

The Annual Parish Meeting of Culmington held on Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.00pm at Culmington Village Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Cllrs I Steele (Chair), A Pike, M Holland, C Byng, J Turley, I Alderson, J Mear. Cllr Motley (Shropshire Council), 3 members of the public & H Coonick (Clerk)

1.0 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs M Seabrook and J Watts

2.0 Notice Convening the Meeting

In accordance with Statute, the notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the Council's Notice Boards and elsewhere throughout the Parish.

3.0 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on the 11th May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Steele. Prop Cllr Pike, 2nd Cllr Turley

4.0 Annual Reports of the Parish Council and other groups/committees for the year 2021-22

- a) **Chairman of the Parish Council: Cllr Steele** (Full report available on the Parish website or by contacting the Clerk) The Parish Council resumed face-to-face meetings in May 2021 and I would like to thank the Councillors and Clerk for attending the meetings when there was a great deal of uncertainty. The council has a new Environmental Maintenance Contractor, Dave Lewis, who is carrying out regular checks on drains and ditches, grass cutting etc. Jeff Williams and his team of volunteers have been working on footpaths throughout the Parish. The Flood Action Group continues to monitor drains and report issues to the relevant agencies. The Parish Council desilted Seifton Brook on Seifton Lane in July 2021 and will consider repeating this in the Summer of 2022. There has been confusion regarding planning in the Seifton area but it is hoped that during the coming year an agreement can be found to alter the Parish boundary to take away this anomaly. The Parish Council has recently had a meeting with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team to raise concerns regarding several issues and we are also developing a relationship with the Environment Agency. Parish Council meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday in the month except August and December at Culmington Village Hall. Parishioners are invited to attend all meetings. Copies of the agendas and minutes are published on the website (www.culmington.org) and notice boards and condensed minutes are in Ripples.
- b) **Shropshire Council: Cllr Motley** (Full report available on parish website or by contacting the Clerk) I have been the Corvedale Councillor since 2009 and now sit on the Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture, Leisure & Tourism, Transport. It is a relief to be finally emerging from the Covid Pandemic and its disruptive effects. SC is working hard to roll out the Government's Council Tax rebate programme. SC has been supporting the Homes for Ukraine programme. 434 Ukrainian individuals are due to come to Shropshire with 155 having already arrived. A hub to welcome them has been set up in Shrewsbury. SC has not had much luck with Government funding over the year. The local government funding settlement has reverted to a one-year rollover budget. Social Care puts a huge demand on budgets and during the Covid Pandemic the number of children requiring care has increased to 600. The Levelling up fund has not helped Shropshire. The Council has put in bids to the government for three excellent projects,

all of them rejected. County Deals is a government initiative encouraging local authorities to work closely together and potentially elect a mayor or governor. Shropshire is unsure of the benefits of this but will look at options. The Community Governance Review involves Parish councils reviewing their boundaries and considering merging with their neighbours or straightening out boundary anomalies. There is also an official review of the Divisional boundaries which must be complete by October 2023. Corvedale Parishes have been working hard on plans for traffic calming measures including VAS signs on the busy B roads. SC Cabinet is meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the new Chief Constable later in May and will discuss traffic calming measures. I hope that you have seen improvements in the pothole problem as there is now a full complement of Local Traffic Engineers and Fix My Street reporting system is being rolled out. I have been asked to be a Flood Champion for South Shropshire. The new recycling wheelie bin is being rolled out in the South of the County. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have a problem with Council services.

- c) **Village Hall: Cllr Mear** – Over the last year the Village Hall has slowly reopened following Government guidance. At the AGM last year I was elected as Chair, Jeff Williams Vice Chair. This year's AGM is on 7th July. Normal events are planned for this year. Two benches have been purchased in memory of Dennis Jubb and Colin Edwards also a new marquee. We are drawing up plans for extra storage and a bar and reviewing the rental charges for the hall.
- d) **Flood Action Group: Cllr Byng** (Full report on Parish Website or by contacting the Clerk.) 2021 has been a year when we have been fortunate when other communities around us have flooded. The Group continues to meet on Zoom with support from the National Flood Forum. We have multi-agency meetings, keeping lines of communication open between the community and other agencies to reduce the impact of future flooding, but there has been slow progress. Shropshire Council's bid for funding was unsuccessful. We are members of the Shropshire Flood Forum. During 2022 we hope to return to face to face meetings and make some real progress. We understand there is still some SC money available for some work within Culmington.
- e) **Culmington Footpath Group: Mr Jeff Williams** (Full report on the Parish Website or by contacting the clerk) reported that there are 4 active members of the group. They have replaced 3 footpath gates at Norton Farm, added a gate and 5 stiles at Medley Park, a stile and refurbished another at Shotwood Bank, added 2 hooped gates at Shotwood Bank, cut a bridleway from Tower House to Culmington, reset footbeds on 5 stiles, Tarmaced the footbridge on Seifton Lane and replace a stile on Vernolds Common. There is a list of work to do. The team have also worked on footpaths in Stanton Lacy and Onibury Parishes. Cllr Pike continues to walk paths and report back and Mr Williams request that walkers should contact him first before reporting issues to Shropshire Council.

5.0 Community Governance and Boundary Review: It was agreed that the Parish Council should put this issue on the agenda for the next three meetings giving parishioners the opportunity to discuss boundary anomalies. The Local Plan is being publicly examined in July which will allow discussion regarding Seifton. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with Diddlebury Parish Council about the common boundary.

6.0 Open Forum:

A member of the public reported that the Vehicle Activate Sign at the Western entrance to Culmington had made a difference to the speed of vehicles through the village. They requested that the Parish Council consider seeking funding for another camera to be placed at the other end of the village. Cllr Steele agreed that it should be placed on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

7.0 Closure: The meeting closed at 8.10 pm