

Culmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on **Tuesday 2nd January 2024** at **Culmington Village Hall.**

Present: Councillors Mr Matthew Seabrook (Temporary Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mr Ian Alderson, Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear, Mr I Steele and Ms J Watts. **In Attendance:** Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council) and H Coonick (Clerk).

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Mrs M Holland and Mr J Turley
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** Cllr M Seabrook (item 9), Cllr I Steele (item 5.1)
3. **Public Involvement Session:** No members of the public were present.
4. **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th November 2023.
RESOLVED: that they were correct and signed by the chair.
5. **Community Governance and Boundary Review:** Cllr Steele was asked to remain in the meeting to discuss which properties were in which parish.
 - 5.1. Agree the letter to Diddlebury Parish Council Regarding the Boundary at Seifton Batch.
RESOLVED: to send the letter to Diddlebury Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that some residents of Vernolds Common had not received the joint letter from Culmington and Stanton Lacy Parish Councils regarding the boundaries. The Clerk will liaise with Stanton Lacy Parish Council about resending the letter.

6. **Reports from Members**
 - 6.1. Shropshire Council (SC)– Cllr Motley reported that it will be a difficult year ahead due to the general election and there are likely to be a lot of the councillors standing down. There are increasing numbers of children needing to enter the care of SC. The working relationship between SC and the NHS is improving particularly discharges from hospital and the Ambulance Service is coping better. There is a lot of concern about the level of drug use and vaping in younger people. Also there is a high level of obesity in Shropshire. There are plans for a Community Health Hub in Ludlow which will involve GPs and Voluntary Organisations. There are still concerns about the lack of understanding by government of the increased cost of providing services in rural areas.
 - 6.2. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that the Village Hall Committee has received approval from building control for the extension. They are trying to provide activities for all age ranges and working together with Diddlebury and Stanton Lacy Village Halls. There is a continuing problem installing Wi-Fi for the hall. They are reviewing the governing document and will inform the Parish Council if there will be any changes in their role as Custodian Trustee.
 - 6.3. Flood Action Group – Cllr Byng reported that John Bellis and Andy Keyland (SC) had visited the village and seen the flooding issue near the church. The Shropshire Wildlife Trust will appoint a project manager for the catchment area and will liaise with Culmington and Diddlebury FAGs. John Bellis will also meet with the owners of Seifton Farm to look at possible work. The work on Seifton Batch road will be require major work and it is not clear when this will be done due to the pressures on SC budgets. The FAG wished to know if the consent held by the parish council would cover other areas in Culmington but the Clerk reported that it was specifically for the watercourse fronting Seifton Cottages. The Clerk will check if there is an end date for the consent.

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7. **Correspondence:**
 - 7.1. Ollie Peacock, Holiday Property Bond re: s278 application. Informing the council that they now have the permission to install two passing places near the site at Norton.
 - 7.2. Police and Crime Commissioner, Budget Survey – individuals will make comment.
 - 7.3. Shropshire Council Budget Proposals – individual will make comment.
8. **Highways**
 - 8.1. Update on the Speed Indicator Device at the Eastern Entrance to Culmington Village – the Clerk reported that the Traffic Engineer had been asked to install the post for the sign.
 - 8.2. Consider Repairs to the Footbridge on Seifton Lane – Mr Williams has done some work on the bridge and the Clerk has reported it to SC.
9. **To Consider Work on the Sweet Chestnut Tree in Culmington Village:** Cllr Seabrook left the meeting for this item and the meeting was chaired by Cllr Pike.
RESOLVED: Cllr Seabrook will be contracted to pollard the tree.
10. **Update on the Telephone Box at Vernolds Common** – BT have initially refused the request to retain the box but further evidence has been sent regarding flood risk and older population. If this is unsuccessful Stanton Lacy Parish Council will need to decide whether to adopt it.
11. **Review and Adopt the Biodiversity Policy:**
RESOLVED: Adopt the policy
12. **Review and Adopt the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme:**
RESOLVED: Adopt the scheme.
13. **Finance:**
 - 13.1. Adopt the Budget and Set the Precept for 2024-2025:
RESOLVED: To adopt the budget and set a precept of £5,040.10. This will mean a charge of approximately £29.25 per year for a band D property and is approximately a 3.6% increase on this financial year.
 - 13.2. Appoint an Auditor for 2024-25
RESOLVED: to appoint Mrs J Disley.
 - 13.3. Authorise Payments to: D Lewis (environmental maintenance) £55.25, Culmington Village Hall Fee £150, HMRC £65 (Clerks Pay Oct-Dec) and Correction to Clerks pay for Oct-Dec £899.60 and Travel £10.80, J Williams (Footpath Group Equipment) £70.98. A donation to the village hall committee of £150 for a new pad and battery for the defibrillator.
RESOLVED: to authorise the above payments.
14. **Elect a Chairperson for the Next Meeting:**
RESOLVED: Cllr M Seabrook was elected to continue as chair for the next meeting.
15. **Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6th February 2024:**
 - a. **Vehicle Activated Sign Installation**
 - b. **Parish Boundary at Seifton**

Items of note:

The Councillors were saddened to hear of the recent death of Mrs Olga Griffiths, a previous Clerk of Culmington Parish Council.

The abandoned car on Clay Lane has been reported to the council. Request to report overgrown road sign and bridleway.

The footpath group have applied for funds to improve the surface of Church Walk and this work is due to be undertaken in February by the Scout Group, Mr Williams and Mrs Lynes.

Signed:

Date:

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