

**Minutes of a meeting of
Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council
on Thursday 16th March 2017, Everest Hall**

Present

Cllr Barry Swancott (Chair), Cllr Andrew Beavan (Vice Chair), Cllr Richard Lewis, Cllr Janet Lewis, Cllr Roy Lloyd, Sarah Jameson (Clerk)

Plus 2 members of the public and local Councillor, Nigel Hartin

1. The Chair opened the meeting opened at 7.30pm. The proposal to ratify employee status of the Clerk, Sarah Jameson, to the Council was agreed by all.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Roger Thomas, Cllr Mark Hughes
3. **Declarations of interest:** Cllrs Beavan (Item 6c) and Beavan and Swancott (Item 14). Cllr Swancott said he would not declare an interest in item 12. Although he had suggested to the PCC that they apply for the grant, he felt he had not pre-determined the matter.
4. **The draft Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 11th January 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.
5. **Public speaking.** Mr Robert Taylor (on behalf of the Everest Hall Management Committee and the PCC). Mr Taylor reported that a recent meeting between EHMC and Llanfair Waterdine PC had been frank and open and that the committee now wished to move on and sort out any differences. He requested financial help/support from the Council with regard to Hall fixed costs. As Church Warden, Mr Taylor suggested the churchyard is a facility most residents use at some point and that the Church would welcome support from the Parish Council towards its upkeep (to pay for grass cutting).
6. **Planning.**
 - a) Applications for the Waterdine, Barn at Melin y Grogue and units at Black Hall had all been recently granted. It was noted, however, that regarding the Barn (Melin y Grogue) the application had stated that development did not include vehicular or pedestrian access, but permission had been granted for this. It was felt that access to the site was not good from the road (which had been misleadingly drawn as straight on the plans). Cllr Swancott to write to the Planning Dept. to make an observation that there could be a safety issue.
 - b) There were no new applications to consider.
 - c) The affordable housing surveys had gone out with the latest edition of the Llanfair Times. The Clerk had so far received back 2 completed forms.
7. **Highways**
 - a) i) Water damage to road between Teme Cottage and Nantiago entrance. This had been reported to Ian Martin. No feedback yet. Cllr J. Lewis said that two footpath posts had fallen over (Jack Mytton post and one at Skyborry). Cllr Lewis to report these to Footpaths Officer.
 - ii) Potentially dangerous trees between Skyborry Green and the Croft (an Ash and a Lime tree). Parish Clerk to contact landowners regarding the trees.

iii) Two parishioners had raised the issue of trees slipping down the bank near the railway bridge at Craig y Don. Although not in our parish, the road is used by many residents. Land is owned by the railway line. Parish Clerk to contact John Brunt (Highways), Powys County Council.

b) Cllr Janet Lewis reported that a start had been made on the survey of Parish roads. Ian Martin has been supportive. Pot holes can be reported online and ideally need photographing. This will be an ongoing effort. Resolved that between members of the Council, we will try and survey all Parish roads and report back at the next meeting in May.

8. Finance:

a) The Finance officer was absent, but had produced a financial report (see report)

b) Invoices were approved for payment as follows:

i) Parish Clerk (Jan/Feb, including expenses): £415.74

ii) SALC invoices (x3) for Clerk training, totalling: £68.20

iii) British Payphones: purchase of phone box: £1.00 (see item 17)

c) To ratify the decision taken to publish the Parish Council draft budget was proposed by Cllr Beavan, seconded by Cllr R. Lewis and all agreed.

9. **Broadband:** (see broadband report). Cllr Swancott said we'd had good co-operation from Chris Taylor at Connecting Shropshire who had offered to attend this meeting. Agreed we would invite him to a future meeting when there was more news to discuss, hopefully the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Cllr Hartin noted that there was currently no news regarding the intervention period yet.

10. Communications:

a) See Communications report

b) Community Directory: Cllr Lewis reported an excellent overall response. The final deadline for inclusion is 27th March 2017. Cllr Lewis to circulate opening page to all councillors for approval shortly. The Directory will be published on 13th April 2017 and should be a good community tool. Cllr Swancott thanked Cllr R Lewis for putting in such hard work into this useful project.

