

GHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An Ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 5th June 2018, at 7.00pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

Present: Cllr. Court – Chair, Cllrs. A.Honeybourne, R.Honeybourne, D.Tremellen, M.Brooks, J. Marshall, D.Thakrar, N.Barker, D.Bayley, P.Atkinson, J.Law

Clerk: M.E. Preston

Parishioners: 0

00. Parishioners Time (15 minutes) - Speaking at a Meeting - You do not have the right to speak at a meeting unless invited to do so by the Council. If you wish to speak then you must contact the Clerk beforehand or make yourself known to the Clerk/Chair at the start of the meeting.

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer.

01. Apologies for absence. Cllr. D.Bache, Cllr. T.Holford, Cllr.R.Broome, Cllr. M.Phipson
Illness – **RESOLVED** to accept apologies

02. To confirm the minutes of the meetings dated 1st May 2018. – **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes and a true and correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

03. Matters Arising

Road Safety Schemes –

Barrier Repairs Ashleigh Gardens – Awaiting further information

Severn Centre Crossing Point – Awaiting start date for scheme Redstone Drive – This scheme to now take place in the financial year 2019/2020

Problem Parking Areas – Woodhill Road, Main Road, High Street, Borle Brook Court, parking bays in the high street – awaiting a reply from Shropshire Council.

Castle Inn – Shropshire Council are to hold a meeting with colleagues from the anti-social behaviour and safer neighbourhood team to try to come up with a solution to the situation at the Castle inn.

Footpath Vicarage Lane/Rhea Hall – Awaiting response from Shropshire Council regarding the footpath at the Rhea Hall end.

Youth Council/Skate Park –Cllr. Court reported that a meeting had been held with a company regarding the redevelopment of the Skate Park Area. They had suggested that concrete ramps be use rather than the current metal ramps. These would last longer and be less noisy for the neighbouring properties. Awaiting a formal quotation for the works.

04. Correspondence

SALC – May Bulletin

Highley Brownies/Scout Hut Committee wrote to thank the Parish Council for their donation towards the Hut Refurbishment which had now been completed

SALC – Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

John Campion – West Mercia Police and Crime commissioner – Newsletter.

05. Planning

18/02417/UL – Change of use from a barber shop to dog grooming salon – 1 Arch House, High Street Highley. **RESOLVED** no objections.

18/02318/FUL – Land at Woodhill Farm, Woodhill Road, Highley – Change of use of land for the siting of 8 no static caravans for holiday lets and conversion of existing garage and stable buildings into 2 holiday lets, installation of package treatment plant. **RESOLVED** to object to the development on the grounds of access to the site. Also **RESOLVED** to ask that any planning decisions deferred pending a site visit by the Southern Planning Committee.

06. Highley Carnival – Request for funding for Bunting for Carnival Day. – **RESOLVED** that a grant of £180.00 be given.

07. Parish Council Accounts

1. Internal Audit Report – **RESOLVED** to accept report.

2. Annual Governance Statement – Annual Governance statement read and **RESOLVED** that the Chair sign the statement.

3. Accounting Statement – **RESOLVED** to accept the Annual Accounting statement.

08. CIL Funds – Neighbourhood Fund and CIL Local. – Details Enclosed. To look at projects for CIL Funds- **AGENDA** next meeting further discussion.

09. New Standing Orders – **RESOLVED** to adopt the new Standing Orders as recommended by the Revenue and Resources Committee.

10. Appointment of Standards Committee - **RESOLVED** that a **Scrutiny** Committee be set up to look at any complaints made about Parish Councillors. This Group to consist of the Chair of the Council, Cllr. G.Court, Vice Chairs, Cllr.D.Thakar and Cllr.N.Barker, Cllr. M.Brooks, Cllr. J.Marshall and the Councils Proper Officer E.Preston. Any three from the six to be called to look at any complaint. A meeting of the Committee to be called to look at a constitution for the committee. Clerk to arrange the meeting

11. To look at additional Parking Restrictions – **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council write to Shropshire Council to ask them to look at the possibility of putting in double yellow lines from the Chemist Shop to the entrance to the Co-op Car Park. Also ask them to look at the possibility of waiting times in the parking bays in the village centre.

