

**Buildwas Parish Council
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
on Monday 16th September 2019
at 7.30pm in Buildwas Village Hall**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. L. Pratt (Chairman), Cllr. J. Heath, Cllr. S. Heath, V. Morgan, Cllr. S Ratcliffe, Cllr. R. Wilcox

In attendance: Mrs S. Morris (Clerk), Cllr. C Wild (Shropshire Councillor), T. Williams (West Mercia Police), 1 member of the public

1) Public Session

A member of the public, Mr Healey, spoke. He explained that he had carried out a doorstep survey of some residents in Park View during which some residents expressed that they did not feel involved in the process of developing a plan to ensure that the proposed Ironbridge development does not adversely affect this community. 20 households of 23 that were spoken to put their names to express support for the parish council looking at starting a Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Healey referred to his presentation to the Parish Council in March 2019 and stated that the number of fully approved Neighbourhood Plans in Shropshire was significantly less than in adjoining counties. Mr Healey summarised the potential costs of producing a Neighbourhood Plan which would be expected to be around £12k for a parish the size of Buildwas, and grants of £9k were available. There was a significant amount of work required to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, but there may be potential to work with surrounding villages and share combined skill sets. Mr Healey gave an example of a 20-year local plan currently being developed, and suggested this length of time would be suited to Buildwas given the proposals for the power station site. Mr Healey requested that the Parish Council discuss the issue and provide the community with a response as to whether the Parish Council would explore the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council considered the information presented and it was noted that, should a grant not be available, the Parish Council did not have sufficient funds available to pursue a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, before any further consideration could be given to the matter, it was **RESOLVED** to investigate whether the Parish Council would qualify for a grant to create a Neighbourhood Plan.

2) Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr. Grainger due to attendance at a meeting to discuss the future of the Under the Wrekin magazine.

3) Declarations of Disclosable Interests & Dispensation Requests

None declared.

4) Smart Water initiative

Mr T. Williams from West Mercia Police gave a presentation to the Parish Council on Smart Water and the We Don't Buy Crime initiative, through which Parish Councils could purchase Smart Water packs for their parish at a reduced cost, with the PCC contributing 25% of the cost and providing signage. Mr Williams explained how Smart Water works and the variety of items which can be marked with it. He emphasised the importance of signage in the parish and stickers on the front and back windows of houses using Smart Water, as a strong deterrent to thieves. Parish Councils could apply for enough packs to cover 80%, 90% or 100% of the parish. The PCC would provide and install signage once 70% coverage was achieved. The dedicated team would provide support to ensure that this 70% was met, and Mr Williams stated that no parish had yet been unable to meet this threshold. Packs could be distributed through a launch event and/or by knocking on individual doors. The Parish Council would receive a 12-month report on crime statistics to evidence the impact of the initiative. Mr Williams summarised the process for the police identifying stolen goods, and the work that is carried out with sellers of secondhand goods to reduce the market for stolen goods.

Councillors asked a number of questions, to which Mr Williams responded as follows:-

- There are no on-costs or subscription costs to the initiative, which may be advertised with other schemes. This would be a one-off purchase by the Parish Council, supported by the PCC;
- Each pack is registered to a different address. Should individuals require more, they can contact Smart Water to request another pack at a cost of £25, which is the usual cost of Smart Water when purchased by individuals;
- It is recommended to reapply Smart Water to items after 5 years. It is also recommended to apply it on hidden areas, particularly on items e.g. vehicles and tools which may be subject to regular pressure washing;
- Each Police Station has the means to scan stolen goods for traces of Smart Water. All stolen goods are scanned and logged;
- The rollout of the scheme will be decided in consultation with the Parish Council, and support of Councillors is needed for this to help reach the 70% coverage. This may be by a launch day where residents come and collect their packs, or by door knocking. There is no time limit to get the packs registered within;
- The Parish Council must buy the packs upfront and then work to distribute them. If there are any left over from the amount purchased, these would be retained by the Parish Council.

Mr T Williams and Mr Healey left the meeting.

