

HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 4th December 2019 at 7.00pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

Present: Cllr.M.Brooks - Chair - Cllr. G.Court , Cllrs. R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne, P.Vinall, J.Law, D.Bayley, D.Tremellen, J.Marshall, R.Broome, D.Scriven
Clerk: Mrs.E.Preston

00. Parishioners Time - No parishioners present

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 Cllrs. D.Thakrar, N.Barker - Family Commitments. Cllrs. M.Phipson , P.Atkinson - Illness Work Commitments. **RESOLVED** to accept.

02. To confirm the minutes of the meeting dated 5th November 2019 -It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true a correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

03. Matters arising from minutes:-

CCTV –Awaiting Quotations from Technical Services and Eon regarding the ANPR system.

Parking Bays Village Centre/Lines Coronation Street– Awaiting response from Shropshire Council.

Castle Inn Update – Awaiting Report from Shropshire Council. Cllr. Tremellen said that the Shropshire Star had been out to do a report on this. He Said he was trying to raise the profile of the situation at the Castle Inn and keep it on the Agenda at Shropshire Council.

Street Lighting - Clerk still awaiting certificate from WPD regarding street light charges before she can progress the bulk buying scheme from Shropshire Council.

Staley Grove - Clerk reported that Hawk Development had been out to the site but could not find the spikes reported. They asked if we could send them photographs of the area and the spikes.

Cllr.A.Honeybourne and R.Honeybourne to provide the clerk with these photographs.

Right Homes Right Place Survey - Tracy Johnson replied that this survey is not due to take place until October 2020. Clerk to write to see if this date could be brought forward

Road Repairs - Steve Brown replied that they are looking at this as there are a lot of articles in the professional media about this, but they have not made a decision yet and are looking at other methods as well.

04.Correspondence

Shropshire Council BT Payphone Removal - **RESOLVED** no objection to the removal of these payphones and as per original decision. Agreed to adopt the one in the village centre for use as a Defibulator point. Object Cllrs. M.Brooks and J.Law.

SALC - November Newsletter

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SALC - Monday Newsletter re Funding Streams/National Tree Week/Strengthen Police Powers to tackle encampments.

Severn Valley Country Park - Newsletter

Highley Mining Heritage Group - Event at Severn Centre

Chelmarsh Parish Council sent a copy of a letter they had sent to Shropshire Council regarding the condition of the B4555 . They have also copied Phillip Dunne MP, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Local Shropshire Councillors and Erdington Parish Council into the letter. They asked for the Parish Councils support. Shropshire Councillor Dave Tremellen stated that he had responded to Chelmarsh Parish Council giving them all the details that he was aware of regarding works on the B4555.

05. To look at any planning applications received.

Planning Reference: 19/04869/FUL - Glen Cottage, High Street, Highley. Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6LF. Proposal: Change of use from commercial garage to funeral directors' premises and re-location of shop and associated works. - **RESOLVED NO OBJECTION.**

Planning Decision - 19/04301/FUL - No1 and N02 Cockshutt Lane, Highley - Erection of 1 block of 2 Garages with first floor amenity space (to serve both properties. - **DECISION REFUSE**

06. Severn Centre Report - Notes from Advisory Board meeting :-

Matter arising - actions points, Meeting dates to be agreed in advance. Cllr. Bayley concerned about timing of paperwork. Carl Gregg agreed to set 2020 meeting dates and work to 7-day target for paperwork. Cllr. Bayley asked if the timing of these it could dovetail into parish Council meetings. Agreed.

Swimming Pool - Positive summer results. Seasonal pass was well received.

Income - Teen hit fit not been successful . Overall fitness down so just reduced membership fee in order to boost sales. Have lost from room rentals for Web Design and Surestart.

Outdoor figures down by 400 - Cllr. Bayley wanted to know why? **Action Point** - Looking back through the report this figure has been inputted incorrectly as a total of 3 club bookings as opposed to the number of participants.

Cllr. Tremellen asked about succession and on why things change?. How is data recorded.? He said that there should be something in place for these issues .

Staffing - fully staffed for 1st time in a while. Very positive outcome. Cllr. Bayley asked if there was much link with Bridgnorth re: staffing. Car said that initially there was but the situation at the Severn Centre had now improved.

Health & Safety - Fire Safety Officer had visited and done report. This had only just been received. Will review and report back to the group.

