

CULMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mr Ian Steele

Heather Coonick, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Hopton Gate Cottage, Haytons Bent, Ludlow, SY8 2BE – 07817607355 culmingtonpc@gmail.com www.culmington.org

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

On **TUESDAY 2nd February 2021**, conducted remotely. The Meeting commenced at 7pm

Present: Cllr Steele (Chair), Cllr Pike, Cllr Mear, Cllr Seabrook, Cllr Turley, Cllr Holland, Cllr Norton and Cllr Watts.

In Attendance: Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council) and Heather Coonick, (Clerk/RFO)

1.0 Apologies Received for Absence: Cllr Alderson

2.0 Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting

Members are requested to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in matters to be considered at this meeting in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Cllrs Mear and Turley declared pecuniary interests in item 10.1 Planning Application for The Old School, Culmington

3.0 Presentation by Mark Trafford and Clive Leworthy, Airband Community Internet:

Mark explained that Airband is a 10 year old Internet Service Provider with 300 masts. They have won several contracts including in Shropshire, to build a full fibre option. At present Culmington has the option of a wireless service at present. He estimates that at present 45% of the parish are unable to get superfast broadband, but with 3 masts available to Culmington there is the opportunity for faster broadband. Once fibre becomes available customers would be automatically updated. You can also use ‘Vonage’ for telephone calls over the internet rather than a landline.

4.0 Public involvement session: (Agenda Items only) 5 members of the public attended. The issues raised were:

4.1 The expenditure by Shropshire Council on the plans for the Shirehall and Pride Hill Centre when roads within the county are becoming dangerous due to disrepair. Cllr Motley responded that the Council’s plans were to try to revive an area of Shrewsbury Town Centre and they were ‘capital expenditure’ with funds coming from a government borrowing scheme. The funds for maintenance to the highways come from the revenue budget. The Shirehall is old, single skinned and very expensive to run. The plans for the town centre are to have a smaller council presence with a much more area- based council and more home working. There has been cuts to the highways budget to fund the increasing costs of Social Care. Cllr Motley has reported the issues with highways to the Portfolio Holder.

4.2 Concerns regarding the planning application for The Old School were raised.

4.2.1 Risk of flooding increased by funnelling Seifton Brook through a narrower channel.

4.2.2 Lack of clarity about who owns the boundary where it is planned for a tree to be removed.

4.2.3 The risk of noise pollution affecting the planned property due to the neighbours working unsociable hours.

- 4.2.4 Concerns that the parking arrangements will not be adequate and it will be necessary for vehicles to park on the roadside.
- 4.2.5 This is not a 106 affordable home so should not be allowable in Open Countryside.
- 4.2.6 The risks to the wildlife from the development as there are bats and dormice and trout in Seifton Brook.
- 4.2.7 Concerns about the rooflights overlooking the neighbouring properties.

4.3 Jack Lines, Architect for the Old School planning application, responded to the above concerns by stating that the plans avoid the hedge line as much as possible and the intention is to keep within the footprint of the original building whilst providing a home for a family. Mr Lines and the applicant are very aware of the flooding risk having grown up in the village and The Old School building is raised up on an 'island'. The plans are for mainly single storey buildings no higher than the present and the roof lights are in a single storey section. The parking area will remain the same which should be adequate for two families. The sewage system will be replaced with a more contained system which will have a lower environmental impact. He apologised for not discussing the plans with the neighbour.

5.0 **Minutes:** RESOLVED (unanimous) that the Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Culmington Parish Council held on 5th January 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. PROPOSED Cllr Pike SECONDED Cllr Holland.

