

WHEATHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 in Cleobury North Village Hall commencing 7pm

1. Present:

Parish Councillors: J O'Grady, S Crichton, S Sutcliffe, S Howells

Locum Clerk: C E Williams:

Shropshire Councillor: G Butler

2. Apologies:

No apologies.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

Mrs J O'Grady agreed to continue as Chairman of the Parish Council for the meeting, the position of Vice-Chairman remained vacant.

4. Items from Members of the Public and Unitary Councillors:

Three members of the public were present who raised issues concerning planning procedures, Declaration of interests which were explained by the Locum Clerk, the defibrillators within the parish and highway issues particularly the speeding of Vehicles through Wheathill.

Shropshire Councillor G Butler presented his report which included information on the Shropshire Council Boundary review, (Wheathill will become part of the Hopton Wafers/Kinlet Ward), Flooding issues and Shropshire Councils Budget.

5. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Resignation of Parish Councillor:

The Chairman reported that H Roberts had resigned as a Parish Councillor – The Clerk would issue the Notice of Vacancy which will be placed on the Parish Notice Board.

7. Minutes from the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th September 2023 were approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

8. Position of Clerk to the Parish Council:

The Parish Council agreed to appoint Fern Chadwick as Clerk to the Parish Council on an Annual Salary of £1,900 based on 3 hours per week, however this will need to be reviewed after twelve months. Fern is also Clerk to Farlow Parish Council where any future training costs could possibly be shared between the Parish Councils. Fern will also endeavour to recover from the previous Clerk Mr D Bromley any Parish Council records and equipment with this item having been raised by a member of the public.

9. Highways Items:

Following representation by the Parish Council Shropshire Council confirmed that the request for the implementation of a 40mph speed limit through Wheathill had been added to the Cleobury North and adjoining Parishes and Surrounding Area Place Plan as a future Capital Scheme.

Shropshire Council had also confirmed that it recognises that excessive speeding is a problem for all communities, particularly those situated on rural roads that may not have any indicative system of streetlighting or traffic calming facilities. Shropshire Council and its consultants WSP will add to its list for investigation of reducing the speed limit through Wheathill. However, to manage expectations it should be impressed that this investigation and any decisions will be based on factual evidence, such as traffic count surveys collected and dependant on priority and available funding.

It is important that any accident that occurs in the area is reported on the Police Database of accidents and suggested that they are recorded on the website Fixmystreet Shropshire.

Cllr S Crichton will also be meeting with the Local MP to discuss the item of speeding.

10. Amenity Items:

- a) The spare defibrillator has still is to be installed at Loughton. Following discussion in the public session, the Locum Clerk suggested that the defibrillators installed in the Parish should be registered on the National Database for defibrillators [The Circuit - the national defibrillator network](#) using the Parish Councils email address as this will give reminders about the inspection. of the defibrillators and the defibrillator pad Life, it also confirms to the Ambulance Service that the defibrillator is available for use in the case of an emergency.

The defibrillators are owned by the Parish Council although some fund raising was originally made by the local community to enable purchase and installation, there should be a written agreement with the land or property owner giving permission for the installation and ensuring appropriate electricity supply, the Parish Council will be responsible for the purchase and replacement of batteries and pads.

The defibrillators are covered under the Parish Councils Insurance policy held with Zurich Insurance under the "All Risks" section - £10,000, if the total value of the existing defibrillators exceeds this amount the Insurance Company will need to be contacted by the Clerk to the Council.

11. Brown Cleve Medical Practise:

The Parish Council agreed that it should be come a member of the Brown Cleve Medical Practice Group which will enable members to be kept informed of future development. The agreed donation of £50 to the group has still to be paid by the Parish Council.

12. Planning Items:

Planning Application: 23/04692/Full – Proposed Holiday Let Barn Conversion The Green Barn Wheathill – The Parish Council had no objection.

13. Social Media and Shropshire Council Lead on Nature Recovery:

The Parish Council would have a Facebook page for the residents of Wheathill Parish electorate which will be updated and maintained by Councillor S. Crichton to keep them informed of Parish Matters. Councillor S Crichton will be attending the Shropshire Council Nature Recovery Workshop.

14. Financial Items:

The Locum Clerk Reported that Parish Council had balances of £17,426.19 this including a Neighbourhood Fund Balance of £4,418.28 which can be used on Capital Infrastructure Schemes within the Parish over the next five years.

The Locum Clerk reported that the cost of the recent Casual Election was £1,584.80 which will be due in April 2024 and will need to be met from existing balances or accounted for by an increase in the precept for 2024/25

The Bank mandate had been completed amended for new signatories to the Bank Accounts to enable cheques to be signed which should be by a minimum of two members of the Council.

The signatories will be Cllrs: J O'Grady, S Howells, and S Crichton.

A payment £300 to C E Williams to cover his expenses as Locum Clerk was approved by the Parish Council.

15. Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm Annex Room Three Horseshoes Wheathill

Chairman