



Waters Upton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Waters Upton Parish Council which took place on **Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.30pm** in **Waters Upton Village Hall**.

PRESENT: Councillors: H Roberts
J Quin
T Revitt
R Lee
C Woodhouse

In attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
11 Members of the Public
Cllr S Bentley (Ward Member)

24/0159 WELCOME

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to members and the public and thanked everyone for attending. Members were reminded that we are currently in a period of Purdah, due to the upcoming PCC elections.

24/0160 PUBLIC SESSION

The following matters were raised:

Current position regarding the sale and completion of the Swan Development and associated matters
The flooding and condition of the highway at Meeson

24/0161 APOLOGIES

Councillor K Hamilton Personal Commitments Accepted

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

RESOLVED that the apologies from Councillor Hamilton be accepted.

24/0162 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor H Roberts 2024/0199 Dispensation

CONFIRMED that Councillor Roberts has a dispensation to take part in discussions, but will have no vote.

24/0163 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28th FEBRUARY 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Lee and seconded by Councillor Quin, all were in favour and thus it was

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

24/0164 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MONTHLY MEETING

Bus Shelters

TWC has confirmed that a three-bay shelter will be sited at Crudginton on completion of the current roadworks. The actual location will be discussed with the Parish Council prior to installation.

It has also been confirmed that a two-bay shelter will be provided on the A442 in the next financial year – the actual location is still to be decided in consultation with the Parish Council.

It is important that this is linked with the re-opening of the right of way from Pinfold Croft to Swan Court to ensure a safe pedestrian route from the village.

Smartwater – We Don't Buy Crime Scheme

The funding to enable the Parish Council to promote this scheme was provided by the Police & Crime Commissioner. Due to the upcoming election (2nd May) no publicity can be undertaken. This will be considered further after the election.

Smartwater kits can be purchased direct. Police do have a limited number of kits available, available for victims.

24/0165

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

a) Financial Reports

It was proposed by Councillor Quin, seconded by Councillor Lee and all were in favour that the following payments be made:

Provision of a Salt Grit Bin in River Lane	LGA 1972 s111	£140.00
2 x DBS Check Fees	LGA 1072	£22.00
Clerk's Salary Jan – March 2024	LGA 1972 s112	£1099.24
PAYE Jan – March 2024	LGA 1972 s112	£274.60
May 2023 Election Fee	LGA 1972	£140.00

b) Financial Position

The current account balance is £38,697.96, with the £45,000 investment receiving £187.56 interest in February.

Income received included the insurance payment from Waters Upton Stores (£145.00) and the website refund (£214.03). Invoices have been sent to WHG for work undertaken on their behalf at Pinfold Croft and at Waters Upton Parish Centre Flat – the income due will total £2737.64.

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.

e) Grant Application

Members were aware of the success of the Crucial Crew Initiative which is in its 29th year. This enables all year 6 pupils across the Borough to have an opportunity to attend this 'life skills and awareness programme' at TCAT. It was proposed by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Quin and all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that a grant of £100 be paid from the 2024/25 budget as a contribution to this essential project.

An invitation has been received for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend a VIP Day during the event (11th July from 11.30am) to have an opportunity to see the scenarios and understand the outcomes of the scheme.

A request for volunteers has also been received, if anyone is available to help out during the week.

24/0166

PLANNING

a) Planning Updates

The Poplars

The court hearing has taken place and the defendant pleaded guilty. The Parish Council wished to record the fact that the Councillors hope that TWC will now insist that the building be removed as a matter of urgency.

Moorbank Farm

The planning applications 0059 and 0060 have been determined and permission granted. The site is still subject to enforcement and Members were clear in their view that these outstanding matters should have been dealt with before the new applications were determined. Emphasis must now be on the completion of the outstanding conditions.

b) Planning Applications for Consideration

TWC/2024/0196

Land North of Sleapford

Installation of ground mounted solar array and associated works

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would support this application.

TWC/2024/0197

32 Waters Upton

Erection of a two-storey extension

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would have no objections to the proposed extension.

TWC/2024/0199

Woollemi Barn, Waters Upton

Installation of a new packaged waste treatment plant and drainage field

Councillor Roberts declared an interest

TWC had confirmed, today, that the application was incomplete and that some essential information had not yet been provided. It was agreed that this application should be deferred until all the relevant information is available.

TWC/2024/0203

Hanlee House, Middle Lane, Cold Hatton

S 192 Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed creation of hardstanding and siting of a mobile home.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council has not been consulted on this matter and TWC had confirmed that it is not usual to consult on a Certificate of Lawfulness Application. Members had taken the opportunity to peruse the information on the e-planning portal and questioned why a planning application had not been submitted for this new development proposal.

RESOLVED that taking into consideration the information available regarding the location of the permanent hard-standing and the proposals, that Waters Upton Parish Council would ask the Local Planning Authority to request that a planning application be submitted so that the proposals are consulted upon and local residents and the Parish Council have an opportunity to comment along with other statutory consultees.

TWC/2024/0212

1, Old Rectory Fields, Waters Upton

Erection of a Garden Room

The Parish Council was very impressed with the application and associated documents, especially in relation to the drainage schemes that exist across the land. This detailed plan was very useful and would be valued if available for all planning applications.

RESOLVED that Waters Upton Parish Council would support this application.

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 copy of the proposed amendments will be sent to TWC and a meeting with the Senior Strategic Planning Officer will be arranged.

d) Other Planning Matters

i) Enforcement Matters

An update had been received regarding local enforcement matters and this had been shared with Members, for information.

