

LLANFAIR WATERDINE



PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the Meeting held on 27th January 2025
at 7.30pm at The Pavilion

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

65/24-25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received, discussed and accepted by Council for Cllrs R Lloyd and H Plumb.

66/24-25 INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

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

67/24-25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- (a) No members of the public were present.
- (b) Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin was not in attendance.

68/24-25 MINUTES

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Council meeting of 25th November 2024 and **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 the minutes were raised.

69/24-25 2025/26 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

- (a) Council noted the financial report on the Budget and Precept for 2025/26 (FR07.2024-25) and the recommendations therein.
IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED by a unanimous vote to move any underspend against the 2024/25 Budget at the end of the fiscal year to General Reserves.
- (b) Council noted the proposed Budget for 2025/26 set out in the report and **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to adopt the Budget.
- (c) Council noted the recommendation set out in the report regarding the Precept and **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to set the Precept for 2025/26 at £6,800.

70/24-25 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Knipe had attended the Shropshire Chairs' Network Meeting organised by SALC. He had found it informative and reported the following to Council:

- The new Local Development Plan for Shropshire, that is currently under review by the Planning Inspectorate, does not meet new targets on Housing set by the Government. The Inspectorate may require additional conditions to be added and may extend the period of the Plan by 3 years.
- The Government appears to be concerned about the number of rural councils that may need to issue Section 114 Notices in the coming year and has been in discussion with councils, including Shropshire, about changes to the criteria under which such notices must be issued. This is likely to reduce the chance that Shropshire Council will need to issue a Section 114 Notice for the coming year; but the state of its finances is still a cause for great concern.

- Those attending were reminded that, during the Pre-Election Period (PEP) (formerly referred to as 'Purdah') leading up to the 1st May 2025 local government Elections in Shropshire, councillors needed to be particularly careful in their interactions with officers and all major decisions and announcements on policy are embargoed. The Clerk commented that officer-to-officer relations, including those between Parish Council Clerks and Unitary Authority Officers, continue as normal.

71/24-25

PARISH MATTERS

- (a) Council noted the West Mercia Police Bishop's Castle & Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team report and the apparent increase in rural crime in the area.
- (b) **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to enter Llanfair Waterdine into the Best Kept Village Community Competition 2025. **IT WAS AGREED** that members of Council, possibly accompanied by interested members of the community, would attend one of the planned briefings and discuss the outcome with relevant community groups.
- (c) Council discussed ways in which it might develop stronger relationships with other groups in the community. It was proposed that the Council invite various community groups (including but not limited to: the Community Trust, the Everest Hall Committee, the Pavilion Committee, the Parochial Church Council, the local Young Farmers' Club) to come and have open discussions with councillors about their plans, ambitions and thoughts, including whether and how the Council might support them. **IT WAS AGREED** to start the dialogues by inviting the Community Trust (or, failing that, the PCC) along to the March meeting of Council.

72/24-25

LORD LIEUTENANT'S GARDEN PARTY 2025

- (a) **IT WAS MOVED AND REJECTED** by a majority vote that the Council not nominate anyone to attend the Garden Party in 2025.
IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED by a majority vote that the Council put forward lowerth Waters as the nominee for the 2025 Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party.
IT WAS AGREED that, in future, Council should aim to put forward a nominee in every year that the opportunity arises and that proposals for candidates should be sought in advance from across the community.

73/24-25

HIGHWAYS

- (a) The Clerk reported that Emily Powell had accepted the role of Footpath Warden and that another resident had also stepped forward to work with her. He was currently trying to arrange an initial meeting between them and Helen Beresford, the Shropshire Council officer responsible for Public Rights of Way in the area. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would write a short article for the next edition of the *Llanfair Times* highlighting the appointment.
- (b) Council discussed the gritting of minor roads in the parish. It was felt it would be helpful if an additional grit bin could be put between Graig Wood Cottages and the bottom of Graig Wood. Shropshire Council had indicated some time ago that it could provide a small Gritter for use by a local contractor but nothing had come of this. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Shropshire Council on both matters.
- (c) Councillors highlighted two sections of road that were now habitually flooding under heavy rain. The problems in these areas required action by the Highway Authority as drainage was either inadequate or permanently blocked. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Shropshire Council to seek action.

