



Waters Upton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 24th January 2024 at 7.30pm** in **Waters Upton Village Hall**.

PRESENT: Councillors: H Roberts
J Quin
K Hamilton
T Revitt

In attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
10 Members of the Public

24/0128 WELCOME

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members and the public and thanked everyone for attending. Councillor Roberts thanked those who attend meetings regularly throughout the year, this is much appreciated by the Councillors.

It was with some sadness that the Chairman announced that Emma Thomas had resigned from the Parish Council following her re-location to Shrewsbury and the distance to travel to meetings. Members and local residents wished to record their thanks to Mr & Mrs Thomas and to wish them, and their family every good wish for the future.

This means that there are now two vacancies on the Parish Council.

24/0129 PUBLIC SESSION

The following matters were raised:

- Middle Lane – blocked gully, by Wier Farm, Cold Hatton – this has been actioned, hopefully it will be successful
- Outstanding drainage issue at Orchard Close
- Outstanding Council Tax query
- The Swan Site
- Environmental Agency – continued issues at Pear Tree Development

24/0130 APOLOGIES

None

Councillor Bentley, Ward Member – attending a TW meeting

VACANCY

Two applications had been received and details circulated to all members. However, only one candidate attended the meeting.

The Chairman took the opportunity to give an insight into the role of the Parish Councillors and this related to

- Representing the community
 - Safety and Confidentiality
 - Enhanced DBS checks
 - Attending Parish Events
 - Representing the Parish on outside bodies
 - Attending training events
 - Attending additional meetings
- a) Personal statement had been received

- b) Richard Lee had no other information to add to his application
- c) Members had no questions
- d) The candidate had no questions for the Councillors
- e) Richard left the meeting
- f) Members welcomed the application and were impressed with the personal statement and it was proposed by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Quin and all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Richard Lee be co-opted to Waters Upton Parish Council.

- g) Councillor Richard Lee read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, this was witnessed by the Clerk, as the Proper Officer.

Members welcomed Councillor Lee to Waters Upton Parish Council.

The remaining vacancy will be included on the February. Anyone wishing to forward a personal statement for consideration, can do so up until Friday 23rd February.

24/0131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None

All members have a dispensation to take part in the discussions relating to the Budget and Precept.

24/0132 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH DECEMBER 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Quin and seconded by Councillor Revitt, with one abstention, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the December meeting be accepted and signed by the Chairman.

24/0133 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING

None.

24/0134 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

a) Financial Reports

- i) Minutes of the Finance & Governance Meeting held on 17th January 2024 had been circulated for information
- ii) Recommendations
A draft budget had been considered and Members were keen to keep in mind the current position for many families. Savings had been identified and included within the considerations along with the Council's Earmarked Reserves.
It was proposed by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Revitt, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the budget for 2024/25 be set at £78,445.00 a slight reduction on the current year.

- iii) Precept
Members had been aware of the additional housing that has become available across the Parish. Although not all of them are included in the calculations, as it was the amount of houses at a period of time in Autumn 2023 that would affect the amount, in order to retain the current precept figure, a reduction on the Council Tax would be possible. However, Members were aware of the increased costs of services and facilities. It was therefore, proposed by Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Revitt, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that a precept of £32,745.00 will be requested via Telford & Wrekin

The Chairman thanked those Members who had taken part in the Finance Meeting and for their decision to enable a council tax reduction whilst ensuring sufficient funds are available to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Parish Council in 2024/25.

iv) Payments

Expenditure	Statute	VAT	Total
SLCC Subscription (shared cost)	LGA 1972 s 112	0	80.00
DBS Check Fee	LGA 1972	0	22.00
Removal of dead tree	LGA 1972 s 101	0	65.00

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the payments as listed by agreed.

b) **Financial Position**

The current account balance is £40,629.44, with the £45,000 investment receiving £197.87 interest in December.

c) **Risk Management Plan**

No amendments are required.

d) **Gifts and Hospitality**

Members are to declare any offers of gifts or hospitality, valued over £25. There were no declarations.

24/0135 PLANNING

a) **Planning Updates**

Land to the rear of Quarry View, Waters Upton

TWC continues the discussions with the owner regarding the use of the proposed treatment works. The Parish Council is not involved in these discussions.

b) **Planning Applications for Consideration**

None

An application for Moorbank Farm has been received since the agenda was produced. This application will be considered at the next meeting. Members are encouraged to take into consideration the background to the site and previous applications in preparation for the discussion.

c) **Waters Upton Neighbourhood Plan**

- i) The Parish Council continues to monitor the Neighbourhood Plan for effectiveness and its policies are used in the determination of planning applications.
- ii) A revised Draft Plan has been created using the details received through the consultation undertaken by the Steering Committee. This document will be shared with Members and a meeting with TWC Strategic Development Officers will be arranged to gain their opinions on the proposals which will strengthen the policies included in the Plan.

d) **Other Planning Matters**

i) **Enforcement Matters**

An update has been requested from the Enforcement Officer regarding The Poplars and The Swan. Following a visit by the Enforcement Team to Moorbank Farm, two planning applications have been received which may regularise the site.

ii) **Local Plan Review – Consultation**

The Chairman thanked all members and local residents for the useful comments and additions received on the Draft Local Plan Consultation. This will be finalised and sent out to Members for final agreement with a view to submitting on Tuesday of next week.

