

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30pm at Hadnall Village Hall

23/001 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs John Harrison (Chairman), Andy Brisbourne, Nigel Clifford, Neil Duxbury, Andrew Marston, Sarah Parker.

Apologies: Cllr Barry Bell (accepted), Cllr Harmesh Jassel (accepted).

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: SC Cllr Simon Jones, 8 members of the public.

23/002 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Chairman wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed the hope that all those who have been unwell over the Christmas period will recover soon.

The Chairman began the public session by offering to clarify the situation over the ownership of the land at the entrance to Wedgefields. Those present agreed and so the information recorded in item 23/007a of these minutes was shared. This led to some discussion of the matters on the agenda. It was also asked why the council had not been aware that it owned the land. The answer to this is unknown. Cllr Duxbury said that he has served on the parish council since the early 1990s and had no knowledge of it. The land was not listed on any of the parish council's asset registers. The Chairman stated that the parish council looks forward to moving on to maintain and improve the site (see items 23/007c and 23/008a). He also recorded thanks to Steve and Tracey Downing for their invaluable assistance and research in this matter.

Judi Pridding gave a brief update on the Village Hall. The roof leaks are being repaired very soon. The 100 Club has been launched successfully and the first draw held. There are still some numbers available.

A couple of highway matters were reported by residents. The most effective way to log any such problems is directly via **fixmystreet.com**. On this website, the exact position can be marked on a map, photos uploaded, and more than one person can add comments to the original report. The problem is logged immediately and sent to the relevant department, which will usually respond promptly to inform you of what action is being taken.

The light on Chapel Road was reported as still not working (see item 23/005 d).

23/003 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

23/004 MINUTES

It was agreed that the Chairman should sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th November 2022 as a true and correct record.

23/005 PROGRESS REPORT

- a) **Installation of vehicle-activated speed sign** (40 mph area) - No further news at present.

- b) **Jubilee tree planting and time capsules – including decision on purchase and installation of plaques:**

The seven trees, to mark the seven decades of the Queen's reign, were planted on 20th November 2022. The two oaks and five flowering cherries were planted on the Moat area. Alongside were buried time capsules put together by the following organisations: Hadnall CofE school, Hadnall Explorers, St. Mary's Church, Sansaw Estate, Hadnall W.I., Hadnall Bowling Club, and the seventh one put together by Sew'n'Sews, Book Club, History Club and Ramblers Wellbeing Walkers. The Chairman reported that it had been a very successful event. He recorded particular thanks to: Arthur Amos for his advice on selecting and planting the trees; Cllr Duxbury, for making the time capsule boxes; Sansaw Estate, for permission to plant on the land; Those councillors and volunteers who turned up on the previous day to dig the holes; Hadnall W.I., who paid for one of the trees; And Hadnall Bowling Club (helped by donations from Hadnall Village Stores), who turned it into a really enjoyable event by providing refreshments and an indoor space for all who came.

The trees have now been registered as part of 'The Queen's Green Canopy'.

Plaques: The W.I. plan to put up a plaque by their tree. The parish council voted to put up a plaque in the entrance of the Village Hall but not an outdoor plaque, authorising expenditure of up to £95. (Prop: AM, Sec: ND).

c) **RoSPA inspection**

SC have now indicated that the inspection was not actually done. They are going to rectify this.

d) **Chapel Road streetlight**

SC has informed us that this light is failing 'intermittently' and is on their programme of upcoming maintenance. Clerk to report that it is not working at all. The other lights in that area have been checked by Cllr Bell and are working correctly.

23/006 OTHER REPORTS

- a) **Cllr Simon Jones** reported that Shropshire Council is considering two options in the Local Government Boundary Review, but that neither affects Shawbury Division. Shawbury has 4007 electors, which is slightly more than the recommended number, but there are no neighbouring divisions with low numbers so it will remain unchanged. SC is currently consulting all Shropshire residents on Council Tax for 2023-24, which it proposes to increase by 5.99%. 2.99% of this is for adult social care; the other 3% is the most the Council can raise without having to hold a referendum. It is therefore considering significant cuts to non-essential services in order to balance the budget. There are also other consultations running (see item 23/011).
- b) **Village Hall** – Update given in public session.

23/007 LAND AT ENTRANCE TO WEDGEFIELDS

a) **To report latest findings regarding ownership**

Following the information given to the council at the last meeting by Stephen Downing, the Clerk and Chairman visited Shropshire Archives to research the handwritten minutes of Hadnall Parish Council for the relevant period (1985-86).

