

**Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley & Langley
Parish Council**

Minutes

of a Parish Council meeting
7.30 pm Tuesday 27 September 2022
At Pitchford Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Paul Harrison (Chairman), Cllr. Gareth Ball, Cllr. Carmen Cullis, Cllr. Graham Davies, Cllr. Keith Faulkner, Cllr. Alan Hotchkiss, Cllr. Robert Morgan, Cllr. Tracy Johnson.

Locum Clerk
Sharon Clayton

22.9.1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

22.9.2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. John Long.
Apologies were also received from Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris.

22.9.3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests, Bias and Pre-determination

In accordance with Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 Members were informed they are personally responsible for deciding whether they should disclose an interest at this meeting. Members were also reminded they should not make decisions with a closed mind and must declare a bias and not vote on matters where their decision could be pre-determined.

22.9.4. Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

22.9.5. Minutes

The minutes from a Parish Council meeting held on 12 July 2022 were considered for approval.
It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED and ADOPTED as true record.

22.9.6. Police Report

There was no report from the police.

22.9.7. Shropshire Councillor Report

Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris was unable to attend this meeting but provided a written report as follows:

Running water to crossroads at Acton Burnell – Shropshire Council's area highway technician for the area was looking for a long-term resolution to the matter. Shropshire Council had established that the water was ground water rather than a leak from a water main and that the existing highway drainage was not blocked and contributing to the problem. Options being considered were either to install a filter drain under the footway and or installation of a drainage channel across the footway and a connection to the nearby highway drainage system. Each option has its pros and cons, and once a quotation had been received from Kier, a decision would be based upon cost, practicality and long-term maintenance. An order would be placed with Kier later in the year and when there was a programmed date the Parish Council would be informed.

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Oaklands Farm – issue, overgrown hedges restricting use of local 3 highway – Shropshire Council was making enquiries as to who owns the land and to ask them to cut back the hedges.

Road safety signs – having been frustrated at the lack of progress in getting things like white gates at entrances or mirrors at Frodesley crossroads Cllr. Morris had directly approached Shropshire Council’s traffic engineer and asked when these could be installed.

By-election in Bridgnorth and Tasley West – The notice for the election for the Shropshire Council division of Bridgnorth West and Tasley had been published following the sad death of Cllr. Les Winwood in July. Nomination papers had to be returned by 4pm on Friday 9 September 2022 and if the election was contested it would take place on Thursday 6 October 2022.

Inflation and rising demands new pressures on Council’s budget – Inflation and rising energy costs, alongside growing demand for Council services – particularly Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding were the main reasons for a predicted overspend of at least £4.1m at Shropshire Council this year. The Council examines its budget against spending each year and the first quarter highlighted that inflation was adding an extra £5m to costs of running services and extra demand for services was adding almost another £7m. The Council was no longer receiving income from government in response to the COVID pandemic but was facing rising costs due to increases in fuel and contracts. Council leadership was focusing on reducing any overspend and it was likely that the Council would need to sell off some of its assets including reducing the number of offices.

Update on the future operation of Acton Scott Historic Working Farm – The farm’s future was still under discussion between its owner and Shropshire Council which has operated the visitor attraction under a lease agreement for the past 40 years. Visitor numbers reached around 45,000 in 2009 following a BBC television show but numbers had now reduced to 20,000 per annum leaving a current operating deficit of £168,000 per annum. The cost to the taxpayer for subsidising the running costs was £8.40 per visitor but discussions were ongoing, and Shropshire Council hoped to reach an amicable solution.

£15,000 of funding now available to community groups across the county – Veolia UK and Shropshire Council had teamed up to offer £15,000 in funding to local community groups in Shropshire. This first ever EnviroGrant enables clubs or groups to apply for up to £1,000 in funding for projects that benefit the local community or environment.

22.9.8. Clerk’s Report

Members received a written report on action taken following decisions made at previous council meetings.

NOTED.

22.9.9. Finance

22.9.9.1. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following payments for July, August and September 2022 be APPROVED.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT £
Anna Morris	Clerk salary and expenses	1025.20
O ²	Mobile phone	20.98
HSBC	Bank charges	20.40
HMRC	PAYE/NI	12.04
Sharon Clayton	Locum Clerk salary and expenses	357.38
Med UK Group Ltd.	Defibrillators	5996.40
Defib Sales and Training Ltd.	Defibrillator battery	274.79

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	TOTAL	7707.19
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- 22.9.9.2. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that a payment of 25 hours for CiLCA training should be APPROVED.
- 22.9.9.3. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Locum Clerk’s working from home allowance and reimbursements be APPROVED.
- 22.9.9.4. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the bank reconciliations be APPROVED.
- 22.9.9.5. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that £812 be transferred from the CiLCA budget to the salary budget to cover additional employment costs and overspend.

