
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19 NOVEMBER 2024

LEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL

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

Clerk: Lisa Harris

In attendance: 3 members of the public

63.24 Apologies for absence

None

64.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) Councillor Thorn declared a pecuniary interest in 71.24 and would withdraw from the meeting while the planning application in question was considered. Councillors Dawes and Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in 71.24 and would not take part in the consideration of the planning applications in question.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

65.24 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 owners of a property with a planning application to be considered at item 71.24. Prior to the application being considered they read a short statement explaining how their original application had been withdrawn and, after engaging the services of a consultant, it has now been resubmitted taking into account the previous concerns of both Planning and Conservation at Shropshire Council. They were now hopeful of securing the Parish Council's support.

66.24 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 September 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 17 September 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

[The next item was moved up the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman so that two members of the public could speak to application 24/03988/FUL and then leave the meeting if they chose. When it came to application 24/03708/FUL, Councillor Thorn briefly provided some context on the application and then left the room whilst it was considered.]

71.24 Planning

1. Decisions to note

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: Withdrawn

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

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 24/03997/FUL

Address: Fernley Eaton Constantine Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RJ

Description: Erection of extensions

Validated: 17 Oct 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

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

b. Ref: 24/03988/FUL

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

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

Validated: 21 Oct 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

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

c. Ref: 24/03708/FUL

Address: The Manor House Leighton Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6RN

Description: Proposed extension to previously approved swimming pool building

Validated: 30 Oct 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

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

No comments were made or objections raised on applications 24/03997/FUL and 24/03708/FUL. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support application

24/03988/FUL as the applicant had taken on board previous concerns and the resubmitted application had now addressed these.

ACTION: Clerk to submit a comment of support on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal in relation to application 24/03988/FUL.

67.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 17 September 2024

- Updated website with upcoming temporary road closures as notified by Shropshire Council's Street Works Team. Also added information on fly tipping and how to book a slot at the recycling centres.
- From 1 January Lloyds are stopping the free Treasurers Account and moving customers to the new Community Account, but with charges of £4.25 per month. Interest on the Parish Council's Treasurers Account is currently around £10.00 per month but apparently interest rates are falling. If interest rates fall to a level where the monthly charge exceeds the interest paid, then recommend closing that account and keeping all funds in the Business Bank Instant account which currently has no fees.
- Contacted numerous data destruction companies about secure disposal of the old parish council laptop but received no responses. Retrieved laptop and printer from former clerk and took the printer to the recycling centre. At a loss now as how to dispose of laptop. Councillor Thorn recommended trying a Telford company that he believed could help.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Bespoke Computing.

- The Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024/25 has finally been agreed and the increase of £0.67 per hour is to be backdated to April. Former clerk has requested this increase be paid to her for the two months of this financial year when she was in post. This is included in the list of payments to be authorised at 70.24.
- Prepared the half year financial review and possible 2025/26 budget to be discussed at 61.24.

68.24 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor

Due to a diary conflict Councillor Wild's arrival at the meeting was delayed until 7.30pm but had sent in her report in advance, which was read out by the Clerk:

- **Finance**

Shropshire Council's financial position at the end of Quarter 2 has seen a marginal improvement on Q1. Finance is still very tight, and all efforts are being made to bring down the current overspend by the end of the 24/25 financial year.

Following the Government's Autumn Statement on 30 October we are not expecting an uplift in the funding settlement. You may hear of an extra £600m for Social Care but these funds (Burdens Funding) are to cover NHS/Local Government increased National Insurance costs. Sadly, there is no burdens funding for all our third-party providers, such as providers of domiciliary care, nursing homes staff, waste etc. The companies will have to find the additional costs themselves and they will then, in turn, approach Shropshire Council – creating a vicious circle.

- **Devolution**

The Government will be publishing a white paper at the end of this month which will pave the way for the fundamental changes they will be making to Local Government. Whilst various snippets have been released the County Council Network understands that these changes will/could include the creation of new Mayoral Combined

Authorities (MCA) and new unitary authorities signalling the demise of district councils.

It has been mooted that the role of Police and Crime Commissioners will be abolished with this role being undertaken by the Mayor of the MCA. Similarly, the Mayor would become the Chair of the Integrated Health System, paving the way for Social Care (not sure if this includes Children's Social Care as it hasn't been mentioned) to also be subsumed into either the NHS or controlled by the MCA. MCA's already control transport, economic growth etc and it is being suggested that housing and strategic planning will also be part of the MCA role. The Strategic Planning function would include spacial planning i.e. the development of a regional growth plan to replace the current Local Plan that is drawn up by top tier authorities. The planning function would also determine significant applications such as wind, solar, roads and large developments.

By the December meeting will know more, we may even know which other authority(s) the Government will place Shropshire with. It isn't an opt in, it will be mandatory.

- **Shropshire's Local Plan**

We were extremely surprised and disappointed when we received the letter from the Planning Inspectorate telling us that they were halting current proceedings. They have said they will outline their reasons why in a follow up letter. It is felt that the doubling of our housing target could well have something to do with this as it has happened in two other authorities whose numbers have doubled and who were at a similar stage.

- **Government Consultation on Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Meetings**

A consultation has been launched on possible changes to the rules regarding attendance at local authority meetings. This isn't really a situation where one size fits all. For upper tier authorities it would seem sensible that in general, voting members should be in the room with special dispensations possibly made in specific circumstances.

With regards to town and parish Councils some councils currently operate a hybrid system where members of the public can join remotely and ask questions if they so wish. Other councils do not or cannot. Of course, it relies on access to the internet being available and having the equipment to be able to offer a hybrid solution. Whatever your thoughts are, you might wish to take part in the consultation.

[Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings - GOV.UK](#)

- **Contacting Shropshire Council**

Finally, just a reminder that due to the current immense staff pressures, the correct procedure for all contact with Shropshire Council officers is either via FixMyStreet or through the Clerk.

69.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish Councillors

- Councillor Vernon:
 - Expressed concern over highway obstruction due to vegetation overgrowth on the road from Eaton Constantine to Wellington.
- ACTION:** Councillor Vernon to email the Clerk with the location of the issue, who will then contact Raby Estates to see if this is their land and if so, requesting for the hedges and verges to be cut.

- Councillor Jones:
 - Due to illness had been unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Ironbridge Power Station Redevelopment Liaison Group but would circulate the minutes once issued by Harworth.
 - On behalf of the Parish Council, had written to Telford & Wrekin Council in response to their Local Plan review regarding the impact of increased traffic through Leighton resulting from housing development in the Horsehay area.
 - Concerned about further deterioration of potholes on Kynnersley Lane which have been reported multiple times.

ACTION: Clerk to try and escalate with the relevant department at Shropshire Council.
- Councillor Thorn:
 - A small working party has been set up to consider what actions the Parish Council might be able to take to address some of the parishioner concerns identified by the Parish Survey. Guidance on how to proceed was sought from the former Place Plan Officer at Shropshire Council.
 - The working party needs to meet again by mid-January in order to gain an understanding of the budget/precept requirements to potentially address some of the Parish Survey concerns.
 - Together with Councillor Jones, has spoken with the Rural Housing Enabler from Community Resource regarding a Housing Needs Survey for the Parish. Currently the survey is being offered at no charge so it may be worth considering this opportunity at the next meeting.
 - The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire is hosting a garden party at Orleton Hall in Wellington on 4 June 2025. The Parish Council has been asked to nominate an individual (plus their guest) to be invited to this event. The Councillors unanimously recognised a particular parishioner who makes a significant contribution to the community.

ACTION: Clerk to notify the Lord Lieutenant's office of the chosen nominee.

70.24 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's net salary October	£ 273.05
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary October	£ 68.20
Miss L Harris	Clerk's net salary November inc back pay	£ 354.00
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary November inc back pay	£ 88.40
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses October/November	£ 134.03
EC Village Hall	Venue hire – 28/05, 16/07, 19/08, 17/09	£ 94.00
HMRC	PAYE on L Pardoe's back pay	£ 6.40
Mrs L Pardoe	Back dated pay increase April/May	£ 25.92
TOTAL		£1044.00

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 12 November 2024

The bank was reconciled at £17,791.17, being the online banking balance on the date the agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

c) Half year accounts and review

The Clerk presented the receipts and payments account up to the end of September 2024 and a projection to the end of the year. Costs for the full year are projected to broadly align with the budget for 2024/25. The precept to be claimed from Shropshire Council and the 2025/26 budget will be discussed in full at January's meeting.

72.24 Parish Survey

Already covered at 69.24.

73.24 Highway matters

Already covered at 69.24.

74.24 Place Plan priorities

[Background - Place Plans are documents owned and managed by Shropshire Council which identify the current and forecast infrastructure needs in communities across the county. Infrastructure includes utilities such as electricity, gas, and water, as well as other provision such as roads, schools, open spaces, flood defences, broadband, health facilities, and leisure facilities. The plans are "live" documents which can be updated as required in order to reflect changing infrastructure needs in Shropshire. Town and parish councils are able to nominate projects for inclusion on an ongoing basis. Once a nomination is received, the Place Plan Team will consult with internal and external partners to ensure that there are no reasons why the project shouldn't be included and will make the required changes to the Place Plan. The identification of infrastructure allows Shropshire Council and other partner organisations to identify appropriate sources of funding to support delivery, which could include Shropshire Council's own capital investment programme; external funding sources, such as government grants; and the appropriate use of developer contributions, including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds. Importantly, the Place Plans assign a priority status to the identified projects: Priority A; Priority B; and Neighbourhood. Where a project or identified need is categorised as either Priority A or Priority B, there is an acknowledgement that these schemes may be able to benefit from CIL funding allocated by Shropshire Council. Where an infrastructure need is identified as a Neighbourhood priority level, there is a general acknowledgment CIL Neighbourhood Funds, administered by the relevant Parish and Town Councils, will be a priority source of funding. There are currently 18 Place Plans. Leighton & Eaton Constantine Parish Council falls under Shrewsbury and surrounding area [Shrewsbury and surrounding area | Shropshire Council](#)]

After much discussion it was agreed that all councillors would give place plan priorities their consideration and send suggestions to the Clerk.

ACTION: Councillors to send place plan priorities to the Clerk by 14 January 2025 so that they can be collated and discussed at the January meeting.

75.24 Consideration of .gov.uk email addresses

As per guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council's website will shortly be moving to the government domain www.leightonandeatonconstantineparishcouncil.gov.uk. A discussion took place on the number of corresponding email addresses required (purchased in blocks of five).

It was agreed (without opposition) that five email addresses should be purchased. However, only three would be used:
Clerk@leightonand Eatonconstantineparishcouncil.gov.uk;
Chair@leightonand Eatonconstantineparishcouncil.gov.uk;
Vice-Chair@leightonand Eatonconstantineparishcouncil.gov.uk

76.24 Correspondence

Nothing beyond what already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

77.24 Future agenda items

- Place Plan Priorities

78.24 Date of next meetings

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 8.50pm.

Signed by Chairman: Date: 21 January 2025