

LLANFAIR WATERDINE



PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the Meeting held on 17th March 2025
at 7.30pm at The Community Pavilion

Present: Cllrs D Knipe (Chair), A Beavan, M Hughes, J Lane, R Lloyd, H Plumb
Absent: Cllr J Thomas

83/24-25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received, discussed and accepted by Council for Cllr J Thomas.

84/24-25 INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

- (a) No Declarations of Pecuniary Interest were made by those present and none had been received.
- (b) No requests for Dispensation had previously been received and none were presented.

85/24-25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- (a) No members of the public wished to speak at this time.
- (b) The Clerk reported that Cllr Nigel Hartin was standing down as Ward Councillor for Shropshire Unitary Authority at the forthcoming election. No report had been received from Cllr Hartin.

86/24-25 MINUTES

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Council meeting of 27th January 2025. Cllr Lane pointed out that Minute 77/24-25(a) should read "... having secured £25,000 ..." rather than "... having secured £250,00". The Clerk accepted the amendment and altered the minutes. With this amendment, **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- (b) No matters arising from minutes were raised.

87/24-25 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- (a) Mr Matthew Croose, recently re-appointed Trustee of the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust (LWCT), was in attendance. It was agreed that more regular dialogue between the Council and the Trust would be useful to both organisations. Councillors asked a number of questions about the nature and extent of the Trust's income and expenditure, including the proportion of income available for distribution and actually distributed for charitable purposes. Mr Croose explained the main sources of the Trust's funds and the typical income derived from them. He also explained that its costs could vary significantly from year to year, depending on maintenance work required on its land assets and The Community Pavilion; and the amount of grants and other charitable giving. The Trust's current financial position was discussed and Councillors observed that the Trust seemed to have a fairly large reserve. Mr Croose accepted the observation and explained that the demand for grants and charitable giving was unpredictable and this meant that, in some years, the reserve could be substantial. There was a discussion about the visibility to the community of the Trust's work and of the level of financial support that it can provide to applicants. Mr Croose believed that the level of transparency had improved but accepted that more could be done. Councillors suggested that it might be helpful to make the minutes of the Trust's meetings easier to find on the website and to include more information in them on the grants and charitable donations being made. They also wondered whether more might be done to increase the community's awareness of the nature and level of the financial support that the Trust can offer to help broaden uptake. Mr Croose noted

that the Trustees already had some concerns that grants and charitable donations were not being distributed as widely across the community as they might be and welcomed the observations.

Councillors asked about last year's Fun Day. Mr Croose observed that the Trust had advertised in advance that proceeds from the event would be used to make donations to The Air Ambulance and Marie Curie; and that the Trustees had hoped that those organisations participating in the event might be able to raise funds both for themselves and to make their own charitable donations. This had, indeed, proved to be the case. Councillors commented that the event had been a great success and asked about plans for this year and whether more of the proceeds would be given to local causes this time. Mr Croose replied that the Trustees had not yet made any decisions on how to apply funds raised this year.

The Chair thanked Mr Croose who replied by stating that he and his fellow Trustees welcomed the opportunity to discuss such matters.

- (b) Council noted that Matthew Croose had been re-appointed as a Trustee of LWCT at the Council's meeting on 6th March 2025.

88/24-25 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- (a) The Chair reported that he had attended the last meeting of the SALC South Shropshire Area Committee with the Clerk.
- (b) Cllr Plumb reported that she had recently had to give urgent First Aid to another parishoner who had been injured. This had highlighted for her how remote the parish was from medical facilities and the fact that she was not aware of any First Responder-type arrangements in place to tackle such medical emergencies. Councillors agreed this was a cause for concern. Cllr Beavan commented that he thought that there had been such an arrangement in place at one time but he was not sure whether this still existed. The Clerk offered to write to the local Primary Care group to seek advice on whether there were still First Responder-type arrangements in place for Llanfair Waterdine and, if not, whether the Council might do something to help re-establish them.
- (c) Cllr Lane reported that he had received £15 in cash donations from readers of the Llanfair Times and Council witnessed him handing over the sum to the Clerk for banking.

89/24-25 **PARISH MATTERS**

- (a) The Chair reported on a meeting he had attended on the Best Kept Village Community Competition for Shropshire 2025. Villages are judged against each other within their region (North, Mid and South Shropshire), with a prize of £500 for the winner; and there is also an overall 'Best in Shropshire' prize of £500. The entry fee is £35. The assessment is based on a range of criteria and focuses on the community. Entrants nominate which areas of their village are to be included in the assessment; the Chair suggested that Council might offer (1) the Community Pavilion, (2) the Everest Hall and (3) St Mary's Church. Individuals can also offer up their property to be included and the Chair had advertised this in the Llanfair Times. Cllr Beavan suggested that the LWCT be brought into the discussion as it may wish to offer up some of the land parcels that it owns and maintains for inclusion. The Chair proposed that the Council enter Llanfair Waterdine for the competition and **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to do so. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Chair would talk to the Trustees of the LWCT and put together the application with support from the Clerk.
- (b) **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would approach the Parochial Church Council as the next group to be invited to talk with the Council as part of strengthening community engagement

90/24-25 **PLANNING**

- (a) Council note Planning Application 25/00722/AGR to erect an agricultural machinery store at Coedyhendre, Dutlas.