22.9.10. Grant application

22.9.10.1. Members considered a grant application from Village News. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to award a grant of £500 towards the cost of Village News.

22.9.11. Audit

Members considered for approval waiving the Parish Council’s opportunity to opt-out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council would not opt-out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.

22.9.12. Planning Matters

22.9.12.1. Planning Applications Considered

Application number	Details
22/03509/FUL Proposed dwelling north of Royal Oak, Pitchford Road, Condover	Erection of one dwelling using existing vehicular access; installation of package treatment plant; all ancillary works. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED no comment.

22.9.12.2. Planning Applications already Considered – NOTED.

Application number	Details
22/03270/FUL Duffys Cottage, Ruckley, Acton Burnell	Erection of two-storey side extension. The Parish Council had no objection.
22/03270/LBC Duffys Cottage, Ruckley, Action Burnell	Erection of two-story side extension affecting a Grade II Listed Building. The Parish Council had no objection.

22.9.12.3. Planning Decisions – NOTED.

Application number	Details
21/03635/VAR Agricultural buildings, Home Farm, Acton Burnell	Variation of Condition No. 2 attached to planning permission 18/05229/FUL dated 19 May 2020 Permission GRANTED 18 August 2022 The Parish Council had no objection
22/03270/FUL Duffys Cottage, Ruckley, Acton Burnell	Erection of two-storey side extension Application WITHDRAWN 2 September 2022
22/03270/LBC	Erection of two-story side extension affecting a Grade II Listed Building.

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Application number	Details
Duffys Cottage, Ruckley, Action Burnell	Application WITHDRAWN 2 September 2022.

22.9.13. Consultation

22.9.13.1. To consider and approve a response to Shropshire Council's [Draft Empty Homes Strategy](#)

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Parish Council welcomes the Strategy and hopes that it can be implemented quickly and effectively.

22.9.14. Traffic Calming

22.9.14.1. Cllr. Carmen Culliss informed Members that she had received a letter from a member of the public who expressed concern about road safety at Frodesley crossroads. In addition to traffic speed on Frodesley Lane and visibility problems when leaving the village, vehicles were driving into the village at speed, and it was hoped that a way of slowing traffic could be implemented. The Parish Council has been pursuing these issues for some time and a site meeting is awaited with Shropshire Council to discuss options for improving safety.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to continue to pursue the matter with Shropshire Council to try to find a solution.

22.9.15. Footpath

22.9.15.1. Cllr. Paul Harrison informed Members that he had walked the route of a prospective new footpath from Action Burnell to Pitchford with the owner of the majority of the land involved. A small amount of work was required at each end and discussions seemed fairly positive. Cllr. Harrison said he would continue to discuss the matter further, particularly with regard to the Acton Burnell end where a second landowner is involved.

NOTED.

22.9.16. Jubilee Tree Planting

22.9.16.1. Details of the Jubilee tree planting at Acton Burnell have still to be agreed. However, it is now understood that work is to be carried out on the attenuation pond at the chosen site and it may be sensible to combine the works. Discussions would continue.

NOTED.

22.9.17. Highway Matters

22.9.17.1. Cllr. Paul Harrison informed Members that he had requested an update concerning Bentley Ford Farm and the footpath from Pitchford to Golding but had not received any further information.

22.9.17.2. Some Members had used 'Fix my Street' to report various issues and had been satisfied with the results.

Concern was expressed about accidents that had occurred at the King Street crossroads in Berrington which were possibly due in part to the lack of signage and road markings. It was also noted that the road sign to Acton Burnell off the A458 on the Shrewsbury road (just past the bypass) could not be seen at night and that the turning itself was difficult to see.

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to report the following traffic issues to Shropshire Council:

- The need for appropriate signage and road marking at the King Street crossroads in Berrington.
- Installation of road markings/white lining and perhaps signage on the bend at the Royal Oak in Pitchford.

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- Improvements to the visibility of the sign and the turning for Acton Burnell off the A458 on the approach from Shrewsbury at Weeping Cross. The turning cannot be seen at night and the sign is currently obscured by tree branches.

22.9.18. Environmental Issues

22.9.18.1. There were no environmental issues to discuss.

22.9.19. Parish Matters

22.9.19.1. There were no parish matters to discuss. However, Members were keen to respond to a recent NALC questionnaire concerning the financial challenges parish councils were facing in the current economic climate. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Clerk would respond to the questionnaire by compiling responses from Members submitted to the Clerk by email.

22.9.20. Next Meeting

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 8 November 2022 commencing at 7.30pm. However, if the business to be transacted is felt insufficient, the meeting will be cancelled.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it will be PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present

22.9.21. Staffing

22.9.21.1. Members were informed by the Chairman of the Staff Recruitment Committee that the Committee had met and following an interview had appointed Sharon Clayton as Locum Clerk until end of March 2023.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:38.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____