Until now we had only the Land Registry, which still shows the land to be registered with the developer, along with information provided to us in February 2020 by Shropshire Council, which advised that "they had on record correspondence indicating that Jennings Homes Ltd was the owner in 1985 and had retained ownership of the land as the then NSDC [North Shropshire District Council] and Hadnall Parish Council were both unwilling to adopt the land".

What we found from the minutes was that Hadnall Parish Council did indeed refuse to adopt the land. However, Jennings then applied to build another property on the land (application subsequently refused by NSDC). This prompted the parish to agree to 'undertake the maintenance of the area' and then to take action to formally adopt it. The upshot was that eventually, by July 1986, Corser & Sons Solicitors were able to inform the parish council that 'the conveyance of the land at Wedgefields had been completed'. This is backed up by the record of the payment to Corser & Sons in the parish council's accounts.

The parish council did not update the Land Registry records. Cllr Parker has pointed out that this was not a requirement at the time.

Hadnall Parish Council agreed in 1986 that the deeds were to be stored in the solicitors' strongroom. Although Corser & Sons no longer exists, the Clerk has traced the deeds to another firm of solicitors in Shrewsbury. Staff sickness at the branch has prevented the Clerk from viewing the deeds at present, but that should be arranged shortly.

To summarise: Hadnall Parish Council has owned the land, on behalf of all residents of the parish, since 1986.

N.B. There is a full report of the archive findings, including photos of the original minutes, in a separate document to be filed on our website and in the parish council's records.

- b) Council agreed to proceed with **updating the Land Registry**. (This may involve a small fee and possibly obtaining an official copy of the deeds.)
- c) Arrangements for **installation of Wedgefields section of footpath** - Council previously agreed that this should be done if ownership of the land was established (21/093a). Therefore, councillors confirmed that the Clerk should liaise with Cllr Bell and CORE Landscaping to arrange for the work to proceed. Any expenditure above the £2000 earmarked (22/044f) will need to come back to council for approval.

23/008 MAINTENANCE MATTERS

- a) Council agreed to proceed with some **tree maintenance work on the land at the entrance to Wedgefields**, as recommended by Access2Trees. The company would then be asked to recommend an inspection schedule for the future.
- b) The decision on the **cleaning and maintenance schedule for the two bus shelters** was deferred, pending further information and costings.
- c) Cllr Marston affirmed verbally that KS Landscapes is happy to renew the **grounds maintenance contract** for 2023 at the same rate as 2022. Assuming the Clerk can obtain written confirmation of this, council agreed to renew the contract. (Prop:SP, Sec:ND).

23/009 PLANNING

- a) No **planning applications** were received in advance of this meeting.
b) The following **planning decision** was published by Shropshire Council:

22/03734/FUL *Sunnyside Farm, Astley Lane, Hadnall SY4 4BJ*. Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the change of use of existing paddock to seasonal caravan pitches to include toilet/shower block, erection of storage building, as an extension to existing holiday park. SC decision: *Grant permission*.

23/010 FINANCE

- a) Council noted the following **payments** made in December 2022:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
18.00	Bank charges	LGA 1972 s111
278.40	Clerk's salary (Sept)	LGA 1972 s112

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
356.65	Clerk's salary & expenses	LGA 1972 s112 LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5.
82.18	Electricity for church floodlighting (Oct - Dec)	Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
26.48	Plastic containers for time capsules	LGA 1972 s145
18.80	Contribution to Office365 fees (Oct – Jan)	LGA 1972 s142

Council noted the following **receipts**:

Amount	Details	Power to accept
103.80	Refund from Heathwood Nurseries (amended invoice)	N/A

- b) Council received and approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- c) Council agreed the **budget** for 2023-24 (separate document).
- d) Council agreed to request a **precept** of £14521. This represents an increase of 10.9% (+£3.30 per year for Band D household). (Prop: JH, Sec: SP. 4 in favour, 2 against). A proposal to amend the precept to a 5.99% increase to match Shropshire Council was rejected. (Prop: NC, Sec: AM. 2 in favour, 4 against).

23/011 CORRESPONDENCE

Scottish Power – No longer offering Industrial & Commercial contracts. We are not on a contract anyway. Free to move if we want to.

Helen Morgan MP – Drawing attention to Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund, deadline 20th January. Info has been passed to Village Hall Committee.

Shropshire Council – Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy, assessing unsafe walking routes to school, Ironbridge Gorge conservation strategy – consultations running. See SC website.

Save Our Shropshire – Climate Workshop for Councillors, online, 17th & 24th Jan 9am – 1pm. £75.

Ex HPC councillor – problem with personal data still being on SC website. This has now been sorted. Any other occurrences, please contact the Clerk.

ALC – training calendar 2023 is now available.

Member of public – trees on moat area needing attention. Information passed to Sansaw.

22/012 PARISH MATTERS – None.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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