

# Culmington Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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

1. **Receive Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None
3. **Public Involvement Session:** One member of the public was in attendance.
4. **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024.  
**RESOLVED:** that the minutes were correct and were signed by the chair.
5. **Reports from Members**
  - 5.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that the government wants to see much more delegation of decisions to planning officers when the applications conform to the Local Plan, however Shropshire’s Local Plan inspection was terminated and the Council has not yet been informed of the reason. This also leaves the five-year land supply plan in limbo. The government is only increasing rural funding by 2.4% compared to urban areas receiving 9%. The Rural Services Grant has been removed. The government’s plans for more devolved areas are proving difficult for Shropshire Council as it is struggling to find other councils to join up with. Social Care is experiencing issues as the increase in employers National Insurance is impacting upon the providers but SC is not able to increase the funding to assist them. Cllr Steele asked Cllr Motley about ‘land banking’ by developers – if this could be released it would provide more building land. Cllr Motley agreed. Cllr Steele also raised concerns about the sewage pipe plans in Bishops Castle which would affect the River Onny. Cllr Motley will investigate if Shropshire Council are planning to challenge Severn Trent’s plans. Cllrs encouraged members of the public to sign the petition.  
**RESOLVED:** to write to Severn Trent to express the Council’s concerns about the plans to build a pipe from Bishop’s Castle to the River Onny.
  - 5.2. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that there were lots of events planned for the year ahead. The committee were concentrating on marketing the hall and applying for funding for the extension. They are also continuing to work on the governing document.
  - 5.3. South Shropshire Area Committee – H Coonick (Clerk) read out the minutes: Juan Hernandez of StreetScene made a presentation on his work improving the FixMyStreet app. Chris Mellings has replaced Dianne Dorrell as Chief Officer of SALC and plans to refresh the website, encourage councils to share good news and good practice and building relationships between SALC and local MP’s and Members of the House of Lords. Cllr Archer asked about whether Shropshire Council could remove the restrictions on allowing the Environmental Maintenance Contractors to work on B roads. Mr Mellings agreed to discuss this with Shropshire Council. Cllr Holman noted that Shropshire was at the bottom of most of the policing performance measures within West Mercia. It was suggested that PCC John Campion be invited to the next meeting to speak about police performance in Shropshire. The committee will also consider how to promote the importance of residents standing as councillors ahead of the elections in May.
6. **Flooding:**
  - 6.1. Review Seifton Lane Joint FAG/Parish Council Site Visit – the report of the site visit had been distributed to Cllr Motley and Mr Bellis (Shropshire Council). Mr Bellis has asked for a site visit to meet with a landowner to discuss ways to mitigate flooding on Seifton Lane. Cllr Steele reported that the Slow the Flow structures in Seifton Batch are unable to deal with the level of flooding. Cllr

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Alderson considered that diverting the route of the brook would not work as in flood situations rivers tend to revert to their original route.

- 6.2. Consider Desilting Seifton Brook on Seifton Lane in 2025: The Clerk will attend the meeting with Mr Bellis to discuss the benefit of desilting Seifton Brook in 2025.

**RESOLVED:** Defer decision on desilting Seifton Brook in 2025 to the next meeting.

7. **Consider Requesting a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the Limes and Pines Opposite Culmington Village Hall:** Cllr Seabrook has approached Natural Environment and Martin Sutton (county arboriculturist at Shropshire Council) to see if a TPO would be possible.
8. **Consider Requesting a Reduction of the 40mph Speed Limit on the B4365:**  
**RESOLVED:** to add a reduction to the speed limit on the B4365 to 30mph to the Place Plan and request the change with Nick Newton (Traffic Engineer for Shropshire Council).
9. **Update on the Potential Use of the Neighbourhood Fund for Extending the Speed Limit to Beyond Clay Lane:** Shropshire Council reported that due to staffing changes and a reduced ability to deliver projects the development of the new policy has been delayed. They recognise that many Parish and Town Councils wish to use the fund for this purpose and advise that CPC reiterates the request with the portfolio holder for highways.  
**RESOLVED:** to contact the Highways Portfolio Holder to ask that the Neighbourhood Fund be allowed to be used to fund highways signage.
10. **Consider Nominations to the Lord-Lieutenant's Shropshire Garden Party 2025:**  
**RESOLVED:** the clerk will make a nomination and once it is accepted she will inform the council.
11. **Update on the Blocked Bridleway:** The Rights of Way team at Shropshire Council reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 that they had no further information to update the council.  
**RESOLVED:** to ask the Rights of Way Officer what legal action would be taken to ensure that this Bridleway was open for the public to use.
12. **Finance:**
- 12.1. Review the Finance Report and Agree the Bank Reconciliation: the expenditure was within the budget except for a slight overspend on insurance. As of the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the bank account held £12,342.02.  
**RESOLVED:** to accept the report and the bank reconciliation was signed by Cllrs Holland and Byng.
- 12.2. Consider Changes to Lloyds Bank Account and New Fee of £4.25 per Month.  
**RESOLVED:** to remain with Lloyds and pay the monthly fee. To investigate opening a savings account.
- 12.3. Adopt the Budget and set the precept for 2025-2026:  
**RESOLVED:** to adopt the budget and set the precept for 2025-2026 at £5,064.33 which is approximately a 2.73% increase on the previous year.
- 12.4. Authorise Payments:  
12.4.1. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Invs 666 & 676 £117  
**RESOLVED:** to make the above payment.
13. **Items for the Next Parish Council Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025:**  
a. Consider Desilting of Seifton Brook b Consider a Tree Preservation Order c. Update on Use of Neighbourhood Fund for Speed Limit Extension. d. Consider opening a Savings Account.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: