

Chetwynd Parish Council

Minutes of Chetwynd Parish Council Meeting held at Sambrook Village Hall on
Thursday 21 November 2019

Attendees: Derrick Clancy, Eileen Dowd, Terry Griffiths, Paul Humphreys, Neil Robson, Mark Stefan, Tina Street, David Williams.

Also in attendance: Ian Roberts, Resident; Lt Colonel Jon Dufton, RAF Shawbury; Jane Allman (Clerk)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Kevin Grimston.

It was agreed that the guest speaker should speak before the main part of the meeting began.

Lt Col Dufton is the Chief Flying Instructor of the Advanced Flying Wing. He attended in place of Flt Lt Jeremy Caley who is on leave.

There was some discussion about drones, given that the Christmas period is approaching and drones are popular gifts. He reminded the Council that new regulations are in place concerning the ownership and the flying of drones and he asked that local residents be encouraged to report any drone sightings. NR has recently obtained his registration to operate a drone and he confirmed that the maximum height at which drones are permitted to fly is 400 feet. NR had telephoned RAF Shawbury recently to ascertain if the helicopters were flying over Sambrook as he wished to launch his drone. He advised that the RAF personnel had suspended flying in the area for a specified window of time to allow him to operate his drone.

It was confirmed that aircraft do not overfly Sambrook at a height lower than 500 feet

PH asked about night flying. Lt Col Dufton advised that 2.30 am is the cut off time by which all aircraft had to be at the base and shut down. However, winter nighttime flying is generally over by about 8 pm or 9pm. It was generally agreed that the nuisance from night flying has reduced significantly over recent years.

Lt Col Dufton stressed the importance of the "Be safe, be seen" policy. The RAF hold regular events for local livery stables to promote safety for equestrians. They provide dayglo vests for riders and blankets for horses to ensure that riders can remain safe when aircraft are operating at low altitudes.

He reminded the Council that the airfield at Chetwynd/Puleston is a Ministry of Defence facility and, as such, the general public are not permitted to enter. This has been reinforced by new boundary fencing and prominent signage. However, there are instances of the public venturing onto the airfield. He requested that local residents report any such instances to ensure that no accidents occur.

Lt Col Dufton left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

2 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

The pre-application for the establishment of an independent primary school on the site of Wellbank Farm appears to have been dropped.

NR confirmed that Mr Randle, of Randle Building Solutions, has confirmed that his company will continue to fill the salt bins that Telford and Wrekin council do not maintain.

The two failed streetlights have been replaced, bringing the total of LED lights in the Parish to five of the ten for which the Parish Council is responsible.

The Parish Council Noticeboard has been installed. TS and JA are keyholders. NR agreed to be a back up key holder if TS is away. JA to draft letter for DC to send to landlord of The Three Horseshoes expressing the Council's gratitude for being permitted to place the noticeboard on his property.

ED asked about the situation regarding the worn out road markings on the A41 at the Howle/Sambook junction. JA responded that she has chased this several times with Telford and Wrekin Highways department with no satisfactory response. DW advised that (today 21/11) some of the markings had been repainted between the Manor at Standford Bridge as far as his property but that the markings stopped before the junction and that all the cones that had been in place for this work had been removed. This will be monitored.

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were duly signed. Proposed by NR and seconded by Eileen Dowd

3 Chairman's Report

Nothing to report

4 Planning

TWC/2019/0915 Site of Danford Cottage. It was reported that there is no change to the Parish Council's previous position on the previous applications for this site i.e. that the PC is neither for or against the application.

Mr Roberts, the Applicant, was present at the meeting and confirmed his willingness to have Danford Lane re-surfaced by a reputable contractor as part of his development of the site. PH asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the road after two or three years if the surface began to deteriorate. Mr Roberts stated that this would not happen as the proposed surface was expected to remain sound for a minimum of fifteen year.