91/24-25 **HIGHWAYS**

- (a) The Clerk reported that Helen Beresford, the Shropshire Council officer responsible for PRoW in the Llanfair Waterdine area, had met with him and Ben Eastop to discuss how best to collaborate on surveying footpaths and prioritising maintenance work. Unfortunately, Emily Powell (the Footpaths Warden) had been unable to make the

meeting. Helen was happy that the Footpaths Warden (and other volunteers) survey and record the state of the PRow network, prioritise the work (in agreement with the Council) and then share it with her. Her team would then work through the list with the Footpaths Warden and volunteers, giving on-the-job training and advice. Shropshire Council would provide insurance cover for this work, some equipment (gauntlets etc) and could also cover some out-of-pocket expenses (e.g. petrol for trimmers). The whole arrangement would be formalised through a Parish Paths Partnership (3P) Agreement.

- (b) **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that the Council sign-up to Shropshire Council's 3P Agreement.

92/24-25 ENVIRONMENT

- (a) Cllr Lane reported that he, and Cllrs Plumb and Thomas, were developing ideas for Nature Recovery work that might be done in the parish and would be visiting contacts in Bishops Castle to talk through potential projects to enhance the environment. Cllr Beavan suggested that they should also approach the LWCT to see whether the Trustees would be interested in supporting Nature Recovery projects on the land parcels that they own.

93/24-25 FINANCE

- a) The Clerk presented the financial report FR08.2024-25. Cllr Beavan confirmed that he had inspected the Bank Account and that the balance in the Bank Reconciliation presented was correct: £3,695.11. He had also sent an email to the Clerk and councillors confirming this. Council noted the Bank Reconciliation.
- b) Council noted the income of £5.00 (cash) that had been received as a donation from a recipient of the Llanfair Times. This had been given to Cllr Lane who, in turn, had handed it to the Clerk at the end of the previous Council meeting.
- c) Council noted the payment to Zurich Insurance of £241.00 made since the previous meeting. **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to note and approve this payment retrospectively.
- d) The Clerk presented the following payments for approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
The Community Pavilion	Hire for Council meetings	£20.00
GM Lloyd	Clearing ditches and drains, Winter 2024/25	£336.00
SLCC Enterprises	Payment of Qualification Fee for Clerk's CiLCA	£450.00
James McVicar	Payroll for Month 12 (including PAYE)	£316.34
James McVicar	Half-yearly payment of Home Working Allowance	£25.00
James McVicar	Mileage allowance for attendance at meetings	£18.23
John Lane	Stamp for Llanfair Times mailing	£0.85
John Lane	2 stamps for Llanfair Times mailing	£1.70
James McVicar	Re-imbusement for payment of Domain Name Charge	£15.59

IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to approve the above payments.

Council noted the Clerk's proposal that a Debit Card be obtained for the Bank Account to avoid the Clerk having to pay and then recover the costs for the Domain Name in future. **IT WAS AGREED** not to pursue the recommendation on the grounds of financial risk. Instead, councillors suggested that the Clerk try to find another Domain Name provider who would accept another means of payment.

- e) Council noted the Clerk's recommendation that the invoice for printing of the Spring edition of the Llanfair Times of £190.00 be paid at in the 2025/26 fiscal year and **IT WAS AGREED** that payment be made.
- f) The Clerk presented a review of expenditure against the Budget for 2024/25. Overall, 99% of the Budget had been spent. The Clerk pointed out that there were some significant over- and under-spends at the line item level and explanations would be provided for these when the End of Year Accounts were finalised and presented.

94/24-25 REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

- (a) The Clerk explained that councils need to review their Financial Regulations annually. There had been a significant revision of the NALC template for these regulations issued at the start of March and he had taken the opportunity to download this and

make amendments appropriate to the size and nature of the Council (e.g. setting lower limits for procurement rules and delegated authorities) as part of this annual review. He asked councillors to read the regulations and to contact him if they had any questions. It was his intention to present them for adoption at the May meeting.

- (b) The Clerk explained that councils should review their Standing Orders periodically to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and to incorporate any new legislative requirements. He had downloaded the latest NALC template and made a number of proposed amendments.

IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to suspend Standing Order 5(x) and to extend the meeting.

The Clerk worked through the document with councillors, discussing the amendments in turn. No changes to the amendments were made. The Clerk stated that it was his intention to present these amended SOs for adoption at the May meeting.

- (c) The Clerk explained that councils should review their Risk Register/Risk Management Policies annually. He had reviewed the previous policy and made a number of amendments to strengthen it and to reflect risk mitigation measures that were either already in place or which should, in his view, be being put in place. He asked councillors to read the document and to contact him if they had any questions. It was his intention to present the document for adoption at the May meeting.

95/24-25

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Councillors noted that the Clerk would call the next meeting of the Council, which will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, at a date and time in May to be set after consultation with the councillors taking office following the Election on 1st May 2025.

Business being concluded, the Council meeting was declared closed at 9.41pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Chair of Council Meeting