

# **HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

An Ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 6pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

**Present:** Cllr. D.Tremellen – Chair, Cllrs. R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne, G.Court, M.Brooks, R.Broome, D.Bayley  
Clerk: Mrs.E.Preston  
Parishioners: 2

## **00. Parishioners Time**

Mr. Brian Bunar from Borle Mill House, Borle Mill attended the meeting with his concerns regarding speeding traffic on Borle Mill. He said that he had been in contact with the Police and Shropshire Council regarding this issue and asked the Parish Council to support his request for a 30mph speed limit and rumble strips to be installed. This to be placed on the **AGENDA** for the next meeting.

Mrs. Rebecca Round attended the meeting to explain to the Parish Council the problems that the Highley School Fundraising Group were having with storage space. She said that the School did not have any storage space that they could use to store items for fundraising and asked the Parish Council if they could help. Various solutions such as a village storage area were discussed. This to be added to the **AGENDA** for the next meeting for further discussion.

**Declaration of Pecuniary interests:** Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer.

**01. Apologies for absence.** Apologies received Cllr. D.Bache, J.Marshall, M.Phipson, and D.Thakrar Personal. Cllrs. N.Barker, J.Law – work Commitments. Cllrs. P. Atkinson, T.Holford – illness.  
**RESOLVED** to accept apologies

**02. To confirm the minutes of the meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017** it was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a true and correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

## **04. Matters arising from minutes:-**

### **Road Safety Schemes**

Barrier Repairs Ashleigh Garden –Awaiting further information.

Severn Centre Crossing Point- Shropshire Council - Awaiting start date for the scheme.

Redstone Drive. –This Scheme now to take place in the next financial year 2018/2019.

Problem Parking Areas, Woodhill Road, Main Road, High Street, Borle Brook Court, parking bays in the village centre – awaiting a reply from Shropshire Council.

Swimming Pool Update – Nothing to report

CCTV System – Andy Gough from Shropshire Council asked the Parish Council if they wished to resubmit the bid for the upgrade to the CTV system or if they wished to defer it to the next financial year. **RESOLVED** to defer this until the next financial year to allow the Parish Council working party to look further into this issue.

Dog Fouling Churchyard –Shropshire Council unable to provide extra litter bins in this area.  
Castle Inn – Shropshire Council looking at providing metal sheeting for the windows to replace the boarding that is presently covering the windows.  
Skate Park Area surface improvements – no further details received.  
Youth Council – Cllr. Court gave details of information he had received regarding the Youth Council. He said that he would let the Parish Council have further details and this item to then be placed on the **AGENDA** for the next meeting.  
Junior Football Club Accounts – Copies of the Accounts received.

#### **04. Correspondence:**

Shropshire Council – Footpath Closure Notice  
John Whitelegg – Future of Rural Bus Services  
Brian Bunar – Brake Road Safety News and Fundraising pack.  
Shivercasting UK – Request for any grandparents with grandchildren over the age of 18 to take part in a television programme.  
Notice of external auditor’s appointments for the 2017/18 financial year. Now to be PKF Littlejohn  
Dominic Saywell – Hawk Developments (Cedars Development) – Removal of Planter for new access.  
If no one want the plants to ask Hawk Developments to take them away  
SALC – Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Newsletter.  
Shropshire Rural Communities Charity – Annual Review 2016/2017  
Mrs. Joan Hinton – Request for donation towards a flower tower – **AGENDA** next meeting. Cllr. Court to take the new Grant Request form to the Committee.  
SALC – November Bulletin  
Royal British Legion – Thank you letter for Donation towards the Poppy Appeal.  
SALC – Consultation on Rural Bus Services.

#### **05. To look at any planning applications received.**

17/05453/VRW106 – Bache Arms – Highley – Variation of Section 106 for planning application number 17/02688/REM to reduce the level of affordable housing contributions – Punch Taverns PLC **RESOLVED** in the light of Shropshire Council’s issues with central government policy to exclude developments of less than 10 houses from AHC, Highley Parish Council feels that it cannot express an opinion let alone make a decision regarding this application.

**06. Scout/Brownie Hut – Grant Application – from last meeting** –No further information received. Chair and Clerk to Contact the committee to ask for Accounts and further quotations.

