

Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 27TH NOV 2024 CHURCH & CHETWYND ASTON VILLAGE HALL – 7:30PM

Members present: Cllrs Mattison (Chair), Page, Stevens and Tate.

In Attendance: Mr C Furnival (Clerk/RFO), Cllr Eade (Telford & Wrekin Council) and PC Rich Edward (West Mercia Police)

24/25.57 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24/25.58 Apologies and declarations of Interest

Apologies were noted from Cllr Askin due to personal commitments and Cllr Magosfalvi due to illness.

Cllr Hardy noted as absent.

24/25.59 Public Session

None.

24/25.60 Minutes of the meeting held 2nd October 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the last meeting as a true record.

24/25.61 Matters arising, for information, from the 2nd October 2024 minutes not otherwise on the agenda

None.

24/25.62 Review of Parish Matters

Members reviewed the outstanding actions report with particular note to;

- i) CA4 – Members requested that we chase this matter to arrange a meeting as soon as possible.
- ii) CA6 - The Contractor visited site, but did not complete the testing due to foliage and overhead cables. His report, though very basic showed one of the two VAS were operational. So, one VAS is known to be operational and the other operational condition is still unknown.
- iii) CA19 - TWC confirmed this is not possible due to access issues on the NI site when businesses are closed. Suggested we approach Aldi, Clerk to follow this up.
- iv) CA20 - TWC are aware of the damage at the bridge and are currently putting a design together for repairs in the future but unfortunately there are currently other structures around the borough that pose higher risk and due to our limited budget, we have to prioritise those that pose the higher risk.
- v) CA10 – Members requested that we chase this item to utilise funding from the Councillors Pride Fund before the end of December when the funds need to be allocated.

24/25.63 Reports from West Mercia Police

PC R Edward provided the following report;

Crime statistics – Chetwynd Aston and Woodcote... 27/10/24 to 27/11/24... There have been 6 crimes within this period...

- Assault (domestic violence): suspect arrested, investigation continues.
- Retail crime (Aldi):no suspect identified, investigation continues.
- Multiple offences (domestic violence): suspect arrested, investigation continues.
- Child incident – assault: n/a, referrals made.

- Possession of offensive weapon: suspect arrested, suspect charged.
- Burglary: 2x suspect arrested, investigation continues.

Charter priorities update -

1. Speeding -

We are due to receive new speed monitoring/ enforcement equipment which will record video footage of vehicles and will evidence the speed they are travelling. These will enable us to start to monitor speed in locations where this was previously impossible for safety reasons. It will also mean we no longer have to stop motorists, but can automatically generate traffic reports from the footage, saving us time and enabling us to be out more. I will update you further once this has been introduced and any results we start to see from this new equipment. If you have any concerns about specific locations, please let us know and we can look to target those areas at relevant times.

2. Thefts from farm buildings -

We conducted a nighttime rural operation in October, looking to identify and develop intelligence, deter offending and detect offences. We have no specific results to share with you, but sometimes these operations can be a bit like searching for a needle in a haystack. That said, we cannot measure the deterrence that these operations can create, so will continue to run these when we can and provide relevant updates at meetings. The figures above show that there have been no thefts from buildings this last month, but we continue to patrol our rural communities.

3. ASB in and around village -

We have had no reports of ASB in the village, also no further reports relating to the supported living premise in Chetwynd Aston. If this differs from what the Council are being told, please encourage people to report to us.

The West Mercia team are doing a lot of work around rural watch and farm watch in the next few months, working with farmers to tackle thefts in the rural areas.

24/25.64 Reports from Telford & Wrekin Council

Cllr Eade reported that a number of rights of way issues are ongoing across the parish where some are blocked, styles need to be repaired or replaced and accesses need improving. Cllr Eade asked if the parish council would be interested in supporting a funding project with Telford & Wrekin Council in the future, as many other parishes have which have had a very positive impact on the access to these routes around the borough.

Cllr Eade also reported that the Cockhollow drainage issues have been resolved and will be monitored.

24/25.65 Reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Mattison noted that she recently undertook a litter pick. The remembrance poppies went out along with the Silent Soldier (Tommy), it was agreed that we need to order more poppies for next year. Cllr Mattison also report that the path clearance feedback has been very positive.

Cllr Page reported that the planters have been planted with winter flowers, the village hall is continuing to do well and noted that her and Cllr Eade attended the celebration of life of Malcolm Bennett who was so closely involved with the management of Church & Chetwynd Aston Village Hall for many years.

24/25.66 Correspondence

Members noted that there will be defibrillator training at Norwood House, 11th Jan, 10am to 12pm, there will be advertising of this on social media and in the communal noticeboard and at Norwood House itself.

24/25.67 Road Safety Scheme

The scheme is now completed except for the new NAL sockets that are to be changed once delivery to Telford & Wrekin Council Highways is received.

The project came under budget so there are funds to the value of £6,100 to be allocated to further road safety improvements. The Clerk has therefore requested a quote for the "find and fix" scheme for lining along Pave Lane as previously requested by the council.

24/25.68 Layby adjacent to The Nook, Pave Lane

Members were asked to consider proposals to plant and fence off an area of this land. Cllr Page reported that she had so far secured two quotes for a low maintenance project to clear up this piece of land and help improve the “street scene” of the parish. It is possible that there are opportunities for further grant funding to support this planting project.

