

HODNET PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Lyon Memorial Hall, Hodnet
on Thursday 18th June 2009

Present: Councillors Mr M. Morgan (Chairman), Mr J. Powell (Vice-chairman), Mr N. Newitt, Mrs A. Taylor, Mr R. Underwood, Mr A. Cope, Mrs R. Revel and Mr J. Parker.
Also present was County Councillor Mrs K. Calder, Mr S. Howell-Jones (Clerk) and PC Mick Sturland (West Mercia Constabulary)

The Chairman welcomed everyone, and prior to the meeting proper, invited PC Sturland to take the floor.

He stated that there were insufficient numbers of police cars in his area of operations and WMC had no further funds in the budget to purchase more vehicles, and he was looking to local Parish Councils to help with funding a new vehicle for himself and the CSO. He continued by saying that on many occasions he and the CSO were tied to the Police Station, as there was no vehicle available for them to conduct everyday police business, but emphasised that Emergency calls would always be responded to and vehicles made available to answer any 999 call. PC Sturland advised that he would be receiving a 'Blackberry' communication system, which would reduce his downtime at Market Drayton Police Station and was negotiating with the Fire Service for use of temporary office space when conducting business in Hodnet, but transport to and from Hodnet was the problem. So far he had approached 5 local councils, one of which had refused to help.

Councillor Calder suggested he may be able to make use of a Shropshire Council 'pool' car by booking it in advance. Councillor Newitt suggested the use of advertising on the car by sponsors, to pay for it, or using taxis and/or the bus service to get to Hodnet. A police presence on a bus would be a good community exercise. Other suggestions were use of a motor bike or scooter, utilising impounded vehicles, contract hire and approaching Insurance Companies for financial support. Councillor Parker suggested he could use a room in the Lyon Hall as an office, subject to approval by the management committee. PC Sturland said he would consider all the suggestions made and thanked members for their contributions to the discussion. PC Sturland was thanked by the Chairman before leaving the meeting.

Strong views were expressed in the ensuing debate and the general consensus was, that dedicated police officers should not have to go 'begging' for equipment that should be readily available. It was considered disgraceful that WMC could not provide a vital but basic need for any police officer to carry out his normal duties. Councillor Powell pointed out that as Council Tax payers, everyone had already paid for WMC funding and no one should have to pay again. It was finally agreed that a letter of complaint be sent to WMC in Worcester, with a copy being sent to Inspector Wagstaff at Whitchurch.

Apologies: Councillors Mr D. Hodge and Mr P. Perry

27. Minutes of a discussion concerning access to The Wetlands, Wollerton, held on Thursday 14th May 2009.

Councillor Powell proposed the minutes be signed as a true record of proceedings, subject to amendments as described by Councillor Underwood. Seconded by Councillor Taylor and all agreed.

28. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2009 – Item 1

Councillor Powell proposed the minutes be signed as a true record of proceedings, seconded by Councillor Taylor and all agreed.

29. Access to the Wetlands from Wollerton – Item 2

Councillor Underwood stated he was hopeful of meeting with those parties who had objections to the proposals and intended to seek further 'User' statements from them and other people who had walked FP12 or any alternative routes in the past, by publicising the proposed application for re-instatement of a footpath.

30. Traffic Calming Measures for Marchamley and Wollerton - Item 4

Councillor Calder advised that the WMC had objected to the proposals and if a representative of the police attended the meeting of the Regulatory Committee on 23rd June, a member of the Parish Council would also be permitted to attend. Mrs Calder added that she had put her name forward as a supporter of the proposals.

31. State of Roads - Kenstone - Item 5

The Clerk advised he had written or E-mailed no less than 7 times to SC in Hodnet and Councillors added that although some work had been carried out, there still remained some areas of concern. Councillor Calder agreed to take up the matter with SC at Shrewsbury.

