

Buildwas Parish Council

www.buildwasparishcouncil.org.uk

Chairman of the Council
Cllr L Pratt

Clerk to the Council
Mr C Furnival

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of Buildwas Parish Council held on 16th May 2022, 7:30pm at Buildwas Village Hall.

Members present: Cllrs: Pratt (Chair), Heath, Jones, Ling, Wilcox, Cox

In attendance: Cllr Wild (County Councillor), Mr C Furnival (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

22/23.01 Apologies and declarations of Interest

Apologies received from Cllr Jackson.

22/23.02 Public Session

A member of the public asked Cllr Wild how Shropshire Council are delivering their services and how much are SC going to spend on highways this year so that they can be compared with other years. Cllr Pratt notes that these questions should be made to SC highways and the member of public can contact their County Councillor outside of these meetings.

22/23.03 Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Pratt - The last year has been very busy, the Buildwas application was approved, the community led plan has been developing through a consultation, the climate change action plan is ongoing. Looking forward to the next year to serve more residents.

22/23.04 Election of Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox and seconded by Cllr Heath, all were in favour, thus **RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Lorraine Pratt as Chairman of Buildwas Parish Council for the municipal year 2022-23.**

22/23.05 Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Lorraine Pratt read out her declaration in presence of the Proper Officer.

22/23.06 Election of Vice Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Cox, all were in favour, thus **RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Simon Heath as Vice Chairman of Buildwas Parish Council for the municipal year 2022-23.**

22/23.07 Vice Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Simon Heath read out his declaration in presence of the Proper Officer.

22/23.08 Minutes of the Full Council meeting held 21st March 2022

Cllr Ling requested that some amendments be made to the minutes to reflect exactly what he reported at the last meeting with reference to the wall outside his home. The Chair duly amended those minutes and it was agreed by members.

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Wilcox. All were in favour thus **RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2022 be signed as a true record with the agreed amendments.**

22/23.09 Matters arising, for information, from the 21st March 2022 minutes not otherwise on the agenda

Cllr Jones enquired about the planned tree planting. Cllr Pratt will source the tree. Cllr Ling has spoken with the school who are willing to plant the tree. Cllr Ling will liaise with the school to organise the planting.

Cllr Ling hasn't had any feedback from SC regarding reporting pot holes.

22/23.10 Confirmation of meeting dates and arrangements for 2022/23

Members agreed to accept a calendar of meetings for the year ahead, these will be published on the council's website and notice boards.

22/23.11 Confirmation of policies & procedures

It was proposed by Cllr Wilcox and seconded by Cllr Heath. All were in favour thus **RESOLVED to adopt the following policies and procedures:**

- Financial Regulations
- Standing Orders

22/23.12 Confirmation of bankers, auditors and cheque signatories

It was proposed by Cllr Heath and seconded by Cllr Jones. All were in favour thus **RESOLVED to accept the following recommendations:**

- Continue using Lloyds Bank PLC in F/Y 2022/23
- Continue with J. Griffin, Internal Auditor for 2022/23
- Remain with current cheque signatories; Cllrs: Pratt, Heath, Jones, Wilcox

22/23.13 Annual subscriptions

It was proposed by Cllr Heath and seconded by Cllr Wilcox. All were in favour thus **RESOLVED to accept the following subscriptions:**

- Shropshire Association of Local Councils

22/23.14 Correspondence

None.

22/23.15 Reports from Shropshire Council

Cllr Wild reports – The liaison group for the former power station shall soon be starting and there will be finds accessible to parish council through this group. As the parish survey is about to commence, this could be a better opportunity to identify the wider scope of need in the area.

Potholes should be reported on Fix My Street. Parish council can also report pot holes, recommends people use the what-three-words app to identify exact location.

Cllr Ling feels that roads in the parish are such a problem that they cannot wait for repair until any parish survey is conducted, looking for some confirmation of timescales. Cllr Ling suggests we have a community speed watch group to collect raw data.

Chair agreed to draft a letter to SC to raise concerns regarding the state of the road through the parish, speed through the parish and the state of the footpaths. Cllr Ling to draft letter to highways.

Cllr Claire Wild provided a written annual report. **Appendix A**

22/23.16 Reports from Parish Councillors

Cllr Heath has been in contacted with other parish councils to enquire about their ANPR camera schemes. These schemes are funded through large grants obtained and the data collected is used by both the highways authority and the police. Parish Councils can request some of the data from these systems, certain vehicles can be flagged by police as "vehicles of particular interest". The parish councils contacted have noticed a reduction in speeds. Rough guide of full cost is £10,000 per

camera (match funded), further costs for surveys to be conducted, additional costs for consultancy and labour. £300 per month consultancy for 3 years.

The scheme is called Safer Speed Shropshire. Cllr Heath will provide further reports as he reviews this scheme.

22/23.17 Climate and Nature Action

No further updates at present.

Cllr Ling reports that the school has been working on Master Composters working in the churchyard.