74/24-25

ENVIRONMENT

- (a) Cllr Lane gave a report on the Nature Recovery Conference in Church Stretton that he had attended together with Janet Lewis. The conference had been informative and inspirational. A WhatsApp group had been set up to facilitate communication and a follow-up trip had been made to Bishops Castle to look at work being done there. There would be a brainstorming session with interested parties, under the auspices of the Environmental Working Group, to agree what might be done in Llanfair Waterdine and a report would be brought to the next Council meeting.
- (b) The Clerk reported that there was a risk that the Environmental Maintenance Grant would not be spent before the end of the fiscal year. Councillors were aware of some ditches that required clearing and **IT WAS AGREED** that work on these would be an

appropriate use of the funds.

75/24-25 FINANCE

- (a) The Clerk presented the financial report FR06.2024-25. Councillor Hughes stated that he had inspected the Bank Account and that the balance in the Bank Reconciliation presented was correct: £5,426.11. Council note the Bank Reconciliation.
- (b) Council note the income received since the last meeting: (1) a payment of £160.00 from SALC in respect of the Clerk's work as Secretary to the SSAC; and, (2) a payment of £825.00 from the SLCC Educational Trust as a bursary to pay for the Clerk's CiLCA training.
- (c) Council noted that two payments had been made since the last meeting other than those that had been authorised at that meeting: (1) a payment of £16.09 in respect of Employers' National Insurance Contributions; and, (2) a payment by direct debit of £143.86 to Hugo Fox in respect of the Council's website.
- (d) Council noted the Clerk's recommendation that payment of his salary be moved to a monthly basis. **IT WAS AGREED** to do this. Cllr Beavan asked the Clerk to explore whether the monthly payment might be made by Direct Debit.
- (e) The Clerk presented the following payments for approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
Everest Hall Committee	Hire of Everest Hall for May, July & September Council meetings	£21.00
James McVicar	Payroll for months 9 & 10 (inc HMRC PAYE)	£632.67
James McVicar	Pass-through payment from SALC in respect of the Clerk's duties as Secretary of the SSAC for November 2024 (inc. HMRC PAYE)	£160.00
SSLC Enterprises Ltd	Building Your CiLCA Portfolio Course (Feb-July 2025) (inc VAT)	£360.00

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

- (f) The Clerk presented a review of expenditure against the Budget for 2024/25. Overall, 74% of the Budget had been spent.

IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED by a unanimous vote that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes.

76/24-25 POWERS OF THE CLERK

- (a) **IT WAS MOVED AND RESOLVED** that the Council delegate authority to the Clerk to call meetings of Council.

77/24-25 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk brought two items of correspondence to the attention of Councillors:

- (a) an invitation to Councillors to attend an event to celebrate SpArC having secured £25,000 to ensure its continuation as a resource for the community in SW Shropshire. Councillors were advised that they should respond to this personally.
- (b) An email from the Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust informing Council that the term of office for one of its trustees would expire on 23rd February 2025. The Clerk reminded Council that this matter could only be discussed informally at this meeting. It was noted that, as the Appointing Body named in the Trust's constitution, the Council had a responsibility to find and appoint a replacement trustee. **IT WAS AGREED** that the role would be advertised and arrangements made for interviews to take place. The matter would then be brought back to Council in March for a formal decision to be made on who to appoint.

78/25-25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted the date, time and venue for the next ordinary meeting: Monday 17th March 2025 starting at 7.30pm in the Pavilion.

Business being concluded, the Council meeting was declared closed at 9.45pm.

Signed: _____

Chairman of Council Meeting

Dated: _____