
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17 SEPTEMBER 2024

EATON CONSTANTINE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors M Thorn (Chair), A Bain, S Dawes, S Jones, W Vernon and Shropshire Councillor C Wild

Clerk: Lisa Harris

3 members of the public also present

47.24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M Budgen and M Corrie.

48.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

49.24 Public Participation Session - a period of 20 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 3-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.

Two members of the public introduced themselves as being the residents of a property with a planning application to be considered at item 56.24. They provided some context about the proposal and were attending to hear the views of the Parish Council on the application.

50.24 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 July 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Dawes and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16 July 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

51.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 16 July 2024

- Updated website with any upcoming temporary road closures notified of.
- Added information on the garden waste collection subscription service to the website.

- Prepared documentation for the noticeboards on garden waste collection so that any parishioners who don't have access to a computer and the Internet, are kept informed.
- Converted the garden waste collection documentation into A5 format so that it can feature in the next issue of Under the Wrekin.
- Advised Shropshire Council's Monitoring Officer of the co-option of Councillor Vernon.
- Researched speed monitoring and spoke with a Senior Traffic Engineer at Shropshire Council about this: An Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) survey was conducted by Shropshire Council in January 2024 at two sites in Leighton on the B4380. No significant issues were identified, and a further costly survey is not considered warranted by Shropshire Council. However, the Parish Council could pay for Shropshire Council to carry out another survey at a cost of £718.
- Contacted former clerk regarding the Parish Council's old laptop and printer who confirmed they are still in her possession. Current clerk has no use for this equipment and as there is money in the budget allocated for a replacement laptop, it is recommended that a purchase should only be made if the situation ever arises when a new or locum clerk needs to be provided with a computer.
ACTION: Clerk to retrieve the laptop and printer and arrange for secure destruction.
- Spoke with a Highways Maintenance Technician at Shropshire Council regarding various issues within the Parish. All required works are either in progress or on a waiting list to be done when finances/resources are available.
- Attended an online seminar on .gov.uk domains. HugoFox are in the process of gaining the necessary certification to provide .gov.uk domains and will do so free of charge included in existing web packages. Email addresses will be at an additional cost which will be confirmed imminently.

52.24

To receive reports from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Wild presented a brief report which covered:

- The Future Options survey had recently been emailed to all town and parish councils. As Shropshire Council is facing serious budgetary challenges, it is having to review the level of every service it offers and is therefore exploring every possible opportunity to minimise the impact of any proposed changes on communities. The survey therefore asked if there are any local services that could be taken on by town/parish councils for the benefit of their communities. The Clerk had responded to the survey confirming that the Parish does not have a library nor any leisure facilities so the only service Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council could take on in the future would be the environmental maintenance for which a 25% grant had been received from Shropshire Council in the 2024/25 financial year.
- As a result of financial pressures, there has been a significant reduction in staff numbers at Shropshire Council with further redundancies expected. Many departments are operating on a skeleton staff and are fully stretched. Therefore, councillors are requested not to email/telephone staff (such as Highways or Lighting) directly but for all communications to be via clerks. Hopefully this will avoid the clogging up of inboxes and result in requests being actioned efficiently.
- Questions had been raised regarding food waste and the subscription garden

waste bin service. A council does not have to collect garden waste, but it is a service it can choose to provide. It is allowed to make a charge and most councils do. Shropshire Council is charging for this service from 1 October 2024 but as it is forbidden by law from charging for food waste, this cannot go in the garden waste bin. Residents are advised to either put food waste in their general waste bins or to home compost it.

53.24 To receive report from West Mercia Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team (if available)

No report was available.

[The next item was moved up the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman to facilitate a better flow of the meeting]

56.24 Planning

1. Decisions to note

None

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 24/02723/FUL

Address: 8 Lower Longwood Eaton Constantine Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RB

Description: Demolition of outbuildings and replacement with single storey side extension

Validated: 29 Jul 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

Application can be viewed on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal, or by clicking [here](#)

A full discussion took place on the planning application under consideration.

It was agreed (without opposition)

that Leighton & Eaton Constantine would adopt a neutral stance relating to planning application 24/02723/FUL and advise Shropshire Council accordingly.

ACTION: Clerk to submit appropriate comment on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal.

[Councillor Wild and two members of the public left the meeting]

54.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Jones:
 - Contacted Shropshire Council about the disappearance of the bollards used to close the Leighton layby despite having received confirmation that it would be closed for a further 12 months. Has been advised that the barriers will be replaced.
 - Attended a meeting with Howarth regarding the amendment to Condition 12 of their planning application. This relates to the extraction of sand and gravel. 75% was meant to be transported by rail with only 25% by road. However, this relies on a railway bridge being repaired and

Network Rail have said they will not be carrying out the repairs. Therefore, none of the extracted sand and gravel will travel from site by rail and it will all be transported by road. Harworth are taking over the quarry and have confirmed they will comply with the routing restrictions for the transportation of sand and gravel and HGVs will not use the B4380. Obviously compliance is not guaranteed.

- Section 278 works (allows developers to make permanent alterations to a public highway as part of a planning approval) commence on 7 October for 25 weeks, to construct a new signalised junction on A4169 Much Wenlock Road, which will form an entrance into the new housing development. For the majority of this period temporary multi-way traffic signals will be in place. A traffic management operative to be on site between the hours of 7.30am-9.30am and 2.45pm-6.30pm to manually control the temporary traffic signals.

ACTION: Clerk to put notice on the website.

- Councillor Thorn:

- Increased incidence of fly-tipping (primarily cardboard boxes) in the Parish. All incidents reported on FixMyStreet.
- A small working group had been established to discuss the Parish Survey. The first meeting had taken place on 19 August but at least one further meeting was required before any update will be available. This information has been included in the Chairman’s Report in the next issue of Under the Wrekin.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Community Action Officer at Shropshire Council to see if they would attend a meeting to gain input on certain topics which have come up in the survey.

[Councillor Dawes left the meeting]

55.24

Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s net salary August	£ 273.05
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk’s salary August	£ 68.20
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s net salary September	£ 273.05
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk’s salary September	£ 68.20
Miss L Harris	Clerk’s expenses August/September	£ 45.00
S L Bott	Leighton church yard maintenance	£ 225.00
ICO	Data protection fee	£ 35.00
TOTAL		£ 987.50

It was proposed by Councillor Thorn and seconded by Councillor Jones and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 10 September 2024

The bank was reconciled at £18,782.20, being the online banking balance on the date the agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

57.24

Parish Survey

Already covered at 54.24.

58.24

Highway matters

Already covered at 51.24 and 54.24.

59.24

To consider potential start time change for future meetings

A brief discussion took place on whether it would be beneficial for the start time of meetings to be brought forward by 30 minutes.

It was agreed (without opposition)

that future meetings (commencing November 2024) would start at 7.00pm.

ACTION: Clerk to update website

60.24

Correspondence

Nothing beyond what already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

61.24

Future agenda items

- Report from the next Ironbridge Power Station Redevelopment Liaison Group meeting.

62.24

Date of next meetings

Tuesday 19 November 2024, 7.00pm - Leighton Village Hall

Tuesday 21 January 2025, 7.00pm - Leighton Village Hall

Tuesday 18 March 2025, 7.00pm - Leighton Village Hall

Tuesday 20 May 2025, 7.00pm – Eaton Constantine Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.43pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date: 19 November 2024