22/23.18 Planning

It was proposed by Cllr Heath and seconded by Cllr Jones. All were in favour thus **RESOLVED to submit the following comments:**

Planning Application Number, Location & Proposed Development	BPC response
22/01564/FUL - 10 Park View, Buildwas, Telford, TF8 7BY. Erection of single storey rear extension	No comment
21/03090/FUL - Buildwas Leisure Site Buildwas Telford, Shropshire Proposal: Change of use of land to create a holiday caravan site including alteration of existing access, formation of internal access roads and footpaths and associated landscaping	Object

The following were noted as decided since the last meeting:

Planning Application Number, Location & Proposed Development	W&RPC Response	Decision
22/00403/VAR - 2 Saplins Lane, Buildwas, Telford, TF8 7DE Variation of Condition No. 2 attached to planning permission 18/01327/FUL dated 20 July 2018	No objection	Granted
20/03212/FUL - Proposed Fishermans Cabin, Buildwas, Shropshire Application under section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for erection of detached building to provide two separate cabins of accommodation for overnight use by fishermen together with parking and installation of package treatment plant (retrospective)	No objection	Granted
21/05417/REM - Land SW Of Home Farm, Buildwas, Shropshire Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline permission 18/00186/OUT	Object	Granted

22/23.19 Finance reports

22/23.19.1 Members reviewed the bank reconciliation of the latest banking statements, and it was proposed By Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Wilcox, all were in favour, thus **RESOLVED that the bank reconciliation as presented be accepted as an accurate account;**

Balances at 1st April 2022		
Cash in Hand at 01/04/2022		£24,808.54
ADD		
Receipts 01/04/2022 - 30/04/22		£8,499.15
		£33,307.69
SUBTRACT		
Payments 01/04/2022 - 30/04/22		£264.00
A Cash in Hand at 30/04/22 (as per books)		£33,043.69
Cash in Hand per Bank Statements at 30/04/22		
Cash	£0.00	
Lloyds Treasurers Account	£33,043.69	£33,043.69
Less unrepresented payments		£0.00
		£33,043.69
Plus unrepresented receipts		£0.00
B Adjusted Bank Balance		£33,043.69
Difference is: A = B Checks out OK	£0.00	

22/23.19.2 Members reviewed the payments made since the last meeting and reviewed the payments to be made, it was proposed by Cllr Pratt and seconded by Cllr Jones, all were in favour, thus **RESOLVED to note those made and approve those to be made;**

Payments made since the last meeting:

Details	Ref	Statutes	Account
Salary (April 22)	P3-22/23	LGA 1972 s112	211.20
PAYE (April 22)	P4-22/23	LGA 1972 s112	52.80
Lease for playing fields	P5-22/23	LGA 1972 s214	10.00
		TOTAL	£274.00

Payments to be made:

Date	Details	Ref	Statutes	Account
06.06.22	ALC subscription	P6-22/23	LGA 1972 s112	£178.88
06.06.22	Salary (May 22)	P7-22/23	LGA 1972 s112	£218.64
06.06.22	PAYE (May 22)	P8-22/23	LGA 1972 s111	£54.60
			TOTAL	£452.12

22/23.19.3 Members noted that the expenditure nor receipts had exceeded £25,000.00 therefore, it was proposed by Cllr Pratt and seconded by Cllr Heath, all were in favour, thus **RESOLVED to declare Buildwas Parish Council as exempt from External Audit for 2021-22 and publish the Electors Rights Notice from the 13th June 2022 to 22nd July 2022 on the parish councils website and noticeboards.**

Meeting finished: 21:25

These minutes are to be considered as a draft form until signed at the next appropriate meeting, the signed copy will be retained by the Parish Council.

Signed: Dated:/...../.....

Shropshire Council Annual Report

2021/2022

In May of last year we promised three things:

1. Local housing for local people - when our housing company (Cornovii) build houses they're offered to local people first. Cornovii are delivering on this promise.
2. Secondly, we promised that we would put £40 million into the Highways Capital Programme, we've now increased that to £60 million and
3. We promised a third wheelie bin which will take all your plastics, cans and glass and stop it blowing all over the road. For those of you that have registered they will be delivered over the summer months. If you haven't already registered for your third bin, then you can still do so but it won't be delivered until the autumn.

Covid and Ukraine

I am extremely grateful to the staff at Shropshire Council who continue to manage our Covid situation. Many officers were doing one job one day and doing something completely different the next, some staff have not yet returned to their original roles.

However, the last two years has taken its toll on the staff and for some staff they've had no break whatsoever because as Covid has become more manageable unfortunately we find ourselves in the middle of a humanitarian crisis. We are trying to arrange for as many Ukrainian people and families to come to Shropshire as possible. I am sure you can imagine that there is a lot of pressure on our staff to ensure that all the safety checks are put in place, it's a responsibility we must take incredibly seriously.