Community Engagement - Carnival was positive. Xmas lights being organised. Yoga's has started - very busy. Pool stayed open for additional month based on feedback. Query over winter opening - explained this would not e possible due to costs. Animal Man session was really well received. Cafe now open and receiving positive feedback.

Other - research suggest no grants available at the moment. Grounds maintenance now sorted due to staff returning to work.

Finance Notes - Financial performance in line with main commentary. The centre has lost some long-standing bookings which has affected revenue and overall memberships are down. The latter has been reviewed with a new price point and it is hoped this will make an impact. DB queried whether we were losing members to Bridgnorth - CG to check.

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Overall, costs were in line or better than expected with the exception of water which was proving difficult to track .

Cllr Tremellen said that he was concerned that they could not give information on past usage. They did not seem to know how to access historical data.

Cllr. Bayley reported that she had concerns about the offer of membership. It was cheaper at Highley than Bridgnorth and she was concerned that some people would buy their membership at Highley and then use Bridgnorth. Carl had assured her that there were mechanisms in place to look for this.

07. Glen Cottage - High Street Highley - Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the constructor regarding some structural work that was needed to be carried and the disruption to the electrical supply belonging to the Parish Council.

08. Severn Valley Country Park Grant Request and Letter

It Was **RESOLVED** to pay the £4,000 grant for the year 2019/2020. The request for the year 2020/2021 to be provisionally put into the precept. Also **RESOLVED** that a representative from the Country park be invited to a Parish Council meeting to give a report on finance and projects.

09 SALC AGM Report - Cllr G.Court gave a brief report on the AGM and Dinner Dance that followed. He said the AGM had been well attended.

10.Shropshire Councillors Report. Apart from the planning briefing on the 4th November, the really significant events at Shirehall were the Rural Strategy Workshops.

The planning briefing was about poultry farms and a few of us thought: “This’ll be fascinating – not!” A reaction which I suspect kept quite a few Members away. But in fact it was a real eye-opener. Apart from the expected area of Norfolk (thanks to Bernard Mathews) and one area in Northern Ireland, the real “poultry hot spot” is Shropshire; we have the biggest concentration of poultry farms in the UK.

Now, whilst we can celebrate that as some sort of achievement in that we have somehow managed to attract so much of that industry to the county, it comes with massive environmental implications, enough to wake Shropshire Council up to the need to do something about it through its planning system. As I said, it was a real eye-opener for all of us present. It’s a subject that we’ll be hearing much more about, but too sensitive for me to go into much more detail here, at least until the new year.

Rural Strategy Workshops. - I attended both the town and parish council AND Elected Member sessions.

It was such a pity that I was the only parish councillor present from this parish council at the town and parish council session because the issues dealt with were central to what could happen to us in Shropshire Council’s future plans.

I was delayed and so arrived at the town and parish council session a little late and, because the session was so well attended by councillors from other areas, the break-out sessions were in progress when I arrived and fitting in was a bit of a problem. Instead I floated around between all

the (six) tables each of which dealt with specific areas like employment, loneliness, housing, education. Being able to ‘eavesdrop’ across tables gave me a flavour of what the major concerns were. Unsurprisingly, transport figured highly regardless of the more general subject under discussion.

The Elected Member session covered the same areas of concern but with the advantage of now having an insight into the concerns of those we represent – not that most of us needed to be told.

Both the town and parish and Member sessions were addressed by Gwilym Butler, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services, and Mark Barrow, Director of Place, both of whom are responsible for Shropshire Council’s Rural Strategy. It is intended that the document that emerges from the workshop sessions will form the basis upon which Shropshire Council’s future community planning will be determined.

Call me cynical, but whether that happens remains to be seen, given the way that the Place Plan Review is going in the light of the cavalier way in which our planning department considers its obligations to consult, which to date plays fast and loose with the principles supposed to be enshrined in the ‘Statement of Community Involvement’ that is meant to determine the collaborative nature of the planning process.

19. Finance:

Herbert & Son	Hedgecutting	300.00
Highline Electrical	Christmas Lights Installation	3,199.20
M.E.Preston	Salary	967.16
Severn Centre	Room Hire	79.20
SLCC	Subscription	161.00
ALCC	Subscription	40.00
S.J.Maintenance	Maintenance Work Parish Council	90.00
S.J.Maintenance	Maintenance Work	30.00
Shropshire RCC	Subscriptions	26.00
M.E.Preston	Remote for Christmas Tree	29.99
Viking Direct	Stationery	110.48

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Signed

Date:

Next meeting Date : 7th January 2020