

**MINUTES  
CARDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING  
held in Cardington Village Hall  
on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
following the Annual Meeting**

**Present:**

C'llr Tonks (Chairman), C'llr Norris (Vice Chairman); C'llr Watkins, C'llr Davies; C'llr Seabury; C'llr Maydew;; C'llr Pennington; C'llr Rogers; C'llr Boulton  
C'llr D Morris joined before Item 6 was discussed.  
Clerk : Mrs J Griffiths

One member of the public attended the meeting.

**Acceptance of Apologies**

All Councillors were present at the meeting.

The Chairman opened the meeting.

**1. Public Comments Limited to 15 minutes**

The member of the public did not wish to comment

**2. Minutes Meeting held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

It was proposed by C'llr Watkins, seconded by C'llr Rogers and unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January provided a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes – Clerk to report for information only**

There were no matters arising that were not covered on the Agenda.

**4. Correspondence**

The Clerk circulates all correspondence as it is received. The Clerk also reported the following correspondence:-

- The Clerk had received an e mail from a resident stating that some of the links on the web site were not working. This had been forwarded to the web master with further comments from the Clerk.
- The Clerk told the meeting that she had completed the online form for a framed official portrait of the King and when received could be hung in the village hall.

**5. Broadband Update**

The Chairman told the meeting that the previous contact had not left Voneus and he had not been provided with a new contact. He agreed to contact Voneus to get an update on progress.

C'llr Norris told the meeting that he had not been connected and he would ascertain how many other properties in Gretton were waiting to be connected.

**6. Finance**

**(a) Parish Council Bankers**

As reported to the Annual Meeting which was held prior to this meeting the Clerk told the meeting that the new account was now open and operational.

The cheque issued by Barclays in the sum of £16,583.93 from the account Barclays closed had now been paid into the new account. Following a telephone conversation Barclays had with C'Ilr Norris who is an authorised signatory on the new account, Barclays misunderstood C'Ilr Norris' confirmation to open the new account and actually reopened the old account after opening the new account. After several telephone calls to the bank the Clerk asked for confirmation that the old account was open and no charges would be applied, as the old account did not attract bank charges, However, the Clerk was advised that the same charges would now be applied to the old account as the new account. As the new account was open and the cheque for £16,583.93 had been paid into the account the Clerk advised Barclays that only the new account should be open.

**(b) Invoices to Pay**

The Clerk told the January meeting that following cheques, agreed at earlier meetings after the account was closed, had been paid when the new account was operational in early February.

HMRC tax due on Clerk's salary Oct/Nov £108.60 and Tax due on Clerk's salary Dec/Jan £108.80 making a total of £217.40 paid cheque No.100001

Refund Clerk who paid the Information Commissioners Annual Fee of £40. Paid cheque 100002

Refund SALC for paying the Clerk Salary and Expenses Oct/Nov £473.23 and £457.18 Clerk Salary and Expenses Dec/Jan totalling £930.41 paid cheque100003

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £50. Paid cheque No. 100004

The following cheques were payable at the March meeting:-

HMRC tax due on Clerk's salary Feb/March £108.60 cheque no.100005  
Clerk Salary and Expenses Jan/Feb, this included .96 interest the Clerk had paid to HMRC on the above late payments. Total £463,44 Cheque no.100006

The Parish Council was aware of how much effort and time spent by the Clerk with Barclays to open the new account and liaise with Barclays complaints department prior to Barclays agreeing the £500 compensation payment. This work was over a 4 month period and it was estimated that the Clerk had spent at least 20 hours on this work. It was agreed that the Clerk would be paid for 20 hours at her usual hourly rate A cheque amounting to £333.60 was prepared. Cheque No. 100007.

It was proposed by C'Ilr Seabury, seconded by C'Ilr Watkins and unanimously agreed that the above accounts be paid.

**(c) Bank Reconciliation**

The Clerk circulated the Bank reconciliation showing a balance held at bank, after payment of the above accounts, amounting to £16,659.08  
It was proposed by C'Ilr Seabury, seconded by C'Ilr Boulton and unanimously agreed that this provided a true and accurate financial record. The Bank reconciliation was then signed by C'Ilr Watkins.