The Parish Council noted the cost of the 3 levels of coverage, all exclusive of VAT as this would be reclaimed:-

- 80% coverage - £815
- 90% coverage - £920
- 100% coverage - £1025

The Clerk confirmed that sufficient funds were available, and that purchasing at the maximum amount would leave sufficient end of year reserves for 10-11 months operations, well within the recommended 9-12 months.

It was **RESOLVED** to apply to the We Don't Buy Crime Smart Water initiative at 100% coverage, at a cost of £1025 plus VAT.

5) To confirm and accept the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st July 2019

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes as being a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

6) Matters arising from the minutes

Strategic Sites Consultation. The Parish Council had met in July to agree a response to the Shropshire Council Strategic Sites Consultation. The Clerk confirmed that this response had been submitted to Shropshire Council.

7) Shropshire Councillor report

Councillor Wild highlighted the recent Harworth newsletter and Frequently Asked Questions relating to the power station site development. Test blasts had recently been carried out and demolition was anticipated in November. Councillor Wild was arranging a further meeting for the parishes with the Harworth and Shropshire Council traffic and highways officers to discuss traffic implications of the proposed development.

Councillors queried whether the new development would be part of the existing Buildwas Parish, or whether a new Parish would be created and be entitled to the CIL monies. Councillor Wild clarified that Buildwas Parish was in the Severn Valley Division which was increasing in population due to new developments and the boundaries of which may require review in the near future. However, the new development sat within the current Buildwas Parish, therefore the CIL monies would be received by Buildwas Parish. There was some discussion about potential ways that the CIL monies could be used within the parish and Councillor Wild urged the Parish Council to include any possible improvements on the Place Plan.

8) Ironbridge Power Station Development.

There was no further information to discuss.

9) Defibrillator

The Village Hall Committee had purchased a defibrillator and cabinet. Arrangements were being made to install the equipment outside the Village Hall. The equipment was covered on the Village Hall insurance.

10) Finance

a) To approve payments made between meetings

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

| Ref | No | Payee | Item | Amount |
|----------|-----|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| P17-1920 | SO | N Power | Street Lighting Electricity | £79.63 |
| P18-1920 | SO | N Power | Street Lighting Electricity | £98.83 |
| P19-1920 | 573 | Zurich | Insurance | £336.87 |
| P20-1920 | SO | S Morris | Salary July | £193.00 |
| P21-1920 | SO | S Morris | Salary August | £202.40 |

b) To approve payment of accounts

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:-

| Ref | Chq No | Payee | Item | Amount |
|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| P22-1920 | 574 | S Morris | Expenses | £34.40 |

11) Planning matters

a) Notifications & updates on previously reported applications

Reference: 18/05288/FUL The Folley , 34 Much Wenlock Road, Buildwas
Replace existing porch and stair enclosure with two storey extension
Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 19/02723/FUL Ironbridge Power Station, Buildwas Road
Erection of a bat house
Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 18/02756/REM Appleby, Buildwas,
Reserved matters pursuant to outline application reference 17/01948/OUT dated
10th July 2017 for the erection of 2no dwellings with associated access to include
appearance, layout and scale (Plot 2 only)
Decision: Grant Permission

b) Applications for comment None

c) Applications received between meetings None

12) Correspondence

a) SALC Information Bulletins Noted.

b) Post-19 Travel Assistance consultation Noted.

c) Under the Wrekin magazine Noted. Cllr Grainger was attending the meeting to discuss future arrangements for the magazine. The Parish Council expressed their support for the magazine to continue as it was a valued source of information for many residents.

13) Parish Matters

a) Update and actions arising re matters previously reported

Footpath maintenance / hedgerows. The hedges along Ironbridge Road from Buildwas Bridge to Devil's Dingle were still encroaching significantly upon the adjacent footpaths. It was noted that these were privately owned.

b) Reports of new parish matters and actions arising

Damage to playground. There had been some further damage to items at the playground. Cllr Wilcox was looking into the damage and any required repairs.

The meeting closed at 8:59pm.