

ASTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor Kate Lloyd

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: astleypc@hotmail.co.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 7.00pm on 25 September at Astley Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors K Lloyd (Chair), H Mardell (Vice-Chair), R Peate, S Robinson, D Williams and Shropshire Councillor L Picton.

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Also present: 6 members of the public

38.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors E Bedell and K Sumner. Apologies were also received from Flt Lt Mason.

39.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

40.24 Public Participation Session - *a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 5-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.*

The requisite notice period had been given advising of the two matters raised:

- The state of Astley Lane – hazard to road users, particularly cyclists, due to large clumps of compacted mud and stones deposited on the road by tractors/trailers involved in the recent potato harvesting.
- The status of Project Gigabit within the Parish

The Clerk advised:

- Once the Parish Council had been made aware of the issue with Astley Lane, Highway Maintenance at Shropshire Council had been notified. They advised that they will either be contacting the responsible landowner and asking them to arrange for the road to be cleared or will clear it and then charge the landowner.

Such issues can usually be dealt with swiftly if reported via FixMyStreet www.fixmystreet.com, especially if photographic evidence is provided to clearly show the extent of the problem.

- An update has been requested from Freedom Fibre on Project Gigabit with a response received that afternoon, and subsequently published on the website:
 - “Infrastructure build is continuing and ongoing up until Q1 of 2025 for the Astley area. We are making progress with install of cables, drop nodes and civils works.
 - We are in discussions with National Grid about using the existing electricity poles (joint user poles) to serve the premises where new poles are of concern. These discussions are taking some time as contracts and agreements need to be reached
 - The network is expected to be available for some of the residents in the area by the end

of this year, but infrastructure build is continuing and ongoing, anticipated to go on until Q1 of 2025 for the Astley area

- Where any major changes occur, we will keep you informed
- We will be hosting an update webinar within the next two months and will invite Astley Parish Council to attend as soon as we confirm the date.”

[Three members of the public left the meeting.]

41.24 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 July 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Williams and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 July 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 to facilitate a better flow of the meeting]

43.24 To receive reports from

a) Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Picton presented a report which covered:

- **Future Options** - 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 Astley Parish Council could possibly take on in the future would relate to environmental maintenance. However, Shropshire Council does not currently do much verge cutting in the Parish as most hedges are private land.
- **Food Waste Collection** - 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. From April 2026 Shropshire Council will provide a dedicated food waste collection service.
- **Parking Fine Scam** – it has been reported that text messages are being received claiming to come from either Telford & Wrekin Council or Shropshire Council. The texts claim that a parking offence has been committed and although no details are provided (such as car registration number or location of the alleged offence), a link is provided to click on and pay the fine. Shropshire Council (nor Telford & Wrekin) would ever send a text message requesting any payment.

[Councillor Picton left the meeting after presenting her report. Two members of the public also left.]

b) RAF Shawbury

Flight Lieutenant Mason had submitted the following report ahead of the meeting as he was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting in person:

- **Night Flying** - The next night flying period is due to start on 21 October until 5 December. Night flying periods are usually for seven weeks with three weeks in between periods. There will be posts on the RAF Shawbury Facebook/X advising on the night flying periods and we are grateful for the tolerance of this essential training. There is also information on the RAF Shawbury webpage with contact details for complaints or concerns. Night flying will commence typically 30 minutes after sunset and may continue until 02:30.
- **Helicopter Liaison Group** - The Helicopter Liaison Group, previously known as the Helicopter Noise Liaison Group, administered by Shropshire Council, has now been replaced by a 6-monthly newsletter which will be distributed to all Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin town and parish councils. The first newsletter was issued last week and distributed to 180 town/parish councils. There will still be options for regional groups to be addressed by appropriate RAF Shawbury executives if warranted. Hopefully, everyone has seen the latest copy. A reminder of contacts for RAF Shawbury if there are concerns, which are also on the Station webpages on the RAF Website:

Website: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/>

Low Flying Complaints Email: SHY-LowFlying@mod.gov.uk

Low Flying Complaints Telephone: 01939 251712

Engagement and Media general enquiries Email:

SHY-EngagementMediaTeam@modgovuk.onmicrosoft.com

- **Upcoming Events** - We will hold our Annual Reception on 26 September. This event is by invite only.
- **Hi-Viz for Horse Riders** - We have now given out all our recent restock of Hi-viz kit. Watch our social media posts (Facebook and X) or website <https://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-shawbury/flying-info/>, High Visibility Campaign, for information on our next delivery later this year.
- **Drones** - If anyone flies a drone/model aircraft locally we recommend checking the Drone Code which is available on the CAA website. There are restrictions near all airfields, civil and military, regarding the flying of drones and model aircraft. <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code>
- **Aries Magazine** - The Summer edition (2024 Edition 2) is available online at the link - <https://www.rafmags.co.uk/>. The next edition is due to be available from 4 October.
- **Course Community Projects** - We are always keen to hear of new ideas for Community Projects. Typically, our trainees are available to help for a day. Please be flexible with dates as time for course projects is timetabled and we cannot easily change dates.

42.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 17 July 2024

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

- Submitted objection on behalf of Astley Parish Council to planning application 24/02095/FUL, which can be viewed [here](#)
- NALC had advised that all town and parish councils should adopt .gov.uk domain – 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.

44.24 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses August/September	£ 87.93
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary August/September	£ 792.60
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary August/September	£ 198.00
TOTAL		£ 1078.53

It was proposed by Councillor Lloyd and seconded by Councillor Mardell and

resolved (without opposition)

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 17 September 2024

The bank was reconciled at £12,001.79, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

45.24 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 24/02665/REM

Address: Wynnstay Group Plc Astley Park Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4RT

Description: Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale) pursuant to outline permission 24/01062/OUT for the erection of a warehouse building and new storage area.

Validated: 23 July 2024

Status: Granted

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

b. Ref: 24/02397/TCA

Address: The Squirrels Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4BP

Description: To fell 3no. Cedars (T1, 2 & 4) and 1no. Weeping Birch (T3) within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 21 Jun 2024

Status: Consent By Right – Trees

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

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 24/02095/FUL

Address: Shrewsbury Selfstore Battlefield Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 3DB

Description: Proposed industrial/commercial development and all associated works

Validated: 30 May 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

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

b. Ref: 24/03259/TCA

Address: Applegarth Astley Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 3DB

Description: Remove failed stem and reduce back crown overhanging property by up to 2m of 1no Yew within Astley Conservation Area

Validated: 24 Aug 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

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

c. Ref: 24/03276/FUL

Address: Toledo Bings Heath Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 4DA

Description: Single storey rear extension

Validated: 27 Aug 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

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

No objections nor comments were recorded on the above planning applications. However, an objection was previously submitted regarding application 24/02095/FUL, as detailed at 42.24.

46.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Bedell had sent confirmation prior to the meeting that both defibrillators are ready to use as and when required. The Circuit is updated accordingly on a regular basis.
- Councillor Lloyd is attending RAF Shawbury's Annual Reception on 26 September.

47.24 Highway matters

Astley Lane was discussed in the Public Participation Session.

Despite chasing WSP, no update on the A53 speed reduction had been received to date.

ACTION: Clerk to keep chasing WSP for an update.

48.24 Correspondence

Nothing beyond what already mentioned.

49.24 Future agenda items

- To discuss the safety aspect of the Parish Council noticeboard at Upper Battlefield.

50.24 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20 November 2024, 7.00pm at Astley Village Hall

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 20 November 2024