It is hoped that a final proposal, with three quotes will be brought to the January 2025 meeting for members to consider as part of their 2025/26 budget.

24/25.69 Newport Library

Newport Town Council's Town Clerk will be presenting the proposals of a partnership to support the library to Parish Councillors of this Council in due course.

24/25.70 Planning

Cllr Tate arrived at 20:15

- i) Members considered the following applications and listed their comments as follows

Applications/enquiries to be considered;	CAWPC Response
TWC/2024/0766: Site of Moreton Brook Cottage, Moreton, Newport, Shropshire Change of use from agricultural land (Use Class B) to a pet crematorium (Sui Generis)	No objections
TWC/2024/0770: Land adjacent The Three Fish, Stafford Road, Newport Erection of a 74no. bedroom care home (Use Class C2) with associated access, parking, plant equipment and landscaping	Request for reduced speed limit and need for pedestrian crossing required.
TWC/2024/0841: Mere Park Garden Centre, Stafford Road, Newport, TF10 9BY Change of use of Outdoor Focus retail unit (Use Class E(a)) to children's day nursery (Use Class E(f)) and associated including creation of a first floor and creation of a new access, parking area and play areas	Support, subject to conditions that there be a reduction in the speed limit and need for pedestrian crossing required.
TWC/2024/0857: Barns adjacent Stockton House, Stockton, Newport, Shropshire Conversion of 2no. existing farm buildings to 2no. dwellings and associated works	Would like to see zero carbon ambitions listed in the application conditioned to be implemented.
TWC/2024/0863: South Lynn Farm, Lynn, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 9BB Application under Section 191 for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use for the siting of 9no. caravans for seasonal agricultural workers	No objection subject to the condition that the application be clarified of 9 or 11 caravans as per the location plan.

- i) Members noted the following applications decided/withdrawn since the last meeting.

Applications decided/withdrawn since last meeting;	CAWPC Response	Decision
TWC/2024/0647 - Barns adjacent Stockton House, Stockton, Newport, Shropshire Conversion of 2no. existing farm buildings to 2no. dwellings and associated works	No comment	Withdrawn

- ii) It was noted that proposals for the Local Plan Review are due to be presented to Cabinet in December.
 iii) There were no relevant updates on the Bloor Homes and Tilia Homes developments at present.
 iv) Members reviewed enforcement cases relevant to this parish which are viewable via Telford & Wrekin Councils Planning Portal..

24/25.71 Financial Reports

- i) Members reviewed the latest banking statements and bank reconciliation prepared by the Clerk and confirmed that they were happy that the reconciliation had been accounted for correctly. These statements bring the councils adjusted balances to the 11th November 2024 at £21,823.27. Two members were randomly nominated by the Clerk to sign of the master copies of these statements.

Members reviewed the invoices and approved the following payments:

Date	Details	Ref	Statutes	Account
29/10/2024	PAYE	P38	LGA 1972 s112	£103.40
29/10/2024	Salary	P39	LGA 1972 s112	£414.28
29/10/2024	Staff expenses for Q2	P40	LGA 1972 s112	£110.81
29/10/2024	Watering for August	P41	LGA 1972 s137	£330.00
15/11/2024	GDPR license fee	P42	LGA 1972 s111	£35.00
15/11/2024	PAYE	P43	LGA 1972 s112	£85.20
15/11/2024	Salary	P44	LGA 1972 s112	£341.76
15/11/2024	Installation of Norwood defibrillator	P45	LGA 1972 s137	£150.00
			TOTAL	£1,570.45

The following receipts were noted;

Date	Details	Ref	Account
30/09/24	Precept	R7	£6000.00

- ii) Members were asked to review the draft budget proposals for 2025/26 and the Clerk/RFO provided the following report; income in the 24/25 financial year has been significantly larger than previous years due to a 15k ex-gratia fund received to go towards the Pave Lane road safety scheme. Overall, expenditure has been as expected with the website budget being the only item that is anticipated to be over budget and this is due to an oversight when setting the 24/25 budget.

If spending and receipts continue as estimated, the year-end balance will be in the region of 26k, this is significantly higher than last year's year-end balance which was 15k. Therefore, the Clerk/RFO recommends that the council consider projects that have been on-hold for some time when thinking about the ambitions for the 25/26 financial year.

Though it is not necessary, it may be advisable to raise the precept by a minimal amount to plan for inflation and future reserves management if the council considers large projects for the 25/26 financial year. Chetwynd Aston & Woodcote Parish Council is still one of the smallest precepts per property in the borough of Telford & Wrekin.

Members noted that with the growing reserve, now would be a good opportunity to look at projects to support the community and welcoming street scene of the parish, namely asking the Clerk to look into structuring costs for; rights of ways, flower planters and interpretation board, replacement of noticeboard, defibrillator at Aldi and bin emptying for the two new parish bins.

This meeting finished at: 20:42

These minutes are to be considered as a draft form until signed at the next appropriate meeting, the signed copy will be retained by the Parish Council.

Signed: Dated:/...../.....

Next meeting: 22nd January 2025, 7:30pm at Church & Chetwynd Aston Village Hall