6.0 **Matters Arising:** Cllr Steele reported that there had been some concern from landowners with the 'Slow the Flow' ongoing maintenance after March 2021. He feels the report he gave at the 5th January 2021 Parish Council meeting was an accurate reflection of the Slow the Flow meeting he attended in December 2020. As a result, Luke Neal from Shropshire Wildlife Trust made a statement 'Slow the Flow, landowner responsibility post March 2021 – end of project. In the agreement letter signed by landowners with Slow the Flow there is no requirement to maintain, modify or manage structures or installations. It is hoped that landowners will understand the benefit of these interventions and look after them where it is possible to do so. Existing riparian responsibilities for landowners remain unchanged. If landowners require advice in the future please contact: Flood@shropshire.gov.uk'. Cllr Steele has requested a written report from the Flood Action Group for future Parish Council meetings.

7.0 **Reports from Members:**

7.1. **Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council):** Cllr Motley reported that the 10 yearly census will occur on the 21st March which will provide service planners with lots of anonymous information. After a slow start, the rate of vaccinations is now speeding up. Transport to vaccination appointments is available. Rights of Way are under pressure due to the increase in usage during lockdown, attempts are being made to increase funding to the Rights of Way teams.

7.2. **Cllr Steele (Flood Action Group):** reported that a desilting licence was being requested for Seifton Brook on Seifton Lane, however an extra £150 will be necessary to have a Ecologist in attendance as water voles, newts and crayfish may be present in the brook.

8.0 **Correspondence:**

8.1. Philip Dunne MP informed the Parish Council that in response to his letter Shropshire Highways had erected a post for the speed sign

8.2. Philip Dunne MP informed the Parish Council that he had been raised his concern with the Secretary of State Matt Hancock that vaccine deliveries should be prioritised to

those areas, like South West Shropshire, which have yet to deploy vaccine for the Priority Group 2 (over 80s). He undertook to look into this urgently.

9.0 Finance:

9.1. Accept the Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation **RESOLVED** (unanimous) PROPOSED Cllr Pike SECONDED Cllr Holland.

9.2. Make Payments: G Trim £84 (Environmental Maintenance) and J Williams (Footpath Group) £27.95 **RESOLVED** (unanimous) PROPOSED: Cllr Turley SECONDED: Cllr Mear.

10.0 Planning:

10.1. 21/00082/FUL The Old School, Culmington SY8 2DF. Cllr Seabrook raised considerable concerns for the likely damage to the trees on the site as the footprint of the planned buildings breach the protective area of the trees. The trees also use approximately 200 litres of water a day reducing the level of water in Seifton Brook and there is approximately 11 tons of carbon stored in the trees which would be released if they were damaged or killed. It was agreed by all the councillors that Tree and Hydrology Surveys should be submitted with the application. They fully supported a young family moving back into the parish but a majority could not support the application in its present form. Cllr Motley suggested the applicant contact the Planning Officer.

11.0 Potholes Repairs and Drains Clearance Delays: Cllr Motley reported that the Highways budget had been cut but she had reported outstanding issues to the portfolio holder. This issue will be carried forward to the next meeting for further discussion.

12.0 We Don't Buy Crime' Smartwater Initiative: The clerk reported that there were still approximately 18 kits needing to be registered before the signs would be erected by the police. She requested that councillors remind parishioners of the free kits. It was agreed to distribute the 18 kits randomly to members of the parish.

13.0 Lorries Parking on the Road: The Clerk reported that she had informed the police of the Parish Councils concerns. An officer would visit the site and discuss the issues with the owner.

14.0 Speed Sign: Thanks to the intervention of Cllr Motley, Graham Oliver from the Police and Crime Commissioners Department and Philip Dunne MP a post had now been erected and the speed sign is due to be installed on the 9th February.

15.0 Review the Environmental Maintenance Contract: The application form was agreed and the Clerk will submit it. It was agreed to work with Stanton Lacy Parish Council in developing a new contractual arrangement for the Environmental Maintenance Service.

16.0 Local elections May 2021: They are planned for 6th May and Cllr Mear confirmed that the Village Hall were in discussions with the elections team about opening it for that purpose.

17.0 Items for the Next Meeting: Pothole repair and drains maintenance

Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd March, 2021 at 7pm.

The meeting Closed at 9.40pm

Signed by the Chairman:

Date: