### HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 5th November 2019 at 7.00pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.**

**Present**: Cllr.M.Brooks - Chair - Cllr. G.Court **,** Cllrs**.** R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne, P.Vinall, P.Atkinson, J.Law, D.Bayley, D.Tremellen, J.Marshall, R.Broome,N.Barker

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. Election of Chair. -** Chair George Court sent his resignation as Chair of the Parish Council . He said that due to a change in his work circumstances he was unable to devote the necessary time to this position although he would still be staying on the Parish Council and continuing with his work on other committees,

 Cllrs. Brooks and Cllr. Tremellen were nominated for Chair. Following voting is was ***RESOLVED*** that Cllr. Brooks be Elected Chair.

The Parish Council thanked Councillor Court for all his work as Chair of the Parish Council

**02. Apologies for absence**. Apologies received D.Thakrar - Family Commitments. M.Phipson Work Commitments, D.Scriven - illness***. RESOLVED*** to accept.

**03. To confirm the minutes of the meeting dated 1st October 2019** - Cllr Honeybourne said that it had been omitted from the minutes where Cllr.A.Honeybourne had asked about the use of waste plastic being used to repair road surfaces and it had been ***RESOLVED*** that the Parish Council write to Shropshire Council to ask if this had been considered. -With this addition of this amendment it was ***RESOLVED*** to accept the minutes as a true a correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

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

CCTV – Further meeting to be held with 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.

Defibrillator – Contract received from BT. Clerk to obtain quotations for work from Eon and the cost of Defibulator.

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

**05 Correspondence**

Rural strategy workshop - 13th November 2019, 10.45am - 1pm in the Council Chamber at Shirehall, - Cllrs D.Tremellen and G.Court to attend.

Shrewsbury Citizens Advice - AGM at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury at 5:30pm on 21st November.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner - Draft Rural Crime Strategy for consultation.

SALC - VE Day Celebrations - Toast to the Nation.

SALC - Library Strategy Consultation

SALC - information on the Operational Improvement Towards Zero Carbon forum to be held on the 20th of November.

Shropshire Council sent information on the proposed removal of payphones in the area. The two in Highley were Beech Street and the village centre. Both of these phones showed low usage. It was ***RESOLVED*** that the Parish Council raise no objections to their removal. It was also ***RESOLVED*** that the Parish Council adopt the one in the village centre for use as a Defibulator point.

**06. To look at any planning applications received.**

**Planning Reference:**

 **19/04301/FUL** (validated: 14/10/2019) Address: No1 &2 Cockshutt Lane, Highley, Proposal: Erection of 1 block of 2 garages with first floor amenity space (to serve both properties) -(No.1 And No.2 Cockshutt Lane, Highley, WV16 6JL) - ***RESOLVED NO OBJECTIONS***

 **Reference: 19/04424/OUT** (validated: 04/10/2019) Address: Land Rear of Beech Croft, Vicarage Lane, Highley, - Proposal: Outline application (access and layout for consideration) for the residential development of six dwellings; formation of access road with visibility splay and estate road - R***ESOLVED NO OBJECTIONS***

**07.Severn Centre Report** - Carl Gregg provided a monthly report to the Council. Concerns expressed regarding some of the reporting. Clerk E.Preston and Cllr. G.Court to speak to Carl Gregg regarding these issues and ask him to request a meeting with Halo Management, Parish and Shropshire Council representatives.

**08. Defibulator - Quotation** - Two quotations received. It was ***RESOLVED*** that the quotation for £1600 plus vat be accepted.

**09. Royal British Legion - Donation Request - *RESOLVED*** that a grant of £250 be given to the Royal British Legion. Cllr. G.Court to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

**10.Staley Grove - Cllr. Honeybourne** - Cllr. Honeybourne said that some time ago a resident had come to the Parish Council meeting and complained about the dangerous rusting spikes at the back of the new boundary fence at Staley Grove. This person has contacted her recently, so she visited the site and discovered that these rusting spikes were part of the original fence.  The present boundary fence is 5’ further out than the original and now encloses the directional signs which were erected on Council land, and, now apparently on private land. The signs are obscured by trees and cannot be seen by passing traffic. It was ***RESOLVED*** that the Parish Council write to Hawk Developments and ask them to look into these issues as a matter of urgency.

**11.Borle Mill - Cllr. A Honeybourne.** Cllr. Honeybourne said thata resident had drove from Netherton lane down Borle Mill and met a 10-ton lorry and a 5-ton van  blocking  the road. He  told the vehicle drivers that the bridge  was only suitable  for 2-ton vehicles. Both drivers disputed this,  although there  are signs at both ends of Borle Mill. The resident suggested that a sign should be erected on the bridge and the signs at the top of the hill  clearly visible. The gentleman who made the complaint is elderly and did not want to back up  because it was all uphill but did so eventually as several other vehicles were queueing behind him at this stage. Arguments  became very heated and he feared assault. Unfortunately, he did not take the vehicles’  numbers. Discussions took place on this issue and Cllr. Honeybourne was asked to tell the gentleman to report the incident to the police for them to take any necessary action.

