



**MINUTES** of the Wrockwardine Wood & Trench Parish Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 6.30pm .

**PRESENT:** A. Bennett, F. Doran, S. Reynolds, G. Singh, C. Smith, J. Thompson, A. Watkins and D. Wright.

**2 members of the public were present**

**21/1063 Welcome**

Councillor Charles Smith chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair Councillor Madeley who was unwell.

**21/1064 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Lynda Madeley, Shirley Reynolds and Helen Smith.

**21/1065 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

None declared

**21/1066 Public session**

A resident presented a petition for the installation of a speed/safety camera on Wombridge Road following the recent serious accident on Wombridge Road. The petition, which is supported by 117 residents has been forwarded to Telford & Wrekin Council and Councillors were asked to add their support to the petition. Speed cameras were requested at junction of Teagues Crescent as the SID is not helpful as people don't take any notice

Councillor Shirley Reynolds is looking at speed awareness training for residents and is asking for volunteers. The new Police sergeant for the area has been invited to the November meeting and any issues will be raised with him. It is estimated that there are currently 600 vehicles an hour including heavy duty vehicles using the Wombridge Road daily.

Councillor Bennett said some of the speed calming measures would help deter people who speed through Wombridge Road, which is being used to bypass Trench Lock and Wrockwardine Wood Way, making residents lives a misery..

Councillor Charles Smith reported that he and Councillor Shirley Reynolds had undertaken a recent ward walk and picked up on speeding at the island at the bottom of Wombridge Road which needs to be addressed.

The Clerk was tasked with writing to the Telford & Wrekins Councils Highways Department to highlight this ongoing issue.

## **21/1067 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **21/1068 Matters arising from the previous minutes**

The Clerk updated that she has asked Matt Powell for an update on the traffic calming measures for Wombridge Road and Gibbons Road and has been advised that the Parish Council will be notified on any updates as and when they happen.

Councillor Charles Smith disagreed with the item of 'Matters arising from previous minutes' being on the agenda as he felt that it is not necessary. Any items for discussion should be added to the agenda in the normal way.

## **21/1069 Reopening of the Parish Centre**

The Clerk asked the Committee to review the decision to reopen the Parish Centre to the public and allow groups back into the building. Most organisations have now opened their doors to the public and several of our groups offer huge support to residents in the community. Revised plans for caretaking and cleaning have been put in place making sure that the Parish Centre is health and safety aware in light of Covid 19.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed that the Parish Centre should re-open from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September to the public.

## **21/1070 To review the Code of Conduct**

Councillors considered adopting an updated Code of Conduct to bring it in line with the new SLCC version which has recently been updated and is recommended by Telford & Wrekin Council

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed that the Code of Conduct should be updated in line with Telford & Wrekin Council and other Town and Parish Councils across Telford.

## **21/1071 General Power of Competence**

At the last meeting Councillor Shirley Reynolds asked that the Parish Council look at adopting the General Power of Competence which was previously held by the Parish Council until the last Clerk left. The current Clerk is now Cilca qualified which means that the council meets the criteria.

Under legislation, eligible councils have "the power to do anything that individuals generally may do" as long as they do not break other laws. It is intended to be the power of first, not last, resort.

Criteria to be eligible for the General Power of Competence is:-

- The council must resolve at a meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the clerk.
- At the time the resolution is passed, at least two thirds of the council must hold office as a result of being declared elected (i.e. not co-opted).
- At the time the resolution is passed, the clerk must hold a recognised professional qualification (e.g. Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy) **AND** pass the 2012 CiLCA module relating to the general power of competence.

(Localism Act 2011)

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed to adopt the General Power of Competence and confirmed its eligibility to use the power.

#### **21/1072 Grant award Scheme review**

A discussion took place on how the Parish Council grant award scheme is administered. Since dissolving the Finance Committee, all grants will be agreed at Full Council meetings. Councillor Wright suggested that there could be an agreed sum for large groups as well as small grants for local groups. such as Brownies, Scouts etc.. Grants could also be allocated to groups out of the area, if they can prove some of the members come from our area.

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed to leave the criteria for the grant award scheme as it is but will look at better promotion of the scheme.

The Clerk was asked to use social media and the newsletter to promote the scheme

#### **21/1073 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2022**

The Members looked at ideas on how to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and whether they should hold a big event to celebrate the occasion or have several smaller events including street parties.

The Clerk was asked to contact Telford and Wrekin Council to see what they are planning to do to celebrate the occasion. Suggestions included holding a Community event for families on Trench field or to provide a commemorative mug or something similar to local school children.

Item to be discussed at the next full council meeting in October.

Councillors requested that the Parish Council look at planting a tree dedicated to Norman Pickering in the church yard in lieu of the tree cut down at the infant school. The Clerk will liaise with Rev Loughlin to see if this is possible.

#### **21/1074 Senior Citizens Christmas Party**

Members were asked by the Clerk to make a decision regarding the annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party and whether it should go ahead this year.

Several Members were unhappy with booking a Christmas Party in case of rises in covid rates in the winter months and deposits would be lost on any bookings.

Councillor Stephen Reynolds reported that Oakengates Town Council are arranging a trip to the panto in December for their senior citizens and suggested that Wrockwardine Wood and Trench Parish Council may do the same in partnership with Oakengates Town Council .

**RESOLVED** that Members agreed for a maximum of 200 panto tickets to be given to senior citizens in lieu of the Christmas party and gave authority to the Clerk to liaise with Oakengates Town Council and The Place to finalise the arrangements.

The event will be advertised in the parish newsletter.

#### **21/1075 Planning updates**

Planning application TWC/2021/0590

The Clerk reported that a new application for alterations to the porch at 189/191 Trench Road was passed by the Planning Department and plans for garages have been put on hold at present.

**21/1076 Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported there have been further complaints regarding speeding around Plough Road, Furnace Lane and Moss Road and the SID is currently in Moss Road and Parking Enforcement have been asked to attend the area at school drop off and pick up times. Some minor ASB during the school holidays which have been reported to the police. New Police SGT Richard Jones has agreed to attend the November meeting.

**21/1077 Payments to be issued**

Councillors received a list of expenditure transactions for July and August 2021 including a list of payments to be made.

**RESOLVED** that the expenditure transactions for July and August 2021 totalling £10, 814.92 were approved. (Copy of list attached to office minutes).

**21/1078 To receive a Statement of Accounts for July/August 2021**

Councillors received a copy of the bank reconciliation for the current account, savings account and petty cash as of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

**RESOLVED** that the bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 are accepted as a true record.

**21/1079 Items of information only and items for the next agenda**

Items for the next agenda are:

- Christmas panto
- Jubilee celebration
- Christmas smile

**21/1080 Date & Venue of the Next Meeting**

**Full Council Meeting** – Tuesday 12th October 2021 at the Parish Centre

Meeting ended 7.52pm

Signed.....  
Chairman

Date.....