Shropshire has 100+ individual hosts registered on the Foundry system which make up 155 offers of accommodation, we have started DBS checks and we have also started the triaging of the property offers. The schools team continue to liaise with head teachers. The setting up of community hubs is well and truly up and running now and is being led by Amanda Jones from Shropshire Supports Refugees and Chris Childs from Energize.

Further information can be found on the Council's website here [Homes for Ukraine | Shropshire Council](#) and key links can also be found at ['Homes for Ukraine' scheme launches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), [Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), [Apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Budget

I think it's fair to say that most of the Council's time over the last year was spent trying to ensure we produced a balanced budget for the 2022/23 financial year. This work also included looking ahead to 23/24. It is worth repeating the issues, we spend over 75% of our net budget on social care, i.e., Adult's or Children's Services and yet only 3% of the population actually benefit from these services. On average, each year our adult social care bill goes up by £12M. This year our care providers (residential and domiciliary care) are also in financial difficulties, and we are having to increase their payments. Therefore, our already high costs will be even higher.

The Government's social care scheme, which they launched last year and came into effect last week, whereby extra national insurance payments go towards social care will not help us. For the first three years only a fraction of this money will come to local government, the majority will go to the NHS.

Over Covid we also saw a significant increase in the number of looked after children coming into our system. Despite our current financial circumstances, we have invested further in prevention measures. Preventing children coming into our system has to be the best thing, it's better for the child, it's better for families and ultimately it is more cost effective. We have an excellent record with fostering and adoption, this leaves us with the very complex cases. These young people can be extremely expensive to place, very often out of county. We have one young person whose placement costs are over £1M per year. For local government this is unsustainable.

Shropshire Council's net budget for 21/22 was £208M of which £163,500M was for Social Care leaving £44.5M for everything else. At least half of the £44.5M is spent on the Waste Contract. So, the remaining £22.5M covers everything from Libraries to Pest Control, Highways to Environmental Health and it is this area that gets squeezed every time social care costs increase.

You have also heard me talking about fair funding. Providing services in a rural area is far more expensive than providing them in urban areas. You will be aware that we did not receive a Bus Back Better grant, we don't deny that it will be more difficult to deliver services in rural areas but that is exactly why we needed that money because it does cost more to deliver bus services in the rural area and for many of our residents it is not about improving a service it is about keeping or initiating a service.

Council Tax Rebate

Earlier this year the government announced that all Council Taxpayers living in properties Band A to D will be eligible for a £150.00 Council Tax Rebate. If you already pay for your council tax via direct debit you do not need to do anything the £150.00 will be credited to your bank. If you do not pay by direct debit, you will be written to with further instructions as to how to claim the rebate.

It's Not All Depressing News

It's not all doom and gloom, Shropshire Council has some extremely high performing service areas and Adult Social Care is one of those services. We regularly receive visits from other Councils keen to learn from us.

Recently our Children's Services retained its Good OFSTED rating. Bearing in mind that this is two years of which we have been in a pandemic, we were absolutely delighted, and I pay tribute to how hard the staff, especially our social workers, worked throughout the pandemic.

We have also won many awards, we've had more awards for our housing services, we had awards for our children services and we had awards for adult social services it will shock you but we have even won awards for highways especially the work that we are doing to try and make our highways repair programme carbon neutral.

Climate Change

In terms of climate change there has been good progress made this year. The Cabinet and Exec Management team have undertaken and passed carbon literacy training, and this will be rolled out to more members and staff over the coming months and all cabinet and council reports have to make a significant effort to look at how our policies impact on climate change. We are one of the top councils for producing our own green energy and this year we will be opening another solar farm and extending another. Shropshire Council is only directly

responsible for a very small percentage of Shropshire's overall carbon footprint, but we can certainly do what we can to encourage others and currently there is work being undertaken on our procurement policies and procedures.

Local Matters

Redevelopment of Ironbridge Power Station

The Parish Council and I spent a lot of time campaigning against the redevelopment of the power station site and at the same time trying to ensure that the conditions placed on any approved application were as tight as they could be. The Chair, Lorraine along with Simon our Vice Chair, spoke at all the planning meetings and played a major part in the first refusal of the application. We managed to secure many concessions for the local community. Once the conditions and agreements are finally published we will put them on the website. There are also very strict routing agreements for traffic entering and leaving the site for both the sand and gravel extraction and construction periods. The Planning Approval Notice hopefully will be published by the end of the month. An important part of ensuring regular updates is the agreed Liaison group set up for the local parishes, Shropshire Council and Harworth which will meet on a regular basis starting in June 2022. I hope that the first meeting will discuss the promised reduction to the speed limit on the B4380 and A4169. In the meantime, the Parish Council and I have had a site visit and the opportunity to voice our concerns directly to Harworth .

Speeding traffic

There have been a number of very serious accidents on the B4380 and A4169 over the past year, an enforced speed reduction is needed urgently and is my top priority.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for all their hard work over the year, it's been tough at times but the community spirit is always there and is so important.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Claire Wild,

Shropshire Councillor for the Severn Valley Division