

**LLANFAIR WATERDINE****PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**  
**of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**at 7:30pm at The Pavilion**

**Present:** Cllrs D Knipe (Chair), A Beavan, R Lloyd, H Plumb, J Thomas

**Absent:** Cllrs M Hughes, J Lane

**50/24-25 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received, discussed and accepted by Council for Cllrs Hughes and Lane.

**51/24-25 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.

**52/24-25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

- (a) No members of the public were present.
- (b) Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin had submitted a written report which the Clerk summarised.

**53/24-25 MINUTES**

- (a) Council noted the minutes of the Council Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> September and **IT WAS RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve them as a true record of the meeting.
- (b) No matters arising from the minutes were raised.

**54/24-25 TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT 2025/26 BUDGET**

- (a) Council noted the Revised Budget for 2024-25 Version 2 and, in particular, the recommendation, approved by resolution (see Minute 16-24/25(e)), to restore the General Reserves to be at least 6 months of the council's nett annual revenue expenditure within a period of 3 years.
- (b) Council received and discussed the Clerk's Briefing Paper.
- (c) A draft Budget for 2025/26 was presented by the Clerk and discussed. Councillors were content with the draft and did not identify any significant omissions.
- (d) Cllr Beavan urged the Council to look for opportunities to add value and to strengthen its representation of and support for the local community. Councillors agreed that this was important. The Clerk suggested, as an example, adding a page to the council's website that could be used by community groups for communication and to promote events.
- (e) It was agreed that councillors would give the Budget further thought in preparation for a final discussion at the January meeting of council when it, and the Precept for 2025/26, will be agreed.

**55/24-25 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS**

- (a) Cllr Thomas had examined the matter in more detail and concluded that the issue was not as significant as had been thought. Most of the temporary signs and cones were needed but some had become displaced and needed to be restored. Councillors felt that the road closure by Melin-y-Grog needed better or more permanent signage given its long duration.
- (b) There was general support for signage but it was agreed that the Council was not currently in a position to fund it. Cllrs Thomas and Plumb would see whether alternative sources of funding could be secured.
- (c) Council considered the appointment of Emily Powell as the Footpaths Warden and **IT**

**WAS RESOLVED** by a unanimous vote to approve the appointment.

#### 56/25-25 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Thomas reported that she was going to attend the SALC-sponsored *Local Nature Recovery Strategy Conference* in Church Stretton on 6<sup>th</sup> December before looking further at completing a draft response to the Shropshire Hills National Landscape survey for review and agreement by council. Cllr Lane may also be attending. Cllr Thomas proposed re-instated the Beating of the Parish Bounds as an event to help galvanise community interest and involvement in the Environmental Working Group. She also proposed that the Group conducted an environmental audit of the parish as an initial activity and emphasised the importance of engaging the farming community before developing any specific ideas.
- b) The Clerk had received an email from Cllr Hughes asking that correspondence that he had had with a parishoner regarding a private track be considered. After discussion, councillors agreed that this was not a matter with which Council could provide assistance.
- c) There were no other reports.

#### 57/24-25 PLANNING

- a) Council noted that no comment was submitted in respect of Planning Item 24/04053/VAR [Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission No. 23/01506/FUL]

#### 58/24-25 FINANCE

- a) Council noted the bank account reconciliation and balance. Cllr Hughes had sent an email to all councillors on the morning of 25<sup>th</sup> November stating that he had checked the Council's bank account at 10:30am and could confirm the balance figure of £5,772.65 shown in the reconciliation.
- b) Council noted the income of £160 received from SALC in respect of the Clerk's duties as Secretary to the South Shropshire Area Committee.
- c) Council noted the NJC 2024/25 pay settlement in respect of the Clerk's salary and the backpay owing.
- d) Council noted the Direct Debit payment to the Office of the Information Commissioner for £35 in respect of the Council's registration for 2024/25.
- e) The Clerk presented the following payments for approval:

Payee	Description	Amount
Craven design & print	Printing of winter edition of Llanfair Times	£252.00
James McVicar	Payroll for months 7 & 8 (inc PAYE)	£632.67
James McVicar	Back Pay for months 1 to 8 (inc PAYE)	£81.92
Community Pavilion	Hall Hire for 25/11/24	£10.00
James McVicar	Pass-thru (SALC SSAC Duties)	£160.00

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

- f) The Clerk presented a reconciliation of the Annual Budget for 2024/25 against income and expenditure to date. Overall, 60% of the budget had been spent. This was well within expectations for this point in the financial year and it now looked likely that Council would underspend against the budget by year end.

#### 59/24-25 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **IT WAS AGREED** that the Council would put forward a nomination for a parishoner to attend the Lord Lieutenant's 2025 Garden Party. **IT WAS AGREED** that the Clerk would write to the nominee to ask whether they would be willing to accept the nomination.
- b) Council noted the appointment of the new Chief Officer of SALC.

#### 60/24-25 PARTNERING WITH SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE SERVICES

- a) The Clerk reported on the meeting with the Chair of Clun Town Council with Chapel Lawn, which had also been attended by representatives from Bucknell and Newcastle councils.
- b) Council noted that Shropshire Council had subsequently withdrawn its request for parish/town councils to partner with it in the provision of services

**61/24-25      BEGUILDY AND KNUCKLAS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

(a) The Clerk reported on a meeting that he had had with Beguildy and Knucklas Community Council. **IT WAS AGREED** to share information on highway matters and to explore opportunities for collaboration on environmental matters. The Clerk stated that he would write to this effect to the Community Council.

**62/24-25      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to change the date of the Council's meeting in January 2025 to Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. The starting time of 7:30pm would remain as previously agreed.

**63/24-25**      There being no members of the public present, it was not felt necessary to move the motion.

**64/24-25      PERSONNEL MATTERS**

- a) The Clerk having left the room, Cllr Knipe delivered a draft appraisal of the Clerk's performance from 5<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024. Council discussed and was content with the draft appraisal and no amendments were made. On the Clerk returning to the room, Cllr Knipe presented the appraisal to the Clerk for it to be acknowledged by him by signature and it was duly signed.
- b) **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Chair write to the Clerk notifying him that the probationary period has been successfully completed and that he had been confirmed in the role.

Business being concluded, and following a short period of informal discussion, the Council meeting was declared closed at 9:35pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman of Council Meeting**