**7. Planning:**

**(a) Decisions on previously discussed applications:**

### 23/04853/FUL Red House Farm, Longville

Erection of a replacement dwelling. This application was received and forwarded to Councillors on 17<sup>th</sup> November. A previous application had been withdrawn. Councillors had attended a site visit for the previous application and are familiar with the site. After the Councillors had consulted the Clerk was asked to support the application making the following comments, which were posted on the planning portal on 24<sup>th</sup> November:-

“Cardington Parish Council support the application for a replacement dwelling at Red House Farm. They appreciate the need to improve local housing to meet modern levels of comfort, access and insulation - leading to healthier homes with lower energy use. The Parish Council agree in this instance that a replacement dwelling is the best way to achieve this as the existing farmhouse is not of the best construction and is of no architectural merit. This support is for a replacement dwelling not an additional dwelling and they would ask for a condition to be applied to any permission saying that the original dwelling is to be demolished on completion of the new dwelling”  
The Clerk told the March meeting that this is still shown as Awaiting a Decision.

### **(b) Applications considered between meetings using delegated powers**

#### 24/00473/AGR The Villa, Cardington

Proposed Steel Portal Framed agricultural building. Sent for information only. This was circulated to all Councillors on 7<sup>th</sup> February. This is now shown on the planning portal as “Prior Approval Not Required”. The decision was dated 13.2.24

#### 24/00287/FUL The Kennels, Plaish

Installation of ground solar panels. This was received and forwarded to all Councillors on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Parish Council did not comment between meetings. This is shown as pending consideration. This was discussed at the March meeting. It was proposed by C'lr Seabury, seconded by C'lr Tonks and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.

#### Notice of Confirmation Public Path (FP 61 (Part)

Parish of Cardington Public Path Diversion Order 2023. Received and copied to Councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### **(c) Clerk to report any other planning before matters including any new planning applications received just the meeting.**

No other applications have been received

C'lr Norris told the meeting that he was submitting a full planning application for an agricultural building. It was agreed that this would be considered when the application was received. No discussion took place regarding the application. C'lr Watkins and C'lr Tonks agreed to carry out a site visit when the application is received.

## **8. Highways**

### **a. Highway Maintenance Scheme : Update**

C'lr Norris confirmed that J Dale was carrying out the environmental maintenance work keeping gullies open, clearing grids covered in muck and keeping ditches and culverts open.

C'lr Pennington told the meeting that Jeremy Dale had done some excellent work near his property. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr. Dale to thank him for the quality work he had carried out in the Parish.

### **b. Progress on Highway Matters reported**

The following defects were reported at the May meeting:-

- C'lr Norris had previously reported that the hedges on either side of the road leading to Chatwall were now overhanging at the top and meeting in the middle of the road making a tunnel for road users to pass through. The hedge on the road from Ley Hill to Chatwall was leaning over into the

highway for approximately a 400 metre length of the roadway. The Clerk reported this to Shropshire Council on 11<sup>th</sup> September, and had continued to follow up with Shropshire Council. Following the January meeting the Clerk had written to the landowner and had not received a reply. However, it was confirmed by Councillors at the March meeting that the hedges had been cut back, albeit not very hard.

- C'Ilr A report was received of deep pot holes and blocked drains on the bank at Enchmarsh. At the January meeting I was agreed that C'Ilr Boulton would be asked to report this on FixMyStreet, At the March meeting it was confirmed that this work had now been done.
- At the January meeting the Clerk was asked to contact Shropshire Council to ask when gullies would be cleared in the Parish. This has now been done.
- A letter was sent to the resident regarding a dam constructed in the brook which is unfortunately adding to flooding problems by the Royal Oak to ask him to clear the obstruction. A response was received by e mail on 21<sup>st</sup> February and forwarded to all Councillors on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. It was agreed at the March meeting that C'Ilr Norris would now speak to a resident about this problem.

