

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, on Wednesday 16th. January 2008 at 19:30 hrs.

Present: Councillors, K.A.James (Chairman), A.W.Wolfe (Vice-Chairman), J.R.Stedman, D.C.Penn, R.A.Band, Mrs. R.M.Pane.

Also in attendance – Mr. M.J.Philpott, Clerk; County Council Ward Member, Cllr. P Barnes; District Councillor B.W.Slaughter; and five members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were reported from District Councillor D.A.Pemberton.

2. Disclosure of Interests

2.1 Register of Interests: Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of interests up to date.

2.2 Declaration of Interests: Members were reminded that they were required to declare and disclose any personal or prejudicial interests in items on the agenda. Councillors with a prejudicial interest must leave the room for the relevant agenda item.

Cllr. K.A.James declared a prejudicial interest in Item 13.

Cllr. J.R.Stedman declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7.1.1 and in Item 13 and to the payment 8196 in Item 11.2.

3. Open Forum

3.1 **Have your say:** No under 18s were present.

3.2 **Public Participation** Sarah Belgrave spoke in support of her planning application and presented a letter to the Chairman.

3.3 **Ward Members' reports** Cllr. P Barnes spoke regarding the proposals for speed limits on the C216 and the B4008. He urged the Council to galvanize local residents to write in support of the proposals. In respect of the investigations into the flooding at Evesham Road he said that this work was continuing. In respect of flooding at Iron Cross he said that funds had been secured to improve the culvert under the road. The Clerk was asked to monitor progress and report back.

The Chairman spoke regarding the District Council's dealings with Central Networks on the question of reliability of the electricity supplies and their reluctance to attend meetings with customers. The Clerk was asked to circulate the questions that had been put to Central Networks. Cllr. Slaughter explained the proposals for council rate increases under consideration.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 19th. December 2007 at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk presented the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held in The Other Place Salford on Wednesday 14th. March 2007 that had not previously been presented for signing.

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk was asked to bring back the proposed changes to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to a future meeting of the Council.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

5.1 Matters for consideration by Council

No matters were raised by the Councillors.

5.2 Clerk's report on actions from previous meeting for consideration by Council

5.2.1 Tree preservation order, Orchard Farm, School Road.

The Chairman stated that he would raise the matter of the TPO at the next Area Community Committee meeting.

5.2.2 Meeting with Central Networks.

Cllr. Wolfe said that a further letter drafted by himself and the Clerk had been sent. It was agreed a copy should be circulated to Councillors together with the questions from the District Council. The Clerk was asked to press for a response.

5.2.3 Speed limits

Council discussed ways in which the public could be supported to write in to WCC about the speed limit proposals and it was agreed that Cllr. Wolfe and the Clerk should produce and circulate a suitable flier to residents on the roads affected.

5.2.4 Postal Problems

The Clerk reported that he had received four letters of complaint following the publishing of notices regarding the postal situation and that these would form the basis for a further letter to the postal authorities.

5.2.5 Lengthsman

Cllr. Stedman expressed reservations about the £5000 pa. costs suggested in the Clerk's report and it was agreed that the actual costs were likely to be considerably less. The Clerk reported that he awaited a response from WCC Area Highways.

5.2.6 Lighting in Playing Field

Cllr. Stedman produced some examples of eco-lighting and the Clerk was asked to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Council. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a supplier speak to the Council regarding the use of this type of lighting. The Clerk was also instructed to approach CEMEX with a view to obtaining landfill tax funding for the project.

5.2.7 Villager of the Year

The Clerk's proposal to present the award at the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed. It was proposed that the nominations should close on 13th. February and that the nominations and the award should be considered at the next meeting.

5.2.8 Resurfacing of footpath at The Gables

The Clerk reported that he had been informed that the footpath by The Gables was to be treated. Council requested that WCC be asked to ensure that proper weed treatment was applied before the treatment.

5.2.9 Other letters sent

Council noted the various letters sent by the Clerk following the previous meeting of the Council.

6. Main Items

6.1 The Precept and Budget for 2008/2009

The Chairman said he considered that the Council should be prudent in setting the Precept for the coming year particularly because the parish already had one of the highest precepts in the County. He proposed reductions of £2000 from the budget set out in the circulated papers by adjusting headings for plan monitoring (207/9, -£1000); annual report (204/2, -£50); newsletter (204/1, -£100); road signage improvements (205/6, -£300); office equipment (208/11, -£100); training (207/4, -£300); chairman's allowance (207/3, -£150). On this basis the precept would remain at £42,500 and the amount of the planned reserves would not be affected.

Cllr. Wolfe said that he considered the rent for the Parish Office was excessive and should be re-negotiated. It was agreed to suggest to the new council that it should review the administration budget. Cllr. Stedman said that there was a strong recommendation from NALC that the amount of reserves should approximate to the amount of the precept and he considered that the Council should be building its reserves which presently were only equivalent to half the precept. His concern was that the Council could be hit by potential compensation claims and legal costs.

The Chairman proposed and the Vice-Chairman seconded the motion:-

“The Clerk, under Section 150(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, issues a Precept on Stratford on Avon District Council for the sum of £42,500 from the General Rate of the Parish

to meet expenses payable to the Parish Council in the Financial Year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009”.

Following a vote the motion was carried.

7. Consideration of Reports (given by lead Councillors) (Pink papers)

7.1 Amenity, Environment and Highways (Cllr. R.A.Band)

Cllr. Stedman left the room.

7.1.1 Progress on orders placed for works at Churchyard, Playing Field, TOPS, and amenity areas.

Cllr. Band reported that he and the Clerk had authorised the purchase of a new gate to the allotments at a cost of less than £150 as a matter of urgency as part of the works being carried out by Limebridge Rural Services Ltd..

Cllr. Stedman returned to the room.

7.1.2 Play equipment inspections

The Clerk reported that he had just received the inspection report from Stratford DC for the play equipment and it was agreed that he and Cllr. Band should review this on site and report to the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact the insurers regarding the tractor climbing frame. Cllr. Band referred to further mole activity and on advice from Cllr. Stedman agreed to report back to the next meeting.

7.2 Communications (Cllr. A.W.Wolfe)

7.2.1 Awards for All

Cllr. Wolfe said that the Clerk had produced a Website Map showing the information to be provided. It was agreed that this should be circulated to all Councillors and that all should review the map and consider what other information would be useful on the new website. It was agreed that Cllr. Wolfe and the Clerk would organise a working group meeting comprising all Councillors prior to the next meeting to move the project forward.

Council expressed its appreciation of the work carried out by Cllr. Wolfe and the Clerk in producing the Newsletter.

7.3 Rights of Way (Cllr. D.C.Penn)

7.3.1 Report from P3 Co-ordinator.

Cllr. Penn said that there was nothing to report.

7.4 Planning (Cllr. K.A.James)

7.4.1 New Applications for Council's consideration

Council considered application 07/03394/FUL for a single storey rear extension, at 10 School Road, Salford Priors, Evesham, WR11 8XD for Mr & Mrs Belgrave. Prior to the discussion Councillors received written representations from neighbours in respect of this application one of which was supportive and one was strongly against. The Council recalled previous similar applications for the property that they had opposed. The Council still considered that the current application would have an overbearing effect on Number 9 School Road and that the length of the proposed extension in relation to the accommodation provided was excessive. The Council was particularly concerned that, if permission were to be granted, then there should be a condition relating to single occupancy so that the extension could only be used as part of the existing house.

Council considered application 07/01929/FUL for the erection of a new separate building to house 10 no. additional bedrooms and leisure facility and extension to existing car park at Salford Hall Hotel, Abbots Salford, Evesham, WR11 8UT for Cube Hotels (Amendments to a previous application). The Parish Council recalled that it had objected to the previous application at its meeting in July 2007 and on reviewing the revised application sustained the previous objections and considered that the changes proposed did nothing to override its previous comments.

Council considered application 07/03173/FUL for the erection of a new clubhouse and leisure bar facility at Abbots Salford Caravan Park, Abbots Salford, Evesham, WR11 8UN for Mr Ashton Hall. The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected to the proposals for the following reasons:

1. The Council considered that there would be an adverse visual impact on the Avon Valley.
2. The Council considered that the materials to be used and particularly the colours proposed were inappropriate for the site.
3. The Council considered that the proposal would have an adverse effect on the neighbouring SSSI.
4. The Council considered that there would be an unacceptable risk of flooding and consequential danger to human life and that Warwickshire Fire and Rescue service should be consulted in this respect.

7.4.2 Decisions

Council noted that consent had been granted with conditions for 07/03252/LBC, Balcony and conservatory with 2 no. roof lights to rear of property. Alter stairs and first floor layout at the Hayloft, Abbots Salford, WR11 8UT for Mr & Mrs J George. The Clerk was asked to circulate the conditions.

7.5. Finance (Cllr. J.R.Stedman)

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had requested a more detailed Bank Reconciliation format and this had delayed the report of the Auditor. He reassured Council that the reconciliation was accurate but had not been presented in the correct format.