11. Liaison meeting with Everest Hall Management Committee (EHMC):

Cllr. Swancott reported on the meeting between himself & the Vice-Chairman and Robert Taylor and Mary Bufton of the EHMC. The meeting was open and frank and several areas of concern were discussed. All four agreed that the minutes of the meeting should be approved by all four present in the form of a joint statement before being circulated to councillors or EHMC trustees. It was also agreed that BS & AB create the first draft. Sadly, despite several prompts, neither of the EHMC trustees present would either agree the minutes as drafted, or suggest amendments but shared the unapproved draft with other trustees. Subsequently, other trustees wished to propose changes, even though not present at the meeting. Cllr. Swancott expressed his regret that Cllrs were not aware of the draft minutes while EHMC trustees were, but this was due to the Chair of the EHMC not acting in accordance with what was agreed, something he has apologised in private for. Cllr. Swancott further reported that the Chair of the EHMC had confirmed that the EHMC voted not to report to the 2016. Cllr Swancott felt that this highlighted the conflict of interest that would exist if a member of the Council was to also be a representative on the EHMC and would therefore be bound by such a decision. Cllr Swancott proposed that Council should not have a representative sitting on the EHMC. All agreed.

12. Consideration of applications under s137:

a) Llanfair Waterdine Parochial Church Council (LWPCC). The Parish Council had received an application for funding towards maintenance of the Churchyard (grass cutting). It was resolved to make an award of £500 towards this from next year's budget (2017/18), subject to the following conditions: a) PCC accounts to include a specific mention of the grant, and b) PCC to update the council in around 12 months to let us know if the grant had made a difference. Proposed by Cllr Beavan, Seconded by Cllr J Lewis. All agreed.

b) Everest Hall Management Committee (EHMC): The Council had received an application for funding regarding the running costs of the Everest Hall. It was proposed to make an award of £500 towards the regular maintenance of the Everest Hall from the current financial year's budget, subject to the following conditions: a) receipt of regular draft minutes from EHMC meetings, b) a report to the Annual Parish Meeting each May, and c) to have the award acknowledged in the EHMC accounts. Proposed by Cllr J Lewis, Seconded by Cllr R Lewis. All agreed.

13. Shropshire Council report from Nigel Hartin: Shropshire Council has set a budget against an unsustainable funding backdrop and it cannot currently set a budget for year 3. One out of 5 councils has not taken up the additional 2 percent levy for social care and the funding gap is very great. Shropshire Council is heading for elections in May and 17 of the 74 members are standing down – a high figure, showing the stress the council is currently under. In 3 or 4 months' time, the Shropshire Fire authority will come under the auspices of the Police division.

14. Local Joint Committee: (see attached report)

15. Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust: (see attached report)

16. Correspondence: The Parish Council had been urged by SALC to apply for further monies from the Transparency Fund to put towards website and staffing costs – a total of £303.12. All agreed. Clerk to follow up with SALC.

17. Adopt a kiosk: Cllr R Lewis had arranged the purchase of the redundant telephone kiosk (for £1.00) via the Parish Council. Cllr Swancott proposed that the Parish Council buy the kiosk and transfer it to the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust; seconded by Cllr Beavan.

18. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting: It was agreed to hold this event on Wednesday 10th May in the Everest Hall. Speakers to be invited – Chris Taylor (Connecting Shropshire) and Maria Howell (Affording Housing).

19. Confidential business: There was no confidential business

20. Next meeting dates:

Wednesday 10th May (Annual Parish Meeting); Thursday 18th May, Thursday 20th July, Thursday 21st September, Thursday 16th November

(Local elections will take place on Thursday 4th May)

21. Closing statement from the Chair relating to Elections 2017: Nomination packs for Councillors were now available. Election notices will go up on the noticeboards and on the website. The Parish Clerk has spare Nomination packs and Councillor guidance sheets. Cllr Swancott thanked Cllr Hartin in particular for all his help over many years.

22. Meeting ended at 9.50pm.

Signed Date