### **c. Any further Highway Matters**

- Pot holes on the road leading to Leebtwood, near to Wilstone, were reported. C'Ilr Boulton will report on FixMyStreet.
- The white lines on the junction passed the Royal Oak had not yet been painted. It was understood that this work was due to be carried out and the Shropshire Council highway technician is aware that this work is outstanding.

### **9. Church Wall – Future Repairs**

At the November meeting it was agreed that the lesser quote provided by Mr. H Walters would be accepted and the Clerk had written to instruct him to commence work in the spring and liaise with C'Ilr Norris before commencing work. The Clerk had also written to the unsuccessful tenderer thanking him for the quote but advising that a lower estimate had been accepted. C'Ilr Norris told the March meeting that work had not yet commenced.

### **10. D Day 80 Celebrations**

The Clerk circulates any correspondence received concerning the celebrations. No comments were received.

### **11. Shropshire Parish Council's Chairman' Meeting**

The Chairman told the meeting that he had attended a recent meeting where he had raised the problems the Parish Council had experienced with Barclays.

### **12. Shropshire Council Report**

C'Ilr D Morris reported the following at the meeting:-

- 2 out of the 5 Recycling centres would be closed but no decision has been made which centres will close.
- 30,000 new homes will be built and CIL money will provide help with the infrastructure.
- A new school is being built at Bowbrook
- Work on the North West Relief Road is expected to commence in March 2025 and be complete in 2027.
- Shropshire Council budget is under pressure and they will have to find an extra £62m.
- Budgets for cared for children has increased by 80%

- Adult Social Care was £11m over budget in this financial year.
- The Shropshire population of 65+ residents is 25.7% whereas the national average is 18%.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March C'Ilr D Morris forwarded the following detailed report to the Clerk:- Shropshire Council's Planning Committee voted on Tuesday 5 March 2024 to approve the first stage of the Smithfield Riverside regeneration project in Shrewsbury, enabling the delivery of a landmark new public park. Financed from the pot of almost £19 million of Levelling Up money Shropshire Council secured from the UK Government, this preparatory work will see the demolition of the Riverside shopping centre and former Riverside medical practice, paving the way for key enabling works on site for future phases of the scheme. It also permits the delivery of a landmark new public park adjacent to Hilarious, helping to breathe new life and vibrancy into the area, as well as improving biodiversity in the town centre.

The attractive green park will feature play equipment, facilities for visitors of all ages, and a dedicated events and performance area.

On 29<sup>th</sup> February a report seeking the authority for a further £16.981m capital funding towards delivery of the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road (NWRR) was considered and approved at a meeting of Shropshire Council's Full Council. This followed approval of the planning conditions the Northern Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 15 February 2024, and reflects the increase in costs due to the complexity and scale of the scheme, as well as an extended planning process and subsequent high inflation rates. The money will be used to complete several key preparatory activities that have been delayed by the elongation of the planning process, alongside the completion of the Full Business Case (FBC), which is expected later this year. The request was not for any extra funding and forms part of the council's existing commitment to the scheme. This money would be drawn down to be used now instead of later. Around £7m, or 40%, of this will come from the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the Large Local Majors Grant for 24/25, with the remaining money being match funded by the council through developer contributions.

In Shropshire Council's area, 2,974 children applied on time for places at secondary schools, with 89.7% – 2,667 children – offered their first preference school. All who applied on time have been offered a place, with 98.4% allocated one of their preferences, and 1.6% allocated an alternative preference.

Shropshire Council has been shortlisted for a national award for the impact of its new approach to maintaining and improving the county's roads. The council is one of the finalists for the 'Innovation' award at the LGC (Local Government Chronicle) Awards 2024, with the winner set to be announced in June. By 2020 the council's previous approach to highways maintenance had resulted in a backlog of 19,000 potholes and other defects on the council's roads. As a result, a new 'mixed economy' model of highway maintenance was introduced, which saw the council review its existing highways maintenance contract with Kier, launch new in-house operations and energise the local supply chain. Shropshire Council was also the first council in the country to support and use a new procurement system designed to encourage innovation in highway maintenance, enabling it to speed up repairs while reducing procurement costs and ensure compliance. The new approach has resulted in 75% reduction in the cost of repairs between 2019 and 2023 – saving £1.4m per year. Whereas 90% of repairs were temporary in 2019, 90% are permanent in 2023. Residents have recognised the difference the new model has made – year on year, public satisfaction in highways is up 25%, according to the

