

Culmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on **Tuesday 6th February, 2024**

Present: Councillors Mr Matthew Seabrook (Temporary Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Ms J Mear and Mr I Steele.

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Mr Ian Alderson, Mrs M Holland, Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts.
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None
3. **Public Involvement Session:** Two members of the public attended to discuss the possibility of an application for an affordable home in the parish.
4. **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd January 2024.
RESOLVED: that they were correct and signed by the chair.
5. **Update on Access to Work:** the Clerk reported that she had now received the equipment from the scheme to help with her hearing. It was proving to be very effective.
6. **Neighbourhood Fund Payments:** the Parish Council will receive a payment of £3,234.22 from the Neighbourhood Fund in April. This money can be spent on items of infrastructure or addressing the demands of development within the area.
RESOLVED: To place this matter on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.
7. **Community Governance and Boundary Review:**
 - 7.1. Update on the Letter to Diddlebury Parish Council Regarding the Boundary at Seifton Batch: Diddlebury had acknowledged receipt of the letter.
 - 7.2. Update on the Letter to Vernolds Common Residents Regarding the Boundary: the Clerk reported that she had hand delivered a joint letter from Stanton Lacy and Culmington Parish Councils to six households in Vernolds Common informing them of the proposal to transfer them to Culmington Parish Council area and giving them the opportunity to comments.
8. **Reports from Members**
 - 8.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that the Council had received the final settlement from the Government but this was not enough to cover the costs and the forthcoming year looks very unclear financially. Cllr Motley has managed to reduce the costs of her departments by approximately £15 million but further reductions will be drastic. The Council will do what it can to try to continue to provide services. The NHS are looking at health provision in rural areas. Station Drive have now taken over full responsibility for the operation of Ludlow Hospital.
 - 8.2. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that there were a range of events planned, some to raise money for the extension but also to encourage as many people as possible to use the hall. There are still issues trying to get Wi-Fi for the hall. The Committee thanked the Parish Council for the donation towards the costs of maintaining the defibrillator.
9. **Correspondence:**
 - 9.1. Crane Quality Counselling – donation request: this will be included in the consideration of donations at the March meeting.
 - 9.2. Shropshire Planning Enforcement – Cllrs had been provided with information from Planning Enforcement Team on the updated planning enforcement protocol and priorities when dealing with planning enforcement.
10. **Highways**
 - 10.1. Update on the Speed Indicator Device at the Eastern Entrance to Culmington Village: the Clerk reported that she had confirmation today that the post had been ordered and once it is installed the Speed Indicator Device can be ordered.

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- 10.2. Update on Repairs to the Footbridge on Seifton Lane: Mr Jeff Williams from the Parish Path Group is requesting volunteers to help with the repairs. Further money has been received from Shropshire Council for the Paths Group equipment.
- 10.3. Desilting of Seifton Brook and Permit Application: the permit is for three years and ends on the 30/6/24. Cllrs Byng and Turley will review the brook in March and decide if desilting is required.
11. **Update on the Telephone Box at Vernolds Common:** Further reasons why the telephone box should be retained with telephony had been given to BT. Shropshire Council is awaiting their decision. If BT decide not to retain the telephony Stanton Lacy Parish Council will then consider adopting the box. However, the box is in very poor condition.
12. **Update on Emergency Planning:** the Clerk reported that she had attended an Emergency Planning session with Cllr Hedgley from Diddlebury Parish Council. **RESOLVED:** that Culmington Parish Council would support a joint working group with Diddlebury and Munslow Parish Councils and Flood Action Groups to develop a plan.
13. **Update on Blocked Bridleway:** Outdoor Partnerships had been informed and will look into the matter.
14. **Finance:**
- 14.1. Authorise Payments: D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Invs 455 and 465 £106.25
RESOLVED: the payment was authorised.
- 14.2. Review Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation: The expenditure was within budget except for the hall rental where there was an overspend of £33. It is expected that the expenditure in total in March will be within the budget. As of the 20th December 2023 the bank account held £11,410.84 which reconciled with the accounts.
RESOLVED: the report was accepted and the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllrs Mear and Seabrook as an accurate record.
15. **Elect a Chairperson for the Next Meeting:** Cllr Mear was elected.
16. **Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 5th March, 2024:**
- a. Speed indicator devise. b. donations c. parish boundary review d. blocked bridleway

Signed by the Chair:

Date:

NOTES: The Council wished to express its condolences to the families of Mr Peter Caine and Mr Graham Hardy.