24/0136

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **All correspondence received for the attention of the Councillors has been circulated and no requests had been received for items to be added to this agenda.**

- b) **Information from Shropshire Association of Local Councils**
All information and News Bulletins are shared with Members and useful information and guidance is included in the publications, which include advice from NALC and other organisations.

- c) **TWC Budget Consultations**
Members had been invited to attend one of two events. The presentation had been circulated and it was clear that this was not a 'consultation' but for TWC to present their budget proposals to PTCs. A meaningful consultation would have to start earlier in the process and enabled PTCs to have an input into the budget items.

- d) **Wrekin Area Committee**
The Clerk had represented the Parish at the meeting and the minutes have been circulated for information. There were two presentations. The first from the Hospital Transformation Programme – everyone is encouraged to read the information available regarding the proposals and progress to date. The second was from the Lord Lieutenant regarding King's Honours nominations.

24/0137

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- a) **Updates**
There are many outstanding matters and it remains frustrating that there appears to be little or no action by TWC and the contractors. These include:
Mirrors at Shray Hill
Reliability of the rural bus, particularly the transportation of school children
Potholes and significant highway issues
Crudgington Bus Shelter
Waters Upton A442 bus stop and shelter

- b) **Flooding**
There are significant flooding issues in Waters Upton and Meeson, plus other areas. Officers have visited and will be undertaking investigative work to establish the causes.

- c) **Middle Lane, Cold Hatton**
Thanks would be extended to the local landowner for his commitment to add kerbs to the highway.

24/0138

WEST MERCIA POLICE

- a) **Rural PCSO Report**
There had been no report. However, the results of the speed check outside of Crudgington School have been shared with Members.

- b) **Newsletters**
There is a reduced team on the rural area and at this time, we don't appear to receive regular updates or newsletters.

- c) **Rural Parish Vehicle**
The Chairman had attended a meeting with Inspector Sanders and PC Rigby where all rural Parish Councils had been invited to discuss the progress of this project. A vehicle has now been identified and the funding provided by the rural Parish Councils will be used to ensure that this vehicle is available 24/7 for the rural PCSO and members of the SNT. The Police & Crime Commissioner will be administering the project and it has been confirmed that the vehicle will form part of the fleet and therefore be insured and maintained by West Mercia Police. Therefore the £5000 committed to this initiative is a one-off contribution and the vehicle will initially be available for 5 years.

- d) **We Don't Buy Crime**
This scheme was successful when originally made available but there are now many new homes and new residents and members will be asking for people to agree to join the scheme and purchase a Smartwater Kit at a reduced price. We can apply for funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner.

24/0139

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

- a) RAF Shawbury – Helicopter Night Flying
The current sessions commenced on 15th January and will continue on a Monday to Thursday night each week until the end of February.
A reminder was issued that hi – viz are available for horses and riders on request from RAF Shawbury. The link to apply is on the website. It was suggested that they may wish to take up a promotional stall at an upcoming event.
- b) Crudgington School
The Chairman has written an article for the next newsletter to congratulate Crudgington School on its recent success in the SATs. The new headteacher will be invited to a future meeting.
- c) STW – Sewer Maps
Large scale maps are available. In order for local residents to check that the information relating to their property is current, there will be a drop in session before the February Council meeting at 7pm – everyone welcome.
- d) Thank you card from Hope House
The Chairman read the thank you card, which was for the money raised at Christmas on the Float Collection and Raffle.

CLERK’S REPORT

The Emergency Planning event at Shirehall on Friday, 26th January, will assist in ensuring the Parish Council has a model format for its Emergency and Resilience Plan.
In the meantime, the Clerk will commence a project to collect information for a Resource Register.

An Easter Fayre will take place in the Village Hall and on the Village Green on 6th April 2024.

STW will be visiting villages and using the village hall as a meeting place for residents to attend and seek information or clarification about their water provision.

COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

None

24/0140

INFORMATION FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – Councillor Stephen Bentley

Councillor Stephen Bentley had sent a report to confirm that he had provided £5000 to Highways to ensure that the investigative work needed at Meeson and Catsbitch Lane goes ahead and that the necessary maintenance and repairs is undertaken to deal with the recurring issues.
Other current matters include drainage, planning and enforcement. It is also a difficult time regarding the budget proposals.

24/0141

PARISH MATTERS

Floral and Other Tributes

Whilst there is full sympathy for families and friends of those who lose their lives in road traffic incidents, questions were asked about the tributes left on the verge for extended periods of time. Further details will be ascertained from the Authorities.

24/0142

NEXT MEETING

28 th February 2024	7.30pm	Waters Upton Village Hall
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At 7pm, prior to the meeting, everyone is asked to come along and look at the large scale maps showing STW drains in order to establish further information from individual properties.

The Chairman thanked Members for their important contributions and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

SignedDate

These Minutes are produced in draft form. E & OE until confirmed as a true record by Full Council at the next meeting on 28th February 2024