chair.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes:

Mr J Woodroffe reported the Village Halls Committee thanks for the donation of £450 towards the very successful Coronation event.

7. Chairman's Communications

No items/

8. Planning Items:

No new applications for the Parish Council to consider.

The Clerk referred to the Consultation document produced by Shropshire Council on Shropshire's New Cycling and Walking Plan although this did not impact on Craven Arms or Wistanstow, however Councillors may wish to view the document and make any individual comments concerning other areas of Shropshire.

The Parish Council will consider the Parish Place Plan at the next meeting which may require updating.

The Parish Council conferment that Callum Magill and Megan Bratt meet the local criteria for local connection requirements to enable the submission of an Affordable Housing Planning Application which will be considered by the Parish Council when received.

9. Highway/Amenity/Footpath Items:

Concern was raised at the overgrown verges on the Bushmoor Road/A49 junction which makes visibility difficult this will be reported to Highways England.

10. Financial Items:

The Parish Council approved the following payments:

K Adams – Internal Audit Fee - £145

Gallagher – Annual Insurance - £490.93

SALC – Annual Subscription - £372.31

Eon – Street Light Repair - £171.62

Shropshire Council – Street Light energy cost - £292.32

The Parish Council approved the Annual Governance and Financial Return for the financial year 2022-23 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 2023/24 – Wednesday 19th July 2023, Wednesday 27th September 2023, Wednesday 29th November 2023, Wednesday 24th January 2024, Wednesday 27th March 2024, Wednesday 29th May 2024