Minutes from the meeting held **Tuesday 6th February 2024** at the Annex Room of The Three Horseshoes commencing at **7.00pm**

**MINUTES**

1. **Apologies.**

Unitary Councillors Simon Harris and Gwilym Butler offered their apologies.

1. **Review and approval of Co-option Policy**

Councillors all approved the policy with an addition requested to add a note on the prospective candidate qualities as “willingness to learn”. Policy was approved and signed by Chairman Crichton.

1. **Review Applications (if any) for the position of Parish Counsellor.**
2. Application received by Kerry Godfrey and reviewed by all Councillors. No objections were made, and Ms Godfrey proceeded to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to become the newest Councillor to Wheathill Parish Council.
3. Interest was expressed by another member of the public in applying for the position of Councillor within Wheathill Parish. Clerk to send an application form via email for the individual to complete and return prior to the next meeting.
4. Members are reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting of any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.
5. **Public open session to last no more than 10 minutes.**
6. War Memorial ownership has been in query for some time and a member of the public had done some research to provide to the Council on the ownership of the land going as far back as 1958. No proprietorship or agreement was located upon their research.
7. Concerns were raised by a parishioner over a neighbouring property installing laurel hedging as opposed to native Ludlow hedging and thus not being in keeping with the local environment nor the planning approval for the site. The member of the public has escalated this to Planning Enforcement to review.
8. **Approve the minutes of the last meeting 8th January 2024.**

Minutes from the meeting 8th January 2024 have been approved and sanctioned to be posted on the website.

1. **Report by Unitary Councillor(s).**

Report has been uploaded to the website for public review.

1. **Nature Recovery Initiative Update**

Chairman Crichton met with an individual to discuss Pine Martens and their presence within the Parish. It was noted that the Nature Recovery Initiative aim to have 30% of land in England to be looked after by biodiversity by 2030.

A Grant of £1500.00 offered by the previously named Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is up for application for the support of biodiversity. Chairman Crichton requested that they may complete this application on behalf of the Council which there was no objection.

The Grant will fund the purchase of boxes for the breeding of Pine Martins and cameras to identify the pattern of behaviour of this species.

1. **Highway Items.**
2. Clerk discussions with Lengthsman Anthony Harman

* Parishioner Joe Watton has offered to assist and operate under the Lengthsman scheme in partnership with Anthony Harman for the parish. No objections were made.

1. Any highway issues to report.

* Ditch on the far side of Silvington village needs to be cleared to allow for flowing water to enter pipelines rather than flooding the roads.

1. Chairman received a reply from Phillip Dunne, MP stating that he had contacting Tracey Darke of Shropshire Council regarding the installation of double white lines through Wheathill village. The response received was that the road didn’t meet the criteria needed so Mr Dunne requested the criteria to be forwarded to him. No further correspondence received.
2. **Place Plan Update.**

Clerk has requested that a Unitary Counsellor stay to provide advice on this.

Unitary Councillors were unable to be present but intend to provide information on this at the next meeting.

1. **Defibrillators**
2. Confirmation of installation of Loughton Defibrillator

Due to personal circumstance, the defibrillator hasn’t been installed. It was advised that it would be completed before 18th February 2024. Should this continue to prove difficult, a local electrician will be contacted to assist with installation at a cost made to the proprietor as per the agreement.

1. Agreement signed between Proprietor and PC for Loughton Defibrillator

The agreement has been signed but not returned to the Clerk to the Council. Request to obtain the Councils copy of this document has been made.

1. **Social Media/Website Update.**

Chairman to provide update reference to email group for members of the Parish that aren’t on social media. Clerk to support this with GDPR regulations and advice from ALC.

* It was advised from SALC that the information on Parishioners should be kept on the Google Drive under ownership of the Parish Council. Councillors to ask around to see if there is a desire for the service and to begin obtaining contact details to begin the email newsletter.

1. **Planning**

* 23/05173/FUL - Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the creation of an ancillary building to provide garaging, storage and ancillary residential accommodation - Coveridge Fields Farm Wheathill Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 6QT
* Request from Councillors to comment on the application to the effect of “Concerns are raised regarding the size of the original plot and the enlarged size of the development.” Photos of the pre and post build were shared and requested to be added as documenting proof to the comment on Shropshire Planning Portal.
* For Information Only: 23/05446/OHL - Upgrading of existing 1600-metre stretch of existing two-wire, 11kv overhead electricity line to three wires - Land at Wheathill Bridgnorth Shropshire WV16 6QT.

Decision Granted.

* 24/00207/FUL - Erection of a barn to provide covered secure storage for ground maintenance equipment - Wheathill Touring Park Caravan Site Wheathill Shropshire WV16 6QT
* Discussion was held amongst the Councillors and the applicant, whereby the size of the barn was determined to be 20 x 30 meters in size. No objections were shared.

1. **Correspondence.**

None received.

1. **Parish Meeting theme & Spokesperson**

Date set for the meeting as 7th May 2024. Theme was discussed and agreed as crime prevention. Chairman Crichton to contact the local policing officer on the use of Smart Water to prevent theft in the community.

1. **Donation requests.**

Request for donation by Crane Counselling Services for assistance with the implementation of mental health support for young people in the County.

* The Council has decided that a donation to Crane Counselling Service will not be given at this time and that the Clerk should upload the request to Facebook to allow for the member of the Parish to determine if they want to make the donation personally.

**11. Finance**

1**. Bank Reconciliation**

Current Account @ 05/01/2024 No statement received to date.

Business Bank Instant @ 05/01/2024 No statement received to date.

2. **Payment of Invoices**

Clerk stationary purchase £38.01

* Cheque 000307 signed to Fern Chadwick.

A P Supplies Lengthsman Invoice 0123 £120.00

* Cheque 000308 signed to A P Supplies.

1. **Meetings and Training attended.**

None, however, Chairman Crichton offered the idea that the Council purchase 7 ‘New Councillor Handbook’s’ to provide in lieu of training. Clerk to obtain prior to the next meeting.

1. **Items to be put on the agenda of the next meeting.**

Place Plan

Meeting Spokesperson Outcome

1. **Date of the following meetings until the Annual Parish Meeting where the yearly schedule will be decided.**

It was agreed that meetings would now be held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at The Shoot Room at The Three Horseshoes, Wheathill. 11 monthly meetings to be held, with no meeting taking place in January.

1. **Date of next meeting****.**

5th March 2024.

Meeting closed at 21:00

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**9th February 2024**