Concerns were expressed about Severn Trent vehicles using the lane as an access to the pumping station and it was suggested that Mr Roberts raise this matter with Severn Trent.

DW asked that the possibility of signage to restrict traffic be investigated. It was agreed that, since Danford Lane is unadopted, that this would be for the residents to organise this.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would post a comment of "No objection" on the planning portal.
(Note: this has been done)

NR asked if it was in order for councillors to make supportive comments on the application. It was agreed that as long as this was done in a private capacity, there was no issue with this.

5 Finance

Financial statements had been emailed to the Councillors in advance of the meeting. The bank balance as at 31 October stood at £6368.03.

Cheques issued but still to clear in November –
Chq no 587 to Randle Building Solutions for replacement of two failed sodium lamps with LEDs £1788.

Income to receive -
VAT reclaimed on two Npower invoices plus Randle Building solutions - £315.29

This means that at the time of the meeting, cash at bank was projected to be £4895.32 before donation to X Ray appeal and Clerk's expenses deducted.

The application form for the annual precept has been received. In January 2018, it was decided to increase the precept from £3500 per year, a level that had been unchanged for several years, to £4000.

It was agreed that this would be discussed at the January meeting prior to the submission date of 1 February 2020.

A request for a donation to the Newport League of Friends appeal for the new X Ray facility at the Cottage Care Centre has been received. Due to the fact that this facility is of benefit to all residents, it was agreed that a donation of £1000 should be made immediately. Proposed by ED, seconded by TG. Carried unanimously. KG had informed the Clerk that he would vote in favour of the highest figure proposed.

A request for a donation in support of Newport Carnival Committee has been received. It was agreed that, due to other financial commitments already made, that this would be declined.

Clerk's expenses of £43.31 had been submitted in advance of the meeting and were approved.

6 Correspondence

An email complaint from a resident of Pickstock about nuisance caused by a neighbour had been received. The Clerk had informed the resident that this type of problem falls outside the remit of the Parish Council but that it was possible for an approach to be made to Telford and Wrekin Council under the Nuisance section of the website. This covers the issues of animals, noise and light which were the problematic areas. A response was received expressing thanks for the help provided and stating that the police authorities have been very helpful and supportive.

Another email complaint from a Sambrook resident regarding the state of hedges within the Sambrook Village boundary has been received. The Clerk raised this with Telford and Wrekin council who responded that their contractor was cutting hedgerows within the borough and that this work would be completed by the end of the month. This information was passed on and the complainant was asked to advise if this work has not been carried out within the planned timeframe. If the work is not the responsibility of the council, the resident will have to speak to the appropriate landowners. Again, this matter is really outside the remit of the Parish Council.

7 Any Other Business

TG said that he has been approached by a number of residents at Lane End Barns asking for signs to be erected on the A41 to show the boundaries of Chetwynd. A number of people have reported that delivery drivers have had difficulties in finding Chetwynd as there is no signage. All have postal addresses of Chetwynd, near Newport. Sambrook is in the parish of Chetwynd and has road signs.

He suggested that one be placed on the A41 adjacent to the turn onto Chester Road near Chetwynd Church, and that the other be placed near Chetwynd Firs. DC advised that the Parish Council has no authority to place such signs as the A41 is a trunk road. DC suggested that signage is the responsibility of Telford and Wrekin Council Highways Department.

The Clerk will put this request to the Highways Department and TG will speak to Cllr Stephen Burrell about the matter.

ED raised the matter of the waste bin adjacent to the bus shelter. Her husband has been emptying this bin on a regular basis as the local authority appears to have forgotten about it. However, this is becoming an increasingly unpleasant task due to the fact that local dogwalkers have been depositing dog waste despite the fact that the bin clearly states "No dog waste".

Clerk to contact Telford and Wrekin Council to request that they recommence emptying this bin when the other bins in the village are emptied.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on Thursday 23 January 2020 at Sambrook Village Hall. The Hall has been booked.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.