12. To look at purchasing Audio Equipment for Parish Council meetings – Following discussions it was agreed that Chair Cllr. Court speak to the Severn Centre regarding the hearing loop in the meeting room.

13. Severn Centre – Management Fee. – *RESOLVED* that the grant of £25,800 be given to the Severn Centre as agreed in the Management Service Contract.

14. Youth Council – *RESOLVED* that the Parish Council agree to match fund Grant applications for Coaching Sessions up to £500 in the Summer Holidays and to look at funding for the Skate Park when quotations received **Councillors R.Honeybourne and A.Honeybourne did not speak or vote on this issue due to an interest.**

15. Highley Companions – *RESOLVED* that a grant of £720.00 for room hire be agreed.

16. Shropshire Councillors Report – Cllr.D.Tremellen reported as follows:

These monthly reports might have become irrelevant with the wider use of email by parish councillors allowing me to report events as they occur, BUT council business is now so subject to “review” that just as you think something’s been decided someone decides to review it.

A case in point is the Environment Maintenance Grant (EMG). Subject to an intense full day’s scrutiny by an incredibly well-prepared and executed Task & Finish Group at the back end of 2017, the subsequent report went to Cabinet with everyone expecting the outcome I reported back in January, that it would become another victim of the cuts and disappear altogether.

Fast-forward to the 21st March report (‘Environmental Maintenance Grant Programme - proposals for changes to the design and delivery of the programme’) I circulated on the 9th April and the announcement that a “consultation” was to be held between 9th April – 21st May 2018.

At the Communities Overview Committee meeting on the Monday just gone (21st May) it was declared that the EMG would continue, but in a restricted form involving match-funding by recipient communities with a population of less than 10,000, so Highley will get it. (Although don’t ask me how much because although a figure has been suggested, given Shirehall’s penchant for “reviews” I wouldn’t, forgive the pun, put money on it.)

Despite weeks of “scrutiny”, much of Shirehall business now seems to happen at the last minute, the outcome usually following the agenda set by a Cabinet that seems either blithely ignorant of or deliberately indifferent to the realities facing communities like Highley – I suspect it is a mixture of the two, the one (indifference) compounding the other when any attempt is made to inform the ignorance.

Whilst it was ever thus, the murderous succession of budget cuts has at last revealed what used always to be referred to as “efficiency savings” for what they always were: cuts. The recent slashing of £10 million from the Highways budget, despite the desperate need to repair, let alone maintain, our roads, exposes the inadequacy of Shirehall’s capacity to plan further ahead than the end of the week.

Disgracefully, the politicians who hack away at the county’s bones to produce policies that are so destructive to rural communities then send officers to face the public’s wrath, officers who have no choice but to try and put into effect policies they often disagree with because

they are policies that prevent them from doing the job they desperately want to do, the job they trained for. But they're paid to do it and so they do it. I once asked a middle management officer if they ever got embarrassed having to do some of the things they were asked to do. I got a pained look in reply. And yes, I did feel guilty for asking that question, but that pained look was for the benefit of some of the politicians sitting around the table because they wouldn't normally get to see what effect their policies have on the people they use to promote those policies to the public.

So go easy on Steve Brown (Highways Manager) at the joint Highley/Cleobury LJC meeting on the 26th June

17. St. Marys Churchyard – Report from meeting and discussion on future options. Cllrs R.Honeybourne and A.Honeybourne declared an interest and left the room. Chair updated the Parish Council on recent event at the Churchyard with regards to the maintenance issues. It was **RESOLVED** that a meeting with the Church take place with a view to placing the maintenance work with another contractor.

18. Finance:

M.E. Preston	Salary	£919.43
H.M.Customs	Tax & N.I.	£67.63
V.Turner	Internal Audit	£170.00
Severn Centre	Management Fee	£25,800.00
Severn Centre	Room Hire	£96.00
N.Power	Street Lighting	£474.98
Came & Co	Insurance	£1239.03
Viking Direct	Stationery	£125.28
Highley Companions	Room Hire 137	£780.00

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Signed

Date: