### HIGHLEY PRISH COUNCIL

**An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021 at 7pm at the Severn Centre, Highley**

**Present**: Vice Chair, P.Vinall, T.Quinn, M .Moore, , J.Rakic , M.Williams ,J.Marshall, E.Moore

Parishioners: 0

**01 Apologies for absence and reasons for absence :** Cllr.D.Tremellen, N.Barker, J.Law – illness. Clr.T.Pinches – holiday . Cllr. Waterson – family commitments

**Absence no apologies- Cllr. Thakrar**

**02. Churchyard Feasibility Study** – Mr.R.Adlington unable to attend meeting due to having to isolate with Covid. He had sent an email to the Council stating that the quote for the feasibility study had come in at £4100. £100 above the original grant from Highley Parish Council. ***RESOLVED*** to pay the extra £100

**03 To confirm the minutes of the meetings dated 5th October 2021 –** with the alteration to the meeting of Chair, D.Tremellen and not Vice Chair, agreed that the minutes were a true and correct record. Chair of meeting signed the minutes.

**04. Matters Arising**

Youth Project – Update from Cllr. Vinall. Report sent to all Councillors

Dome (Severn Centre – Halo have tried to remove Graffiti/ Unable to do so. Now going to repaint Dome.

Civic Awards and Christmas Light Switch on – To be held on 27th November 2021 from 12pm to 1pm. Communications Group proposed that Individual Parish Councillors present each award so that parishioners can meet them. Raffle to be held in aid of the Gunner Lewis Vale Trust ***. RESOLVED*** in favour.

Meeting with Matthew Mead regarding Welcome Back Fund and High Street Clean up Works. – Clerk said meeting held and work to be carried out included jet washing all block pavers, repainting of railing around the car park and next to Village Farm Shop, cleaning of all notice boards and benches. Christmas Light Switch on Event. – Parish Council to put work in hand and pay for events and then claim the funds back from Shropshire Council.

Sustainability and Climate Workshop – Cllr. Eileen Moore sent a report on the workshop. Discussions took place on Climate Change***. AGENDA*** for next meeting.

Community Foundation – Report from Visit – Cllr. J.Marshall gave a report on the meeting which he said had been well attended.

**05.Correspondence**

Local Policing Charter – Clerks invited to a meeting with Superintendent Stu Bill to brief Clerks on the Local Policing Charter Thursday 11th November . Police Charter attached for your reference

SALC – News in Brief – sent to all Councillors

A.Rodgers – Resignation Letter

Shropshire Council – Road Closure – Priors Moor Brook Billingsley 6th to the 10th of December.

SALC – AGM Friday 19th November 2021 6pm via zoom. If anyone wishes to attend can they please contact the clerk.

**06. Planning**

Reference: 21/04927/CPE (validated: 15/10/2021)

Address: Romyra, Annexe , Blything Court, Highley, WV16 6JL

Proposal: Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of annex as a separate dwelling ***– RESOLVED NO OBJECTIONS***

Reference:21/04626/FUL (validated: 08/10/2021)

Address: 2 Carlton Rise, Highley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6EN

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension – ***RESOLVED NO*** ***OBJECTIONS***

07. Severn Centre Management Fee – ***RESOLVED*** to pay £18,721.20.

08. Severn Centre Contract and Report from meeting. – Contract sent to all Councillors. No changes on the Highley Parish Council schedule. Shropshire Council have taken out Customer First Point and Recycling Points as they are no longer used at the Severn Centre.

09. Code of Conduct ***– RESOLVED*** to adopt new Code of Conduct.

10. Shropshire Councils Report – Cllr. Tremellen

“As expected, not a lot going on at what’s left of Shirehall since the new leadership and their directors of service took over the direction in which the county is now running.

Nothing wrong with that, but what I warned about so many years ago, that local government has become an arm of central government and there to ensure compliance regardless of local circumstances, is now the reality.

I’ve mentioned elsewhere that when I first raised my concerns that local communities seemed to be side-lined in all the policy decisions emanating from Shropshire Council’s “Executive”, the response I got from our newly appointed Chief Executive was: “Your comments have been noted.” Which said it all.

Basically, the new top layer of administration is accountable to no one but itself and, critically, answerable only to those fellow members of what I’ve come to call the ‘Director’s Forum’, the body of professionals who meet regularly to formulate the policies that, as I said above, determine the direction in which the county is now running.

For the sake of my own sanity, I am now gradually coming to terms with the new way of working, one characteristic of which was brought home to me this afternoon (25th October).

One item on the agenda of the Place Overview (Scrutiny) Committee, enforcement, was of particular interest to me and in the old days I’d have just gone along and sat in, but not today because of the way that meeting rooms are laid out, in deference to Covid – you can’t just go along and eavesdrop because seating is laid out to observe Covid restrictions and you need to have made your intention to attend clear to the committee officer from the outset. Trouble was, the item I was interested in didn’t take on any significance until this morning and I couldn’t reach the committee officer until she got back to me at 13.15, too late for the hour’s drive to get to the meeting at its start time of 14.00!

But things lumber on and for most people the changes won’t register – yet – thanks to the increasing apathy of the general public towards the way their lives are governed. I know how significant that is locally because despite writing multiple articles explaining the background to events, it is often the case that the blank look I get when I mention something of high importance that isn’t getting anywhere tells me I am talking to someone who hasn’t read a word I’ve written!

I am now confident that the work on the High Street will take place, the design work having more or less been completed. Ella and I have still to see the designs, but we have been assured that they have been done and that the scheme is in the program for "soon after Christmas".

Not a happy bunny over that because it was what I was afraid would happen when the work had to be postponed because of the weather way back in the Summer. One good sign is that the engineer dealing with our scheme stays in touch and keeps us up to date on how it's going, even if the "going" isn't!

And if anyone is questioned about the work on the south-west corner of St. Marys churchyard being carried out, it’s to establish the suitability of the area for burials (and we do know about the water levels), in other words a feasibility study, the cost of which the parish council voted through a few months back.

The burial ground is rapidly filling and unless more ground can be found - and quickly - "home burials" will be a thing of the past because local landowners are now asking for the commercial value of any "spare" land they might have. Neither the church nor the parish council can afford what is being asked, hence the feasibility study to try and extend the life of the current graveyard, even if only for about another ten years.

The Remembrance Day parade will again process from the Severn Centre to the churchyard, leaving the Centre at 10.30 and gathering at the War Memorial at 10.45-ish ready for the service (this year the Rev David Poyner will be officiating on his own) at 11.00.

As usual, Dave Fulton will lead the parade in his First Responder vehicle and to discourage anyone from overtaking the parade on its short journey to the junction with Church Lane, the police have agreed to position a patrol car at the rear. As the road is open (as it always has been) for traffic coming in the opposite direction to the parade, and as the parade is moving, the road is not effectively ‘closed’, although as a courtesy to local residents a sign will be displayed to indicate the presence of a MOVING parade.”

11. Finance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| M.E.PRESTON | SALARY | 1014.76 |
| S.J.MAINTENANCE | MAINTENANCE WORKS | 360.00 |
| S.J.MAINTENANCE | Maintenance Works | 260.00 |
| Severn Centre | Management Fee | 18721.20 |
| Severn Centre | Room Hire | 144.00 |
| Severn Centre | Room Hire | 139.50 |
| Shorthouses | Skip Hire | 180.00 |
| Herbert & Sons | Hedge cutting | 350.00 |
| HMRC | Tax & NI | 77.56 |
| Bridgnorth Bus Co. | Shuttle Bus Christmas Light Switch On | 150.00 |
| Eon | Street Lighting | 2673.60 |

Signed: Chair ………………………………….. Date: ……………………………………………..