

Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council

Minutes of the Scheduled Parish Council Meeting on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7.30pm at the Pavilion.

Present: Cllrs Andrew Beavan (Chairman), Mark Hughes, Darren Knipe, John Lane and Roy Lloyd.
2 vacancies.

In attendance: County Councillor Nigel Hartin and Mrs Maggie Brown, Clerk.

- 23/49. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 23/50. **Apologies for absence.** All members were present.
- 23/51. **Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations.** None received.
- 23/52. **To consider applications for co-option to the Parish Council.** None received.
- 23/53. **Open Discussion**
- 23/53.1 **To hear views of the public parish matters.** No members of public were present.
- 23/53.2 **Report from Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin.**
The Marches Forward Partnership agreement, including Herefordshire, Shropshire, Powys and Monmouthshire, has been signed. It will allow the Partnership to bid for government funding that benefits people across the counties.
No schools in Shropshire are affected by problems associated with reinforced aerated concrete (RAAC), however, Whitchurch Civic Centre has had to be closed.
The north-west relief road has been granted planning approval, subject to agreement from the Environment Agency on the impact of the development on the water table, and Shrewsbury's water supply. A full business case will be prepared, funds following the cancellation of HS2 may be available.
- 23/54. **Minutes.** Minutes of the scheduled Parish Council Meeting held on 18 September 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 23/55. **Matters arising from the previous meeting.** No matters were raised.
- 23/56. **Reports from Councillors.** No reports were received.
- 23/57. **Finance.**
- 23/57.1 A report from the Responsible Financial Officer to 30 September 2023 was received following a Finance Working Group meeting on 9 November. The recommendation to vire £203.90 from Contingency budget heading to Website Costs was agreed.
- 23/57.2 Increase in Clerk's pay in line with National Pay Award for 2023/24. **RESOLVED** to implement the increase set out in the E01-23 | 2023/24 Local Government Services Pay Agreement, Scale Point 12. This equates to an increase of £208 per annum. It was further **RESOLVED** that back pay, for months 1 to 8, may be paid in December 2023. Months 9 to 12 will be paid at the new rate from January 2024 onwards.
- 23/57.3 Verification of bank reconciliation to 30 September 2023. Item deferred to January 2024. See Appendix 1
- 23/57.4 Noted: Barclays Bank Account balance on 15 November 2023 £5,239.34
- 23/57.5 Noted: receipts banked since the September meeting: £200 grant from Llanfair Waterdine Community Trust towards provision of Llanfair Times to Lloyney residents.
RESOLVED to make the following payments:
The Community Pavilion Inv. 88 Hall Hire 22 Nov £10
Clerk's Payroll Months 7 & 8 £352.91
HMRC PAYE Months 7 & 8 £88.40.
Total payments £451.31.
- 23/57.6 Member to authorise payments until the January meeting, Cllr Andrew Beavan.
- 23/57.7 **Budget 2024/25.** A first draft of the budget for next year was discussed. Noted: draft budget figure of £7,090.22, and the Finance Working Group's recommendation to increase the Precept from £4,500 to £5,500. The clerk advised the Council of the importance of having financial reserves. The Budget will be finalised at the January 2024 meeting when the Precept will also be set.
- 23/58. **Defibrillator.** Update on defibrillator checking / maintenance. A resident has agreed to check the defibrillator on a regular basis, reporting problems to the clerk and Clun Valley AED. **Agreed:** a letter of thanks

from the Parish Council to be sent to the resident.

23/59. The **Climate and Ecology Bill** due for its second reading on 24 November was discussed. The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision via the Minutes;
3. Write to Philip Dunne MP to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill—or thank them for already doing so;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council’s support (councils@zerohour.uk).

23/60. **Highways / Public Rights of Way**

23/60.1 Issues relating to Highways. No issues raised.

23/60.2 Works under the Environmental Maintenance Grant. Cllr Beavan will discuss drainage works with the contractor.

23/60.3 Issues to report to the Footpaths Warden. Reported: stiles on Offa’s Dyke are in poor and sometimes dangerous condition. **RESOLVED** to write to Shropshire Council highlighting the concerns of landowners and asking that stiles be repaired or replaced.

23/61. **Availability of broadband in the Parish.** No update was received, and no actions agreed.

23/62. **Hugo Fox Website.** Update. The Shropshire Association of Local Councils advised (after fees had been paid) that for parishes with a low precept, Hugo Fox may waive fees until April 2024. The information was received too late to alter the Parish Council’s decision to subscribe to the Silver package, which includes the Planning Tracker. Whether to change to the Bronze package can be discussed when the contract is renewed.

23/63. **Councillor attendance at the Clun Carol Service.** Cllrs Beavan and Lloyd will represent the Parish Council.

23/64. **Correspondence.** To discuss in detail items of correspondence. (so requested by members before the meeting). None raised.

23/65. Noted: Date of next scheduled meeting – 7.30pm on Monday 15 January 2024 at the Pavilion.

23/66. The meeting closed at 20:36

Original signed and on file.

Signed

Cllr Andrew Beavan, Chairman

Dated 15 January 2024

Appendix 1

Llanfair Waterdine Parish Council
Barclays Community Account 3025 3243
2023/24

Bank Reconciliation 30 September 2023

	Dr	Cr
Opening balance	2,411.22	
Bank payments		2,492.30
Bank receipts	5,120.42	
Closing balance		5,039.34
	<hr/>	
	7,531.64	7,531.64
		0.00
Balance per bank statement		5,039.34