

LLANFAIR WATERDINE



PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting held on 15th July 2024 at 7:30pm at the Everest Hall

Present: Cllrs D Knipe (Chair), A Beavan, M Hughes, J Lane, R Lloyd, H Plumb.
Cllr J Thomas joined the meeting immediately after co-option.

Absent: None.

20/24-25 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Nigel Hartin.

21/24-25 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.

22/24-25 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTION TO THE COUNCIL

An application was received from Jane Frances Thomas. The Clerk reported that the applicant met the conditions for co-option as a councillor. **IT WAS RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that Jane Frances Thomas be co-opted as a member of the council.

23/24-25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- (a) 3 members of the public were in attendance.
- (b) Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin had previously tendered apologies.

24/24-25 MINUTES

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of 15th May 2024 and **IT WAS RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve them as a true record of the meeting.
- (b) The Clerk reported that there were three actions arising from previous minutes that were still in progress, one of which would be closed by a decision later in the meeting.

25/24-25 POWERS

- (a) The Clerk presented report GR01.2024-25, a summary of the Powers of The Council. He suggested that councillors familiarise themselves with the powers as a springboard for thinking about and bringing forward policy ideas and initiatives for consideration by Council. A range of powers can often be combined to deliver broader initiatives; for example, tackling social isolation and loneliness in a community or improving public transportation links.
- (b) Cllr Knipe noted that there was a wealth of material relating to parish history held in different places and by different people that might be brought together, preserved and shared as part of a community initiative involving people across the parish and generations. Oral history from older members of the community could be recorded; paper records and analogue recordings could be digitised; a local society might be established to manage and promote the material; a permanent space for accessing and using it might be created. He was aware that grants could be applied for to support work such as digitisation.
Cllr Beavan commented that there had, in the past, been a cabinet of records in the Everest Hall that had not been looked after; and that the the ongoing management of any collection needed to be considered.
It was noted that sending records to Shropshire Archives had the serious disadvantage of making it hard for many members of the community to access them.

Cllrs Plumb and Thomas commented that effective communication of the existence of any such initiative would be critical to securing participation from parishioners. This was not a straightforward matter and needed careful thought.

Cllr Knipe suggested that the best way forward would be to establish a group to look at how such an initiative might best be approached and managed.

The Clerk informed councillors that they could establish an informal working group under **LGA 1972 s.111** to look into the idea and come back with recommendations. It would be prudent for the Council to set the Terms of Reference but, thereafter, the group could be run flexibly by and within the community, with councillors participating as they wished. Cllr Knipe stated that he would wish to be a member of such a group. After further discussion, Cllr Knipe proposed that Council establish an Archives and History Working Group and **IT WAS RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to establish it.

26/24-25 PARISH MATTERS

- a) The Clerk had reported the pothole between Teme Cottage and the bridge and its status was showing as "in progress" on FixMyStreet.
Councillors raised concern about the state of the road between Cwm Collo and Newcastle. This has been a problem for many months and its state had now deteriorated to the extent that it was more or less impassable to motor vehicles. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would raise the matter with Shropshire Highways to try to secure progress; and that he would also write to the local MP to express the Council's concern about the lack of action by Shropshire Highways to date.
- b) The Clerk reported that the current Footpaths Warden was intending to step down. There appeared to have been a breakdown in communication from the Shropshire Council team to the Footpaths Warden, with work being undertaken by the team without prior consultation or discussion. The Clerk emphasised the importance of a Footpaths Warden in a rural parish such as Llanfair Waterdine and pointed out that the Council has concurrent powers with Shropshire Council to manage and maintain public rights of way. He recommended that the Council should confirm its own commitment to having a Footpaths Warden; and that he should try to work with Shropshire Council to establish a firmer basis for joint working ahead of the appointment of any successor to the current Footpaths Warden.
- c) **IT WAS RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote that the Council confirmed its commitment to the role of Footpaths Warden.

27/24-25 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Plumb reported that the Environmental Working Group had met to discuss how best to communicate the existence of the group and its work to the community and that they had also undertaken some cleaning of road signage as a shared activity. They were examining whether or not to take a stand at the forthcoming Fun Day as a way of 'getting the message out' about the group and its work.
Cllr Beavan asked what consideration had been given to how the parish's Carbon Footprint might be reduced. Cllr Plumb replied that the group had not yet looked at this.
- b) There were no other reports.

28/24-25 PLANNING

- a) The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the responsible Planning Officer at Shropshire Council about the potential Planning Enforcement Case. The Officer had visited the premises and could see no merit to the case; it was, therefore, not going to be pursued.

29/24-25 FINANCE

- a) The Clerk presented a financial report containing the bank account reconciliation and balance as at 12th July 2024. The contents were noted by Council.
- b) The Council noted the income received since 20th May 2024, totalling £215.00
- c) Council noted that there had been no payments since the last meeting other than those that had been authorised at the last meeting.

- d) The Clerk presented the following payments for approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
James McVicar	Payroll for months 3 & 4	£484.36
HMRC	PAYE for months 3 & 4	£121.00
Cllr J Lane	Postage for Llanfair Times (March)	£ 9.30

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

- e) The Clerk presented a reconciliation of the Annual Budget (as revised by Resolution at the meeting on 20th May 2024) against expenditure to date. Overall, 27% of the budget has been spent.
- f) The Clerk asked that Council nominate a new councillor to counter-approve electronic payments. **IT WAS AGREED** that Cllr Beavan would act as counter-signatory until January 2025. It was noted that there appeared only to be 2 councillors who could act as counter-signatories on the Barclays account. Cllr Knipe proposed that he should be added to the list; the Clerk will investigate how this can be done.

30/24-25 LLANFAIR TIMES

Cllr Hughes reported that the next edition of the *Llanfair Times* was with the printers and should be delivered for distribution this week.

31/24-25 WEST MERCIA POLICE TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY 2024

- (a) Council noted the 2024 Survey.
- (b) **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk complete and circulate the survey by email for comment by councillors before returning it. Councillors commented that the lack of any visible police presence in the parish was a general concern.

32/24-25 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

33/24-25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Council noted that the date and venue for the next ordinary meeting is 23rd September, 2024 at the Everest Hall.

Business being concluded, the Council meeting was declared closed at 8.56pm.

Signed _____

Dated: _____

Chairman of Council Meeting