**12. Council motion request re national community energy campaign** - Report discussed and noted for future reference.

**13. Right Homes Right Place Housing Needs Survey** -Following discussions it was ***RESOLVED*** that the Parish Council write to Shropshire Council to ask them to carry out the Right Homes Right Place Survey.

**14. Churchyard - Report from meeting** - Burial Ground - Discussions had been held with the Landowner adjoining the current burial ground. The Landowner had stated that if he sold the land it would be at Development Land Market Value. If another location is found for a Graveyard this would then become a Cemetery which would fall under the control of the Local Authority, either Highley Parish Council or Shropshire Council. Another Landowner had been contacted about land, but they were not interested in selling. DECISION :To continue to look at other options. Further meeting to be held.

**15. Community Infrastructure Levy**. - To be discussed by the Revenue and Resources Committee.

**16. Urban Tree Challenge Fund**. - Shropshire Council sent information on Woodland Creation/Management Grants. Councillor Tremellen asked Councillors if they knew of anyone who would be interested in this scheme to make them aware of the grants.

 **17. Bache Arms - From last meeting**. - It was reported that the Landlady of the Bache Arms had now obtain a new lease to keep the public house open.

**18.Shropshire Councillors Report**. - Cllr.Tremellen Not a lot to report or comment on this month because for some obscure reason everything “political” still closes down over August. A councillor friend said that he’d been in Shirehall earlier in the week (I’m writing this in mid-August) and reported that the place was “like the wreck of the Hesperus”. The ‘Marie Celeste’ might have been a more accurate comparison.

I suppose I can understand Parliament at Westminster shutting down to allow MPs to spend time in their constituencies, but at a local level it always seems a bit of a faff because it’s not as if local councillors spend days stuck in committees or attending rounds of meetings, as I explained in last month’s report all that is a thing of the past since the Cabinet system was introduced in 2009.

The concerns of our town or parish constituents don’t go away for a month so council officers are still in post to keep the wheels turning, although with the increasing tendency to promote “flexible” working trying to find an officer at their desk when you phone can be challenging, if often happens that your first point of contact is a request to leave a voicemail, ending with the dreaded words: “… and we’ll get back to you.”

There is some advantage to email because at least you have a paper trail, but there are often instances when you’re having to chase someone up just to check they’ve had it, the old fashioned way of confirming receipt as a simple common courtesy is sadly a thing of the past, which can be embarrassing if you’ve told a constituent that you’ll get onto their case without delay but then find yourself having to hang fire getting back to them because you’ve been assured you’ll get a response “ASAP” and then hear nothing.

Which is why I’ve given up making promises or indeed raising expectations, because a central plank of Tremellen First Law of Fundamental Errors acknowledges that disappointment is directly proportional to expectation – the greater the expectation the greater the disappointment. Conditional assurances like: “I’ll get back to you as soon as I hear something”, are meaningless because making an outcome ‘conditional’ on something else happening is to introduce doubt, the hedging of a bet where the chances are odds-on.

I’ve always tried desperately hard to avoid doing that conditional thing, but over the last few years it has got increasingly harder because “non-executive councillors” (by definition those councillors who are not one of the ten members of Shropshire Council Cabinet) have very little power, they are essentially conduits of information.

Add to that the obvious North Shropshire bias evident in both Cabinet and the Authority as a whole and you have a recipe for the factional make-up of Shirehall, where even Members of the majority Conservative group (the ruling group) can find themselves representing areas that are overlooked for funding. Pretty much every area to the south, east and west of the Wenlock Edge consistently loses out in favour of the north and north-west. Shrewsbury is an anomaly because despite being the power base of the Labour group at Shirehall (virtually all Labour seats are in Shrewsbury electoral wards), Shrewsbury Town Council sees power shared between Labour and Conservative, two recent mayors of Shrewsbury have been Labour and Conservative. So yet another factor that sees the self-interest of “the north” work against the desperate need of “the south” for a fairer spread of funding.

**19. Finance:**

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| N.Power | Street Lighting | £3,714.64 |
| HMRC | Tax and N.I. | £72.76 |
| M.E.Preston | Salary | £967.16 |
| Royal British Legion | Poppy Appeal Donation | £250.00 |
| S.J.Maintenance | Maintenance Work - Parish Council | £375.00 |
| S.J.Maintenance | Maintenance Work - Shropshire Council | £225.00 |
| B.A.Shorthouse | Skip Hire | £165.00 |
| Eon | Street Lighting | £116.65 |
| Severn Centre | Room Hire | £75.60 |
| Severn Centre - Room Hire | Room Hire | £122.40 |

**Meeting closed 8.55pm**

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