

Chetwynd Parish Council

Minutes of Chetwynd Parish Council Meeting held at Sambrook Village Hall on
Thursday 9 May 2019

Attendees: Derrick Clancy, Eileen Dowd, Kevin Grimston, Paul Humphreys, Neil Robson, Tina Street, David Williams.

Also in attendance: Mrs V Edwards, Jane Allman (Clerk)

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Mr Terry Griffiths has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and has sent his C.V. which has been forwarded to the Chairman. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact him to invite him to attend the next PC meeting to discuss this in greater detail.

DC stated that if the Council do not co-opt a new member within 35 days, the Borough Council has the right to suggest a candidate or to invite someone to join. It is unlikely that this will happen as Chetwynd has 7 parish Councillors out of a possible nine. To be quorate, three or one third of the possible number of Councillors (whichever is the greater) must be present at a meeting.

Cllr Neil Robson reiterated the thanks of the Village Hall Committee for the donation of £1000.

Following the resignation of Mr Mitchel Randle from the Parish Council prior to the election, Cllr Derrick Clancy will contact him to establish if he is still prepared to refill the parish's grit bins.

The Clerk stated that there has been no progress on the bollards at the junction of Chetwynd Road and Puleston Lane with the A41. The matter of signs indicating vehicle priority on Puleston Lane is under review. Also, Telford and Wrekin council have indicated that the road markings at the turning to Sambrook near Standford Bridge have been added to the work schedule but that they are unable to issue a timetable.

The Clerk reported that Western Power Distribution have confirmed that there are 10 street lights in the Parish of Chetwynd. Cllr Neil Robson offered to provide a street map of the parish to mark up where these are located. Western Power Distribution claim that they have never been advised of the installation of three Led lights. They will however recalculate consumption going back fourteen months once the council have provided the precise location of the new lights.

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were duly signed.

3 Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

4 Planning

The application TWC/2019/2005 to develop the plot of land opposite Chetwynd Church was refused.

At this point, Flight Lieutenant J J Rowley from RAF Shawbury joined the meeting.

Flt Lt Rowley had come to give the Parish Council an update on activities at RAF Shawbury, with particular reference to matters affecting residents of Chetwynd Parish. He advised that over recent months, there has been much less overflying of the parish. Flying training has now been transferred to a civilian contract and all three of the armed services are now being trained at Shawbury. Two new aircraft, the Jupiter and the Juno have been introduced and over the transition period there has been a lull in activity. Now the transition is complete, there will be an increase in flight activity. The Juno and Jupiter aircraft are significantly quieter than the previous Squirrel helicopters.

The airfield at Pickstock (Chetwynd Airfield) has been upgraded with greater fire support cover, an improved perimeter fence and additional warning signs. It remains MOD land and civilians should not access the site.

Cllr Neil Robson raised a query about drone activity in the vicinity of the airfield. Anyone wishing to operate drones in the area should call 0800 515 544 to obtain advice prior to operating a drone. Flt Lt Rowley also provided a contact number for the Community Relations office which is 01939 251510. He confirmed that legally, the trainees can fly between 100' and 1000' and at speeds of up to 120 knots (150 mph) between Shawbury and Chetwynd. The night flying exercises are due to take place every sixth week.

He also advised that equestrians should be encouraged to wear hi vis clothing to make them more visible to crew of low flying aircraft.

The student pilots and crew are in the age range 20 to 33 years old and are willing and able to help in local community projects in Shropshire e.g village halls, churches etc and are able to provide manual labour. Cllr Tina Street suggested that they may be asked to help with the re-decoration of the Village Hall which is planned for late 2019.

Flt Lt Rowley said that there will be Safety Procedure exercises carried out with the local emergency services but that sufficient notice would be given to residents as to when these are planned to take place. It was suggested that the Village Noticeboard, the Three Horseshoes public house and the Parish Magazine would be suitable points for publishing such information.

A number of posters and flyers were handed out.

Cllr Derrick Clancy thanked Flt Lt Rowley for his visit before he left the meeting.

The meeting resumed

5 Finance

There were no questions about the financial statements and accounts that had previously been distributed by email. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman agreed to approach someone about taking on the rôle of internal auditor and to inform the Clerk of the outcome. *(It has subsequently been established that Mr Tom Moore, who is the Treasurer for St Luke's Church, has agreed to take on this responsibility).*

It was agreed that Cllr Neil Robson would be added to the bank mandate to make him a cheque signatory along with Cllrs Derrick Clancy and Paul Humphreys. The following will be removed as signatories:

David Briggs, Jonathan Butler, William Jones, John Lame, Malcolm Miles (Deceased), Andrew Mitchell, Andrew Watson-Jones, David Williams

A donation of £200 to St Luke's Church, in response to the earlier written request, was proposed by Cllr Neil Robson and seconded by Cllr Paul Humphreys. Carried unanimously.

The Clerk's expenses were approved.

5 Correspondence

In January, there was a request from the Aerodrome Operator of RAF Shawbury to attend the next Parish Council meeting to explain how the base will conduct future flying operations. Also an offer was made for a Flight Sergeant to attend future meetings to update the Parish Council on activity and to be a point of contact for any concerns that may arise. This led to the presence of Flight Lieutenant J J Rowley which has been documented earlier.

Smartwater Kits were discussed following an enquiry from a member the parish. She feels that the publicity surrounding the free distribution of such kits in Newport and Edgmond may drive crime into more rural areas. After some discussion, it was agreed that the low take up in Newport and Edgmond (less than the 70% of population required to qualify for the subsidized kits) pointed to a lack of general public interest. It was agreed that the potential cost to the Parish Council of £8.90 plus VAT per household was not an effective use of the Parish Council's funds. Similar kits are available to purchase online at a cost of around £12.00

6 Any Other Business

Cllr Paul Humphreys advised that all elected Councillors are obliged to complete an expense form following the recent Parish Council elections. Although no expenses have been incurred, failure to submit a complete form, albeit with the reply "Nil" to each section, will result in additional election fees being charged to the Parish Council.

A Town and Parish Council Survey for 2019, issued by the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner was completed during the final part of the meeting.

Cllr Humphreys suggested that there was a need for a specific Parish Council noticeboard and suggested that this could be installed inside the village bus shelter. He will take measurements to identify the size of board.

The Clerk will contact D.J.C Property Services to request a quote for re-painting the Bus Shelter and trimming back the vegetation around it.

The local Borough Councillor has, in the past, been invited to attend Parish Council Meetings. In spite of agreeing to attend, he has not done so for a considerable period of time. Clerk to issue invitation for the next meeting.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 22 August 2019 at Sambrook Village Hall. The Hall has been booked.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.