32. Street Lighting at Top of Hodnet Village - Item 6

The Chairman advised that Mr Heber-Percy had commissioned a company of Electrical Engineers to establish a need for a street light at the top of Shrewsbury Street. This had been done and the consensus was that a light was needed on grounds of safety. He proposed moving the existing light attached to the garage in Church Street, to The Bear Hotel and replacing the garage light with something more appropriate. After due discussion by the members, it was agreed that a wall mounted light or a column light by the South West corner of The Bear Hotel was the only feasible option and the Chairman agreed to contact D. Fathers Electrical Engineers to emphasise this point. The original idea by Mr Heber-Percy, to have a light situated 2 metres into the alcove was considered totally unacceptable. Mr Heber-Percy had also expressed his desire to see the lamp post by The Hundred House replaced by something more appropriate.

The Clerk advised he had contacted 7 companies for quotations to refurbish 11 lamp posts in Shrewsbury Street. The work to include stripping off old paint, applying a suitable primer, undercoat and black gloss top coat. The 3 replies he had received, ranged from £680 - £1300. Councillor Powell proposed the quote for £680 be accepted, seconded by Councillor Taylor and all agreed.

33. Parish Council Notice Board in Wollerton - Item 7

The Clerk advised all the existing notice boards had been refurbished and permission had been granted for a new board to be erected on the wall of Wollerton Village Room. Mr I. Jones had said he would install the new board as soon as possible.

34. Speed Cameras - Item 8

Councillor Calder advised the matter was ongoing.

35. Verbal Complaint re Hedge Cuttings at Lawn Cottage, Hodnet - Item 12

The Chairman held a site visit on Tuesday 19th May to examine the Social Club car park tarmac surfacing. A large indentation, causing a large puddle to form, was attributed to the lorry collecting/delivering recycling banks to the site. Those attending considered the possibility of digging up some of the grass area and replacing with hardcore and chippings, thus improving the surface and drainage of surface water. The Clerk was subsequently asked to seek quotations for the work. He advised he had received 3 replies ranging from £1992 - £3537 for all the work. To repair the tarmac area, quotes ranged from £540 - £580. The

general consensus was that the costs were too high, but the Clerk was asked to approach Veolia Ltd, recycling contractors, to ascertain whether they were willing to give financial support for the repairs to the tarmac surfacing.

The Chairman also raised the matter of hedge cutting by The Meadow and suggested a site meeting should take place when the RoSPA report for 2009 is produced.

36. Allotments - Item 15

The Clerk advised he had arranged for a notice to be placed in the July edition of the Parish Magazine, backed up by posters being placed on all notice boards, asking if there was any interest in having allotments in the parish.

37. Access Steps to Lyon Hall Car Park - Item 16

The Clerk advised that Mr N. Thomas had agreed to repair the railings a.s.a.p.

38. Public Transport to Telford - Item 18

The Chairman expressed his concern at the lack of public transport from Market Drayton to Telford Centre via Wollerton and Hodnet. It appeared that no buses came through Wollerton and there were only limited times through Hodnet. Some buses came through Stoke Heath and Stoke-on-Tern and the Chairman suggested a slight detour to Wollerton would not add much journey time. Another area of concern was the lack of buses to and from Hodnet to Wem. The Clerk was asked to write to the appropriate department at Shropshire Council.

39. Shropshire Council - Local Joint Committees - New Reorganisation - Item 24a

Councillor Underwood advised he had informed the LJC he could not attend the meeting on 2nd July, but any other councillor could go in his place and have complete voting rights. Councillor Morgan agreed to go.

40. Wrekin View Naturist Club Invitation to Bi-annual Open Evening. Item No. 24b

Councillors Underwood, Morgan, Newitt and Taylor all expressed their intention to accept the invitation. The Clerk stated he would advise the Secretary of the club accordingly.

41. Pandemics - Volunteer Groups - Item 25

Councillor Calder advised that everything was in place to cope with a pandemic in the area.