7.6 Staffing (Cllr. K.A.James)

No points were raised.

8. Matters raised by Councillors

No matters were raised by Councillors.

9. Consideration of Correspondence Received

9.1 From Buckingham Palace

It was agreed that a copy of the letter from the Palace should be posted on the Notice Board.

9.2 Letter from Douglas Wathen

It was noted that no memorials had been erected during the year and that the garden in memory of the late Maureen Edmunds had been provided by her family. It was also noted that the article in the newsletter had been provided by Cllr. Stedman in his role as Chairman of the Memorial Hall Management Committee.

9.3 Speed Limit Review Consultation from WCC: A & B Class Roads.

The Clerk was asked to write to WCC expressing the Council's full support for the proposal to place a 50mph speed restriction on the B4008 which would provide much needed relief for the communities of Rushford, Pitchhill, Dunnington and Irons Cross.

9.4 LCR January 2008

Noted.

10. Tabled

- 10.1 Clerks & Councils Direct
- 10.2 Councils suppliers guide & yearbook
- 10.3 Decorum standards & ethics December 2007

11. Finance

The payments and transfers listed in Appendix A were considered and approved.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Ordinary meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th. February at 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall, Salford Priors.

Cllr. K.A.James and Cllr. J.R.Stedman left the room.

Cllr. A.W.Wolfe took the chair.

13. Mowing Contract

The Clerk reported that two valid tenders had been received which had been opened in the presence of the nominated councillors in the Parish Office on 12th. December at which time they were labelled "A" and "B". The Clerk circulated a detailed financial analysis and a detailed statement showing how each tender met the specified requirements as laid out in the tender documents. The Clerk then read out the references that he had taken up, two for each of the tenderers. Finally, the Clerk reported that he had consulted a mowing machinery expert in order to evaluate the two schedules of plant proposed by the tenderers. Councillors noted that both tenderers met precisely the conditions laid down in the tender document and that all the references obtained were excellent. The expert's opinion on the plant schedule showed no significant differences between the two proposals. The only real difference between the two tenders was that of cost and on this basis the Council voted unanimously to award the contract to the lowest tenderer which was tenderer "B". The Clerk was asked to write to the two contractors concerned and to then disclose the name of the winning tenderer to the Council.

14. Closure of meeting

Cllr. Wolfe closed the meeting at 10.05pm.

APPENDIX A**11 Finance****11.1 Income transactions for approval**

There were no income transactions to report.

11.2 Expenditure transactions for approval

Tn. No.	Cheque	Gross	Vat	Net	Details
8109	dd	18.99	2.83	16.16	Plusnet Techno
8196	101928	187.12	27.87	159.25	Limebridge Rural services. Filling sandbags
8197	101929	166.60	0.00	166.60	GTL Services. Infill TOPS ramp
8198	101930	97.50	0.00	97.50	GTL Services. Clean-up of picnic area
8199	101931	99.96	0.00	99.96	GTL Services. Repair play area fence
8200	101932	98.05	0.00	98.05	GTL Services. Repair car park fence
8201	101933	41.13	6.13	35.00	CSL Cartoon stock
8202	101934	125.00	0.00	125.00	WCC Rent for TOPS
8203	101935	177.78	26.48	151.30	GBD (Evesham) Churchyard hedge maintenance
8204	101936	82.25	12.25	70.00	ABB Lighting repairs

8205	101937	63.75	0.00	63.75	WRBT90 Print newsletter
8206	101938	13.99	2.08	11.91	Staples stationery
8207	101939	589.62	0.00	589.62	M J Philpott Clerk's salary January
8208	101940	40.00	0.00	40.00	M J Hyde Delivery newsletter
8209	101941	231.96	0.00	231.96	Andrew Mills Churchyard rabbits
8210	101942	38.88	5.79	33.09	Digital Copier systems
Totals		2072.58	83.43	1989.15	

Authorisation for payment was proposed by Cllr. Pane, seconded by Cllr. Penn and carried. Cheques were signed by Cllr. James and Cllr. Penn.

11.3 Transfers for approval

To transfer £2000 from No.1 account to Community account.

Authorisation for transfer of funds was proposed by Cllr. Wolfe, seconded by Cllr. Pane and carried.

11.4 Account Balances at 10.01.08

No.1 a/c	£23142.25
No.2 a/c	£8291.66
No.3 a/c	£111.07
No.4 a/c	£0.00 (account closed and balance transferred to No. 1 account)
Community a/c	£1972.55