## National Highway and Transport Public Satisfaction Survey.

Shropshire Council voted on 29th February to set a balanced budget for 2024/25, laying out plans to close a funding gap of £62m arising from increased demand and rising costs for its services, especially in social care and housing. Funding pressures are affecting councils all over the country, and these are made even more challenging by Shropshire's rural geography and older population. The council's savings for 2024/25 are equivalent to 10% of its overall budget, to deliver day-to-day services. Services across the council will be reviewed: some will change, some will reduce and some will stop altogether. Significant changes will go through consultation, and the public will be able to share their views and alternative suggestions. Included in the savings plans are:-

- Reviewing the strategy for library provision to make savings Reducing support for leisure provision
- Reducing the number of Household Recycling Centres
- An optional, charged, household green waste collection service
- Reducing the number of council buildings and other assets, and accelerating the move from Shirehall, Shrewsbury into alternative offices
- Changing how we meet the transport needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities: a consultation is ongoing.
- Following agreement of the budget plans, the council will now progress the next steps to ensure that the plans can be put into action as quickly as possible.

For a number of proposals, such as for libraries and leisure centres, the council will now start discussions with local partners and communities to see how they could continue outside of council control, to explore ways to help reduce the impact for local people as far as possible. It will also start planning public consultations on significant services changes as a result of the budget.

It is important to remember that

- 25.7% of Shropshire's population is aged 65 and over. In England the average is only 18.6%. By 2043 this gap is forecast to grow.
- We have seen a growth in children looked after. This has increased by more than 80% since 2020.
- Shropshire is the 2nd largest inland county in England and sparsely populated. We have less than one person per hectare compared to a national average of more than 4. Travel and fuel costs make services more expensive to deliver.
- Around 77% of our budget is spent on social care. This includes: looking after people who are older or have learning difficulties; and looking after children and families, including children in care; safeguarding; fostering; education; and those with special educational needs and disabilities. We expect that figure to increase more as demand for social care continues to grow, meaning there is even less to pay for other services.
- Adults' Social Care, In 2023/24, this is forecast to cost £130m, This is £11m over budget.
- Children's Social Care, in 2023/24, this is forecast to cost £52m, this is £3m over budget, Since 2020, there has been an 83% rise in the number of children in care in Shropshire.

Shropshire Council has welcomed a recent announcement of £136.4m to improve transport infrastructure in the council area. The money is part of the Government's new £4.7bn Local Transport Fund, which reallocates money

saved from cancelling the northern leg of HS2. The money covers a period of seven years.

The Shrewsbury Movement and Public Space Strategy – also known as Shrewsbury Moves – has been published by Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership and is currently open for public consultation. It contains a number of proposals for making the town centre a more pleasant environment over the coming years, such as introducing traffic loops to reduce the amount of traffic driving straight through the town centre, and creating more open public space. There is a consultation open until Friday 22 March 2024, and people can visit an interactive website – [shrewsburymoves.commonplace.is](http://shrewsburymoves.commonplace.is) – or view the proposals in St Mary’s Church off Dogpole from 10am to 4pm, Mondays to Saturdays. Representatives from Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership will be in the church every Wednesday to answer questions and provide more information.

The River Severn Partnership has been shortlisted for the national LGC Awards 2024 (LGC is Local Government Chronicle). The partnership has been shortlisted for the Public/Public Partnership category of the awards, which highlights how the partnership has brought about service improvements and/or improved efficiency, demonstrated innovation, and how they have added real value to the outcomes in local communities. The River Severn Partnership is a multi-sector, cross-border collaboration designed to build resilience and prosperity for the 2.6 million people living within the Severn Catchment.

### **13. Date of Next scheduled meeting**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April Annual General Meeting.

The remaining 2024 Meetings, which have been forwarded to the village hall bookings, are as follows:-

Tuesday 2nd July

Tuesday 3rd September

Tuesday 5th November

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10pm.