42. Overhead Cables in Hodnet and Marchamley

Councillor Powell expressed his concern at the detrimental effect overhead cables had on the environmental and ascetic aspects of the landscape, particularly in Drayton Road, Hodnet and in Marchamley. He asked for costs to be obtained and proposed, with the support of the Parish Council, to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Parish Plan committee. All agreed.

43. Acceptance of Accounts for 2008/2009

Councillor Parker proposed the accounts be accepted as a true record, seconded by Councillor Powell and all agreed.

44. Pavement Gutters - Shrewsbury Street, Hodnet

Councillor Perry had raised the question of disabled people being unable to negotiate the angled pavement gutters on Shrewsbury Street, in their wheelchairs. The Clerk was asked to bring the matter to the attention of Shropshire Council.

45. Bean Bank, Wollerton - State of Road Surface

The Chairman drew members attention to the poor state of the road surface down Bean Bank. As it is an unadopted road, it was felt little could be done by the Parish Council, but the Clerk was asked to write to Meres & Mosses Housing Association, to highlight the

problem and ask what could be done to alleviate the situation.

46. Determination of Planning Applications

Ref: No. 09/00473/FUL - Erection of agricultural building for the storage of hay at The Vineyard, Weston-u-Redcastle, Shrewsbury. **Full Planning Permission Granted.**

47. Planning Applications

Ref: No. 09/00966/FUL - Installation of exterior floodlights/spotlights illuminating church at St Luke's Church, Church Street, Hodnet, Market Drayton. **No objections.**

48. Accounts - Expenditure

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| NPower Ltd - Light Sensor Power Usage - 01/04/2008 - 31/03/2009 | £112.97 |
| D. Beddow & Co. - Internal Audit Fee for 2008/2009 | £67.25 |
| Lyon Memorial Hall - Room Hire - 14/05/2009 | £16.00 |
| H.M. Revenue & Customs PAYE Payment for Period 05/04/2009 - 05/07/2009 | £3.05 |
| S. Howell-Jones - Salary for Period 01/04/2009 - 30/06/2009 | £871.95 |
| Shropshire Council - Address Labels for Parish Plan Distribution | £32.00 |
| S. Howell-Jones - Expenses for Period 27/03/2009 - 18/06/2009 | £261.79 |
| Accounts – Income | |
| Hodnet Social Club - Rent from 01/04/2009 - 30/09/2009 | £285.00 |
| Allianz Insurance Plc. - Overpayment of Annual Premium | £23.87 |
| C.O.I.F. - Dividend Payment from 01/03/2009 - 31/05/2009 | £228.96 |

Payment of accounts was proposed by Councillor Powell, seconded by Councillor Newitt and all agreed.

49. Correspondence

Letter of thanks - Lyon Hall Management Committee
SC - Local Highway Maintenance Plan 2009/2010
Letter of thanks - Hodnet H.Q. Management Committee
Letter of thanks - Maurice Chandler Sports Centre
Letter of thanks - Severn Hospice
Letter of thanks - West Shropshire Talking Newspaper
E-mail - PC Sturland - Cricket Competition
Letter of thanks - Samaritans
SC - Local Joint Committee Meeting - 02/07/2009 - Festival Drayton
SC - Request to use Recreation Ground during Summer Holidays
British Red Cross - Rural Ambassador Project - Request to Attend Meeting
Letter of thanks - St. Luke's Church, Hodnet
North Shropshire Safety Scene - Emergency Funding Request

50. Matters Arising from Correspondence

a) SC - Request to use Recreation Ground during Summer Holidays

It was agreed that Shropshire Council could use the Recreation Ground on 6th August for Summer holiday activities.

b) North Shropshire Safety Scene - Request for Emergency Funding

The Clerk advised that a robbery had deprived the NSSS of it's trailer and all equipment. Councillor Powell proposed that £50 be given as emergency support, seconded by Councillor Taylor and all agreed.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

