

MINUTES of an ordinary meeting of **KNOCKIN PARISH COUNCIL** held in Knockin Assembly Rooms on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 19.30.

Present – Councillors, D Roberts (Chairman), H Jones, S Burns, M Lawson, D Mitcham.

Clerk: Amy Jones

Also present: Cllr Vince Hunt. 1 member of the public (left the meeting at 19.57)

15.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Manford. Absent Cllr Mosely.

16.24 Declarations of interest regarding the agenda

Members are reminded that the Council's Code of Conduct requires that any Member, having a financial or other interest (bias or predetermination) in any of the business to be transacted, must declare all such interests either at the start of the meeting or immediately before the item is discussed. Members are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable interest.

a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. None declared.

b) To consider any applications for dispensation. None received.

17.24 Confirmation of the Minutes

To approve and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 09.01.24.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 09.01.24 and a copy was signed by the Chair as a true record.

18.24 Public Participation

To allow public participation in accordance with the Council's Standing Order procedure.
No matters raised.

19.24 Bradford Estate

Representative from the Estate to provide Councillors and members of the public present with an update on future plans for the village.

Steve Farrow from the Bradford Estate was welcomed to the meeting to update Cllrs and Residents on the Bradford Estate, Assets and Plans for the future in the Parish of Knockin. Management of the portfolio has been brought inhouse and is headed up by an Estates Director, all managed from offices in Weston-under-Lizard. Over the years, the Estate has gradually reduced its holdings in the parish and now has 6 residential properties (4 vacant), 700 acres, cricket ground, telescope, jubilee chair and various historical pockets of land (e.g. Sheep Dip). Two properties are currently on the market. Lower House Farm House has recently become vacant. The 2 building plots will be sold as garden building plots and will go on the market in Spring. The Old Post Office has a new tenant moving in shortly and the Estate are currently exploring options to develop on the land and will welcome the opportunity come back to the parish council to discuss plans following pre-app discussions with Shropshire Council. Church field behind the Shingler Development is included in the Draft Local Plan for 25 units. They are currently waiting for the Local Plan to be adopted before proceeding with plans but currently doing preparatory work on the site.

The issue of overlapping hedges was raised as a re-occurring issue in the Village. They are currently being done by the Estate while the properties are vacant.

The information was **NOTED** and Mr Farrow was thanked for attending.

Reports

- a) **Clerk's Progress Report** – Consider matters arising since the last meeting.
All matters covered as part of the agenda.
- b) **Play Area and Defibrillators** – Receive reports.
No issues reported. The Clerk was asked to update the Asset Inspection Schedule to reflect that visual inspections are carried out fortnightly not weekly.
- c) **Police Report** – Consider the monthly report and discuss the Local Policing Charter and agree priorities.

The following report was **NOTED**:

14/02/2024 – Burglary in outbuildings and a few items have been taken.

Domestic – 1

Other – 2

Reports of vehicles been driven around the rural areas of Oswestry and residents advised to be aware.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree the following as top 3 policing priorities for the Parish:

1. Speeding
2. Anti Social Behaviour
3. Not specified

- e) **Shropshire Councillors Report** – To receive a report from Cllr Vince Hunt.

Cllr Hunt provided an update on the Puffin Crossing from Cllr Picton:

“The project has been delayed due to some unforeseen issues with the electrical connections, which are essential for the signals to function properly. However, I have confirmation from WSP, the engineering firm in charge of the project, that Eon will be doing the electrical connections on the 12th April. Once that is complete, the signals will be installed a few days after that by the signals contractor.

Once the signals contractor has confirmed their dates, I will update the members portal with the build date, so you can check the progress and the expected completion date of the project. I will also send you an email notification when the update is available.

I appreciate your patience and cooperation in this matter, and I hope that you will be satisfied with the outcome of the project. I believe that the signals will make a positive difference to the community and the environment.”

The update was **NOTED** and Cllr Hunt thanked for his persistence in pursuing an update.

