

ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Astley Parish Council, Wednesday 19th January 2021 7.30pm at Astley Village Hall

PRESENT

Councillors: K Lloyd, E Bedell, A Wheeler, H Mardell

Also Present:

G Power (Locum Clerk), Cllr Lezley Picton, Corporal Sarah Hudson, Flt Lt. Stu Mason, 2 members of public.

1. APOLOGIES

Received from Cllr Stewart Robinson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES OF ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th November 2021 RESOLVED: Approved.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman invited a member of the public to speak in relation to a planning application that he was in the process of submitting to Shropshire Council, the planning application relating to a listed shed in the grounds of Church Farmhouse, Astley. The North-East corner of the outbuilding had been damaged by a tree in the recent high winds. The owner of the property wants to change materials in the repair, using period brick, and the roof material will need to be replaced with a non-toxic material. The member of public was using this opportunity to inform the public of the intended planning application, enabling him to respond positively to a question on the planning application asking if the public had been informed.

5. UPDATE

5.2 Update from RAF Shawbury

Corporal Hudson reported the following:

- Night flying has commenced
- Shawbury 10k scheduled for 27th February 2022
- Community Projects commencing, however, with regard to litter-picking, RAF Shawbury do not want training on the roads
- Opportunity to ask the Village Hall if there is anything that they would like help doing outside
- Ayres magazine updated December 2021

Corporal Hudson introduced Flt Lt. Stu Mason, stating that he would be attending future parish council meeting in her place as she would be taking up a post in the Falklands. Flt Lt. Stu Mason gave a short introduction of himself to the council, stating that he would be in post for the next 2-5 years.

5.1 Update from Shropshire Councillor Lezley Picton

Cllr Picton gave a report to the Parish Council, report attached (appendix a).

6. OFFICIAL PARISH MATTERS

It was noted that 6.1 numbering had been omitted in error.

6.2 LOCUM CLERK

The Chairman explained that the person who had accepted the job as Clerk to the Council was not able to commence employment on 1st February 2022 and had asked for a slight delay in the start date. The Locum Clerk had confirmed that she was happy to continue until the newly appointed Clerk was able to start.

Signed by Chairman *16541*

RESOLVED: That the contract of employment for the Locum Clerk be extended until 31st April 2022 or before this date should the new Clerk be ready to take up post.

6.3 BUDGET & PRECEPT 2022-23

Members discussed the two draft budgets prepared by the Locum Clerk, together with explanation sheet. It was recognised that the precept had not been increased for several years (Band D rate £33.23), but an increase was necessary this year in order to meet expenditure requirements, namely the Clerks salary, new laptop and mobile phone for the clerk (the current laptop is no longer functioning well), for data protection a mobile phone number dedicated to the parish council. It was thought that draft budget (b) showing a 3% increase (Band D rate -£34.23) would be sufficient to meet the parish council's expenses, with two amendments – Maintenance figure to be reduced to £500 as the higher figure had been set in a previous year budget when a new noticeboard was required, Office Equipment expenditure figure to be raised to £800, which was thought to be a more realistic figure for the cost of a laptop and mobile phone.

RESOLVED: That Draft Budget (B) be approved subject to two changes: Maintenance expenditure figure to be reduced to £500, Office Equipment expenditure to be increased to £800.

6.4 SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON BUDGET PROPOSAL

Members were in agreement with the budget proposal.

RESOLVED: Cllr Lloyd to complete the consultation.

6.5 CITY SCIENCE (COMMISSIONED BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL) – LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – SURVEY

A short discussion took place, members thoughts were that more signage was needed.

RESOLVED: Cllr Wheeler to complete the Survey.

7. PARISH ACCOUNTS –RECEPITS AND PAYMENTS TO NOTE/APPROVE

Payments

22.12.2021 - £271.80 Locum Clerk Salary (Dec 21)
22.12.2021 £63.40 HMRC Locum Clerk Tax (Dec 2021)
22.1.2022 £271.60 Locum Clerk Salary (Jan 22)
22.1.2022 £63.60 HMRC Locum Clerk Tax (Jan 22)
21.1.2022 £30 SALC - Fundamentals for Councillors training, 6.10.21, Cllr Mardell

RESOLVED: All above payments approved.

8. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Mardell reported that she had attended and enjoyed SALC's AGM in November 2021, presentations were given by the High Sheriff of Shropshire and Cllr Sue Baxter (NALC Chairman).

Cllr Lloyd reported that she had attended a Village Hall Committee Meeting, the Committee were going to organise a picnic for the Queens Jubilee. The Committee had also said that they would like a representative from the Parish Council to be on the Village Hall Committee. A discussion took place, but no decision was made at this time.

9. CLERK'S REPORT There was nothing to report.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16th February 2022

The meeting was closed at 9pm.

Signed by Chairman 