24/0167

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 – DMMO WU 002 Bolas Heath**
Details of the amended details for the public right of way (WU002) had been received and will be published to enable the community to understand the agreed route at Bolas Heath.
- d) **Police & Crime Commissioner Election**
This takes place on 2nd May 2024.

24/0168

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- a) **Updates**
There are many outstanding matters – most relate to not having answers and updates from Telford & Wrekin Council.
Crudgington Moors Road
Shropshire Wildlife is advising TWC on the relocation of the Badger Sets, which will need to be completed in order that the road can be re-built. There are time limits on when Sets can be relocated. The road will need to be closed when the work is undertaken.
A large HGV had used the Kynnersley Moors against the weight limit restriction and had toppled into a ditch which resulted in the road being closed and excessive damage to the highway and verge.

Reduction in speed limit from Rowton Junction to Waters Upton
TWC has confirmed that a complete review of the A442 from Peplow to Shawbirch will be undertaken in 2024/25 and this will include the reduction of speed approaching Swan Bridge – this will also include replacements signs where needed. The response to the public of ‘no confirmed plans’ is a generic statement. TWC was to undertake data collection in May, but this will be postponed as it will be distorted by the work at Crudgington Crossroads.
- b) **Community Speedwatch**
Members of the Speedwatch Volunteer Group may continue to monitor speed in Great Bolas, but the Waters Upton and Crudgington sites will be postponed until the completion of the roadworks at Crudgington..
- c) **Meeson**
The road closure will remain in place until the road is passable. Once the extensive flooding has cleared, the road will be re-assessed for safety and necessary repairs undertaken.
The amount of rainfall has been exceptional and the affect on many roads and lanes has been worse than ever previous experienced. It is disappointing that tractor drivers think it acceptable to move the Road Closed signs in order to pass and then do not replace them into position. This could result in an accident or damage to low vehicles.
TWC highways and drainage teams have confirmed that they are aware of the extent of the problems and informed the Council and residents that there is no cost-effective solution. Due to lack of resources and officers, they have to prioritise all the work across the Borough and this scheme is currently not cost-beneficial.

24/0169

WEST MERCIA POLICE

- a) **Report**
There was no one from the SNT available to attend the meeting.
- b) **Newsletters**
The latest newsletter has been circulated for information.
- c) **Rural Parish Vehicle**
The vehicle will be available for use around the rural areas from 1st April. Due to the PCC election, there can be no launch or publicity – however, this will be arranged later in May.

24/0170

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Representatives of Severn Trent Water had attended a meeting in the Village Hall with Councillor Quin and Councillor Bentley. The information provided by local residents was particularly useful and had highlighted

significant areas of the Parish where STW had no record of pipework and drainage / sewerage systems. The officers took away a lot of local information with a commitment that they would investigate the points raised and a further meeting would be held when the relevant details had been collected and recorded.

CLERK'S REPORT

The HAU visit by Post Graduate students will take place on 14th May.

A DMMO application is being created by TWC regarding the right of way from Pinfold Croft to Swan Court – anyone with knowledge and experience of using this route is asked to complete the forms which will be used as evidence.

Catsbitch Lane is currently a one-way system to protect the verges and cause less disruption for residents. It appears to be working well. This is only in place whilst the 4-way lights are at Crudgington.

Work is required to make safe the Oak Tree, on the Village Green in Waters Upton

A framed picture of HRH The King is on order.

The area adjacent to the entrance to the bin store at The Stackyard needs to be kept clear to enable unrestricted use of the entrance – diagonal lines will be painted on the ground as a reminder.

Concerns had been received from residents regarding inconsiderate parking on the village roads – sometimes this affects access to neighbouring properties and a polite request has been made for further consideration.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Lee took time to explain the proposal by Freedom Fibre and the proposed locations for their new poles. Anyone considering this option is asked to contact the company direct for answers. This is a commercial company and is not recommended by Shropshire Council – there will be other companies available to offer a similar service and residents are asked to consider all the information before making any decision.

24/0171

INFORMATION FROM TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – Councillor Stephen Bentley

There have been no meetings since the Full Council to set the Budget and Council Tax. There will be limited funds available and concerns have been shared that there will be further reductions in services and provisions for the rural areas in particular. However, there is a commitment that they will continue to fight for a fairer deal for TW and in particular the rural areas. There will be no meetings until have the election on 2nd May.

Following the changes to the planning delegation scheme, there have been no planning committee meetings. This remains a concern as it may be that the scheme now prevents local input into planning decisions.

Other matters have been discussed within the meeting.

24/0172

PARISH MATTERS

This is an opportunity for members to discuss items raised in the public session, new matters of a general interest and for members of the public to raise any questions or comments relating to items that have just been discussed within the meeting.

- Police & Fire Authority Budgets and Precept requests – still not received
- Council Tax Bill statements continue to carry the same (misleading) statements – the responses to the questions raised in 2023 are needed
- Details regarding the positions of the Freedom Fibre poles in Crudgington are available although these are indicative at this time.
- River Tern Flooding – some work in the river has been undertaken

The Parish Councillors were pleased to see that the new Council Tax Bills show a reduction in the rate for Waters Upton Parish, which reflects the work undertaken when preparing the budget for 2024/25 and takes into consideration the additional housing in the Parish.

24/0173

NEXT MEETING

24th April 2024

7.00pm

Annual Parish Meeting

Waters Upton Village Hall

Followed by the April Full Council Meeting

The Chairman thanked Members for their important contributions to a successful meeting and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Signed Date

These Minutes are produced in draft form. E & OE until confirmed as a true record by Full Council at the next meeting on 24th April 2024