#### **07. Report/Recommendations from Parish Council Committee/Working Groups.**

A. Revenue and Resources Committee – Maintenance Contractor Interviews – Cllr. Court said that the work group had interviewed three people. Further information from one of the applicants was needed before their recommendations came back to the Parish Council. **AGENDA** next meeting.

B. Churchyard Working Group – Meeting with St. Marys PCC regarding Maintenance Contract. Meetings had been held to look at the contract for the grounds maintenance. Amendments had been agreed and the final draft to be drawn up for agreement between Halo Leisure, Highley Parish Council and St. Marys PCC. **AGENDA** next meeting.

**10. Shropshire Councillors Report** – On November 16th I attended the Task & Finish Group reviewing the future of the Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury, it was the first time a T&F Group had been held as a one-day event, running from 09.00 until 17.00. It was, by any measure and according to all participants, a successful event, largely because preparation had been thorough and the management of the day closely controlled. Although the format isn't appropriate for all issues called to scrutiny, it was one likely to be repeated where it is considered appropriate, as indeed proved to be the case at a later meeting of a different T&F Group (see below).

On this occasion, Council officers had prepared heavily researched presentations and participating representatives from parish and town councils, who had been invited to give evidence, had been briefed on the remit of the T&F Group, the result was a comprehensive report for submission to Cabinet, who will decide whether the Environmental Maintenance Grant will continue and in the event that it does what form it will take.

That said, on the basis of what I saw at the T&F Group meeting my impression is that the grant will continue but as little more than a gesture. Having already been reduced from £3,000 to under £2,000 in the last financial year, it will probably end up somewhere in the region of £500, and then only to parish and town councils who meet criteria yet to be decided.

On November 30<sup>th</sup> I attended the second meeting of the T&F Group called to look at the potential impact, if any, of Brexit on Shropshire businesses and what Shropshire Council could do to enable local businesses to either capitalise on any benefits or ameliorate any adverse effects and whether particular sectors of the Shropshire economy were likely to be more affected, either way, either directly or indirectly, than any other.

A number of officers, including the lead officer for economic growth Gemma Davies, submitted opinions, but following my argument that given the uncertainty surrounding the current state of negotiations between the UK and the EU, the one-day format used to consider the future of the Environmental Maintenance Grant might be a more appropriate format for consideration of such complex issues was accepted and the meeting closed with the resolution to plan for such a meeting in early January, by which time current UK/EU negotiations might have progressed further and we (along with the rest of the UK) would know more.

I have delayed this report in order to report back on the late meeting yesterday evening called to explain the future of Shropshire Council's Highways contract with Keir, who are in the process of taking over from Ringway in spring 2018.

On the basis of last night's meeting it all looks to be set-fair, except for the progressive incremental reduction in the funding available for Shropshire Council Highways of roughly £2m annually, in practical terms a situation made worse by officers now having to consider ALL applications for work on the basis of that application's impact on "growth", which explains the heavily HS2-accented 'Economic Growth Strategy for Shropshire 2017-2021' in which this part of the county hardly appears, let alone features!

We have to seriously reconsider how we view ourselves in order to present ourselves in a way that raises our profile. It is arguable that by thinking "village" we are not helping ourselves to engage with an already developing situation. It's HOW it happens that we need to look at – seriously, very seriously

**11. Finance:**

Viking Direct	Stationary	£147.49
C.Holford	Christmas Light	£1179.10
N.Power	Street Lighting	£2,231.48
Eon	Street Lights – Hawthorn Drive	£116.65
St. Marys PCC	Tree Work – St. Marys Churchyard	£300.00
Herbert & Son	Hedge cutting – various locations (2016)	£264.00
Post Office Ltd	Tax and National Insurance	£68.86
M.E.Preston	Salary	£910.47
Halo Leisure	Churchyard Maintenance	£1,165.88
Herbert & Son	Hedge cutting – various locations (2017)	£264.00
Eon	Street Light – Smoke Alley	£81.38
Eon – Street Light	Street Light – Church Street	£112.46
Eon	Street Light – Vicarage Lane	£116.65
SLCC -	Subscription – Renewal.	£147.00
Halo Leisure Ltd	Churchyard Maintenance	£1165.88
Halo Leisure Ltd	Meeting Room Hire	£38.40

**RESOLVED** to accept cheques.

**Meeting closed 8.15pm**

Signed .....

Date: .....