

WHEATHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in Cleobury North Village Hall on Monday 19 September 2016 commencing at 7.00 pm

Present	Parish Councillors	Sue Crichton Chair Bill Foster Vice Chairman Julie Pinches Andrew Barnard Stephen Howells
	Clerk to the Council	Derick Bromley
	In Attendance Unitary Councillor Parishioners	Gwilym Butler Ken and Lee Partridge Gaynor Watton

1 **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

2 **Pecuniary Interests**

Councillors were reminded of their obligation to declare a pecuniary interest they may have with regard to **any** item on the Agenda

3 **Public Open Session**

No Parishioners addressed the meeting

4 **Approval of Minutes of last meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 August 2016 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

5 **Matters Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the meeting other than those covered by the Agenda.

6 **Local News**

The broken traffic mirror at the junction of the Bromdon road with the B4364 has been replaced. Julie Pinches will email Highways to request replacing the broken traffic mirror by the War Memorial

7 **Report by Unitary Councillor**

Gwilym Butler reported as follows:

- i) The survey to judge the voters mood for Parish Councils Precepting for more services had a poor response with only some 100+ forms being returned from the whole LJC area. The results will be announced at the October LJC meeting.
- ii) Shirehall is waiting on Central Governments Autumn Statement. There has been a culture change following the Brexit vote. The proposed 'cuts' may not be as austere.
- iii) Madge Shingleton sat on the lobbying group to promote rural interests but has resigned and Gwilym will take her place. A good many rural counties have the same problems as Shropshire in gaining a fair share of Central Government funding compared to the Urban Authorities. Rural Services Network is a subscription funded valid body to promote rural Authority interests.
- iv) There are still cuts to be made when considering the local budget
- v) The Lengthsman funding is guaranteed up to 2018.
- vi) The new Police crime Commissioner is keen to be 'up front' for community policing. More rationalisation of Central Government funding of services is needed.
- vii) Local elections next May so Gwilym will be in 'purdah' for 5 months.
- viii) There have been big cost saving cuts at Shirehall
- ix) The Planning department is recruiting more Planning Officers on short term contracts.

8 **Update on Speeding Campaign**

Gwilym told the meeting speeding regulations are covered by legislation and there is no flexibility between the differing rural and urban situations which is very frustrating in the Wheathill B4364 scenario. Gwilym is pushing to help us and looking to cut out the bureaucracy and suggested 'contributory' funding.

Sue Crichton said she had received an email from Glyn Shaw as a consequence we are resubmitting our application. We are looking to continue the Lobbying group and this will be debated at a future meeting. Horses should be kept off this busy dangerous road perhaps by using adjoining fields. The question was raised whether very large vehicles should be permitted to use the B4364.

Gwilym Butler left the Meeting.

9 **Broadband/Mobile Phone service in area**

There have been no further developments to address the continual poor service. We need to identify the best mobile phone service provider in the district.

10 **Survey for Precepting further services by Parish Council**

This was covered in the Unitary Councillors address (See minute 7 (I)). No forms were sent back from Wheathill Parish, all response were by email. The purpose was to test local views. There needs to be a change of ethos. The cost of a referendum proposing increases by County are prohibitive and no certainty of the outcome. What few views which have been expressed are mostly positive. The results of the survey will be published mid October 2016 and be discussed at the next LJC Meeting. This should give a mandate to Local Authorities. There is no compulsion on Parish Councils to increase their Precept. The Clerk is to email Gwilym about his S137 concerns.

11 **Parish Council Web Site.**

The web site is currently being written by Chris Bargman. Once the costings are agreed a grant application will be made.

12 **Lengthsman's Scheme Approval**

There have been no meaningful applications for the post following the publicised advertisement. The Clerk will now approach Stephen Tolley (the Farlow Lengthsman).

13 **Parish Social to organise.**

Nothing specific was decided. Something around Christmastime was mooted but should not be organised just for the sake of it.

14 **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was considered

- i) CPRE request for us to renew our membership. We declined to reconsider
- ii) Changes to the Electoral Roll were noted.

15 **Planning**

There were no applications to consider this month or decisions to report.

Lawful Development Certificate Lower Gore Wheathill 16/02641/CPL.

We understand this application has been withdrawn

16 **Finance**

The Meeting discussed the following;

- a) The Bank Balance as at 30 August 2016 £8,310.98
- b) The Meeting was informed the external auditors Mazars have signed off the Annual Report 2015/16 without any qualification.
- c) A cheque was drawn for £50 being the Internal Audit fee of Silvington Consultancy Ltd
- d) Clerks Salary/Disbursements 3 months to 30 September 2016 £170.45 net of Income Tax was approved.
- e) A cheque to HMRC for income tax due in the sum of £85 was drawn
- f) Payment to Farlow Parish Council for our share of Internet/stationary costs in the sum of £18 was sanctioned.
- g) Payment to WJ Ranson out of the Footpath fund in the sum of £91.99 was agreed.

17 **Items to be put on Agenda for next Meeting**

The following matters are to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting

- Speeding-Ludlow to Bridgnorth Road
- Broadband/Mobile Phone signal
- Precepting by Parish Councils for further services

18 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting is on Monday 28 November 2016 commencing at 7.00pm in Cleobury North Village Hall.

The Meeting closed c8.15 pm.