The following matters were also reported on by Cllr Hunt and noted:

- £62m of savings need to be made next year with £41m of savings being made this year.
- The number of looked after children has increased from around 300 to around 800 since 2020.
- The University of Shrewsbury Frankwell site is being withdrawn. The number of students recruited has fallen and 2 years of rent is due from the UofC.
- f) **Councillor Reports** – To consider reports from Councillors (training courses attended, meetings attended as council representatives). **No reports.**

Planning

- a) To note recent planning decisions published by Shropshire Council

- I. **Reference:** 23/05027/FUL and LBC (validated: 23/11/2023)

Address: Ivy House Farm, Knockin, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8HN

Proposal: Conversion of redundant farm buildings into three dwellings

Decision: Grant Permission

II. Reference: 23/05025/FUL (validated: 29/11/2023)

Address: Kinnerley Road Lodges, Kinnerley Road, Kinnerley, Shropshire

Proposal: Proposed change of use of existing holiday lodges (C1/sui generis) to residential dwellings (C3) and associated works

Decision: Refuse

NOTED.

b) Consider the following Planning Applications:

III. Reference: None received.

c) Consider Planning applications not listed above that are received after the issue of this agenda and are included on Shropshire Council's website. **None received.**

d) To note the information circulated by the Planning Enforcement Office in relation to the reporting of cases and the PC registering as an interested party. **NOTED.**

22.24

Finance and Accounts

a) Approve and ratify the following accounts for payment. **APPROVED.**

CHEQUE / BACS NUMBER	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	NET (£)	VAT	GROSS (£)
BACS5	Evans Enterprises Developments Ltd	New bus shelter – paid for with Neighbourhood Funds – invoice paid outside of meeting 9.1.23	6875.00	1375.00	8250.00
BACS6	Clerk	February Salary – paid 29.02.24	341.08	0.00	341.08
BACS7	HMRC	February PAYE payments – paid 29.02.24	80.40	0.00	80.40
300034	AEDdonate	Annual Defib Maint and Parts (paid outside of meeting)	124.99	25.00	149.99
BACS8	Knockin Village Hall	Transfer to the Village Hall their part of the 22-23 VAT Refund	1305.74	0.00	1305.74
	Clerk	March Salary – Payroll to be run 31.03.24 and expenses			
	HMRC	March PAYE payments			

b) **Income** – To note income received. The following income was **NOTED.**

22-23 AT Refund - £5094.49 (£1305.74 of the refund has been transferred to the Village Hall)

c) **Reconciliation** - To approve the bank reconciliation up to and including 29.02.24. **APPROVED.**

d) **Bank of Scotland** – Agree to sign a letter to close the account. It was **RESOLVED** to sign the letter to close the account.

23.24

Assets and Administration

a) **Asset Inspection and Maintenance contracts** – discuss

The schedule prepared by the Clerk was discussed and Cllr Roberts to discuss with the current grasscutting contractor the specification of the current arrangement to enable a formal document to be drawn up. On-going.

b) **Clerk** – Probationary Period Complete. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk has passed the probationary period of employment.

24.24

Highways

To receive an update on the Puffin Crossing.

Update provided under Cllr Hunts report – Agenda Item 20.e. **NOTED.**

25.24 D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024

Discuss.

Arrangements for a possible event to be discussed by the Village Hall Committee.

26.24 Correspondence

To note correspondence received:

1. SALC / NALC – Bulletins, News in brief bulletins, NALC Legal Briefings and Newsletters
2. NALC Chief Executive Bulletins
3. PCC Newsletter
4. North Shropshire Project Gigabit update
5. EN020035 - Green GEN Vyrnwy Frankton Project - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation – response submitted echoing the views of Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council
6. Leader of Shropshire Council – January Newsletter
7. Shropshire Council - Street Scene Executive Manager Appointment
8. News from West Mercia PCC - Roads Focus to drive change in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin
9. News from West Mercia PCC: PCC reinforces commitment to community priorities in latest budget
10. Vyrnwy Frankton - phase one consultation feedback summary
11. Shropshire Good Food Partnership – The Right to Grow
12. Helen Morgan MP - Quarterly Update, Winter-Spring 2024
13. Freedom Fibre: wayleave and permission to work agreements and North Shropshire Project Gigabit - progress update webinar

NOTED.

Discuss:

1. Complaint regarding light pollution from the Greyhound Depot – **NOTED.** Complaint logged with Environmental Health.
2. Public Space Protection Order, dog constraints – consultation – no comments.

27.24 Council Reports / Areas of Concerns / Items for future Agendas

Each Councillor is requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. ***Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.***

No matters raised.

28.24 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To note the date and time of the next meeting.

Tuesday 14th May – Annual Meeting of the Council and this meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm (a village hall committee meeting will not take place in May).

Meeting closed by the Chairman at 20.50