

Minutes of a meeting of Hadnall Parish Council held on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.30pm at Hadnall Village Hall

24/046 REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Present: Cllrs Andrew Marston (Chairman), Neil Duxbury, John Harrison, and Harmesh Jassel.

Apologies: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Andy Brisbourne, Sarah Parker, and Laura Tarburton.

Clerk: Alison Utting

Also: Flt. Lt. Jason Fretwell (RAF Shawbury), SC Cllr Simon Jones, PCSO Olly Morris (West Mercia Police), 9 members of the public.

24/047 CO-OPTION

Council noted the vacation of office by Nigel Clifford (failure to attend meetings throughout a period of six consecutive months 14/11/2023 – 14/05/2024, Local Government Act 1972 s85). The resulting casual vacancy has been advertised for the official period and no election has been requested. Council may now co-opt to fill the vacancy.

There were no applications for co-option at this time.

24/048 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

- a) A resident raised concerns about the **conduct of the Planning Committee**. He said that he had not been invited, as promised, to the meeting on 20/05/2024 and had therefore missed it. The Clerk was not aware of any such promise and explained that all meetings of the Planning Committee are advertised in the usual way on notice boards and the Parish Council website, with 3 clear days' notice given. He queried the Planning Committee's decision to support application 24/01212/FUL, made at that meeting. Cllrs Marston and Duxbury, who had been present, explained that the decision had been taken on the merits of the actual application (two open-fronted stores) and that other concerns about the use of

the units at Station Yard would constitute a separate issue, which could be properly addressed by the Enforcement office at Shropshire Council Planning. A different resident raised a **complaint about the draft minutes** of the 03/07/2024 Planning Committee meeting, which the Clerk will bring to the attention of those who had attended. He also suggested that some members present should declare an interest in planning matters on the current agenda. He was informed that councillors make their own decisions about whether they need to declare an interest and withdraw from discussion/voting.

- b) **Local Plan Preferred Site:** A complaint was raised that the last HPC article in the parish magazine had been 'extolling the virtues' of the proposed development of land to the south of Wedgefields. The Clerk expressed the sincere hope that this was not the case and that it was simply a statement of Shropshire Council's preferred site (HDL006) as shown in the draft SC Local Plan. Cllr Harrison reiterated that the Parish Council spent many years battling against the selection of this site, as there was always a clear desire expressed by the Parish Council that any expansion of the village should be East-West, rather than ribbon development along the A49. But Shropshire Council have never swerved from their preferred site and that is what is laid out in the draft Local Plan. The residents concerned expressed the hope that the Parish Council would continue to fight for the wishes of residents and oppose all development on this site. Cllr Harrison clarified that the last survey of residents' wishes showed an almost even split between those who wanted no development in the village at all and those who thought some development would be beneficial. In the case of HDL006, the Parish Council has done all it can to no avail. Any future planning applications would of course be considered on their own merits but the selection of the preferred development site must now be considered a *fait accompli*.
- c) A resident complained about the **volume of traffic on the A49** making it very difficult to pull out onto the road at certain times of day. They asked whether surveys have been or could be done, and also whether fixed speed cameras can be installed. Although there is little that can be done to take action on volume of traffic, Cllrs explained all the actions that have been taken to date regarding speed of traffic in restricted areas. Fixed cameras will not be considered by the police unless in area with recorded fatalities. Cllr Harrison offered to share the data from WMP's most recent speed survey with the concerned resident. Cllrs also agreed to harvest the most recent data from the vehicle-activated signs. PCSO Olly Morris paid close attention to the discussion and said he would report back. He mentioned the possibility of deploying the WMP speed monitoring team (motorbike officers).
- d) A resident reported a near-miss for a **customer exiting the village shop**, because a car was pulling onto the pavement to park. It was asked whether a

barrier might be put up directly outside the door of the shop to prevent this happening. Clerk to ask SC Highways if this is something that is feasible.

- e) **Project Gigabit work on Wedgefields Copse** – it was reported that more digging has been done and rubble dumped. Clerk to report.
- f) A resident reported concerns that extra housing may worsen already serious **problems with sewerage** at properties on Abbot Drive. He was encouraged to re-report all problems to Severn Trent, who are responsible for sorting this out. He was also assured that drainage considerations are always an important part of planning consultation.

24/049 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

24/050 MINUTES - It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the minutes of both the Annual Community Meeting and the annual meeting of the parish council held on 13th May 2024 as true and correct records of those meetings.

24/051 PROGRESS REPORT

- a) **Fence replacement** at the Ease – The old fencing has been removed. Cllr Jassell to chase the contractor re replacement fencing.
- b) **Violet street lights** – No progress to report.
- c) Possibility of **additional bus shelter** – Cllr Duxbury still working on this.
- d) **Land Registration (Wedgefields Copse)** - Now in the hands of the solicitor.
- e) **Bowling Club planning application** – This has all gone through and the application has been approved.
- f) **Project Gigabit** – Following submission of proof of ownership (Wedgefields Copse), the Parish Council has received a Wayleave payment of £787.50 in relation to the installation of equipment.

24/052 OTHER REPORTS

SC Cllr Simon Jones reported that due to the period of purdah preceding the General Election on 4th July, there has not been much happening. Work continues to find the £62.5m savings needed in the 2024-25 SC budget. 60% has already been found. Savings have been made in staffing by not filling vacancies and more is expected through voluntary redundancy. Senior management has been cut by 20%.

The consultation on recycling services is complete and the following decisions made: Charge for green bin will commence October this year (annual charge approx. £56 per bin). Food waste collection will start in 2026 and councils cannot charge for that. All Household Recycling Centres will remain open, with a regular one-day-per-week closure at each site to achieve savings.

Cllr Duxbury asked whether principal authorities may receive more money under the new government. Cllr Jones answered that it is too soon to tell, but that there had been indications that the percentage cap on Council Tax may be lifted.

MUGA working group – Cllrs received a report. They agreed that the working group should continue in its work and narrow down options to present to the Parish Council.

RAF Shawbury – The next stage of construction work has begun, which may mean some heavy traffic.

West Mercia Police – PCSO Olly Morris spoke briefly to clarify the policing priorities for the parish and to confirm that he would do his best to address the traffic issues raised in the public session.

Village Hall – The Village Fete is being planned for September. A grant has been requested but was too late for this agenda. Cllrs agreed that in principle they would support such an application at their September meeting.

Other reports – The Clerk had attended a meeting of clerks for the North Shropshire area. There was a general expectation expressed by leading clerks across the county that some of the financial burden for maintaining non-essential services would soon be passed down to town and parish councils. On a more positive note, Wem Town Council is happy to make their meeting room available for training or other PC needs, as well as offering cost-price printing for PCs.

The Clerk has also attended training courses on the following, all very informative: FixMyStreet (free); CDDO Changing to a gov.uk domain (free); Data Protection (free); Emotional Intelligence & Resilience (not paid for by HPC).

24/053 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION – Deferred to next meeting.

24/054 ASSET INSPECTION and BUS SHELTERS – Deferred to next meeting. (Cllr Duxbury said that a brief initial inspection showed no urgent matters).

24/055 PLANNING

- a) Council noted the **minutes** and **decisions of the Planning Committee** (20/05/2024 and 03/07/2024), including the following responses submitted:

Reference: **23/01212/FUL**

Address: Old Station Yard, Hadnall.

Proposal: Erection of two open-fronted stores (retrospective).

HPC Planning Committee decision: Support

Reference: **24/01368/FUL**

Address: Sunnyside Farm, Hadnall.

Proposal: Change of Use of Agricultural Lane to provide Phase II of the existing caravan park and Fishery to include static caravan pitches, service road and Reception / Sales Office.

HPC Planning Committee decision: Support

- b) Council considered the following planning application:

Reference: **24/02221/OUT**

Address: Land at Hermitage Farm (A49/Abbot Drive), Hadnall SY4 4AG.

Proposal: Outline application for residential development (1 x 2-bed affordable housing property, 2 x 3-bed, 2 x 4-bed properties) to include access.

Recommendation of HPC Planning Committee: Object.

HPC decision: Object (Open Countryside under Core Strategy CS5) Prop: HJ, Sec: ND, unanimous.

Council also considered the email correspondence from the Planning Officer regarding the following application:

Reference: **24/01337/OUT**

Address: Land south-west of Hadnall Hall

Proposal: Outline planning application for the erection of a two-storey dwelling.

HPC decision: Object (Open Countryside under Core Strategy CS5)

The Planning Officer's request was carefully considered, along with the feedback from the HPC Planning Committee.

Council resolved that the submitted objection should stand, as the council considers this to be the only correct response it can make under the current Local Plan.

(Prop: JH, Sec: ND, unanimous).

c) There were no further **planning applications** received in advance of this meeting.

d) Council noted the following **planning decision** published by Shropshire Council:

Reference: **24/01424/FUL**

Address: Hadnall Bowling Club

Proposal: Erection of a modular building to provide a replacement club house with roof mounted solar panels

Shropshire Council decision: Grant permission

e) There were no further **planning decisions** published in advance of this meeting.

f) To review the parish council's **planning policy** and recording of its decision-making processes – Deferred to next meeting.

24/056 FINANCE

a) Council noted the following **payments** made in June 2024:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
324.00	Clerk's salary (Jan)	LGA 1972 s112
81.00	PAYE (month 2)	LGA 1972 s112
200.00	Initial payment to solicitor for land registration	LGA 1972 s250
437.00	Annual HPC insurance	Employers' Liability Act 1969. LGA 1972 s111.
18.00	Banking charges	LGA 1972 s111

Council agreed to make the following **payments**:

Amount	Details	Power to spend
385.20	Clerk's salary & expenses	LGA1972s112, LGA (financial provisions) 1963 s5.
81.00	PAYE (month 3)	LGA 1972 s112
237.02	Electricity for street lighting (Mar, Apr, May)	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3. Highways Act 1980 s301
11.51	Domain renewal	LGA 1972 s142
111.24	Microsoft OneDrive fees (Sept-May)	LGA 1972 s142
605.00	Grounds maintenance (second quarter)	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10
25.47	Electricity for floodlighting	Parish Councils Act 1957 s3. Highways Act 1980 s301

Council noted the following **receipts**:

Amount	Details	Power to accept
1230.95	CIL money	LGA 1972 s139
1331.78	Reclaimed VAT (2023-24)	VAT Act 1994 s33
787.50	Wayleave payment (Project Gigabit)	LG(FP)A 1963 s5
216.56	Interest on CCLA account	LGA 1972 s111

- b) Council received and approved the **accounts** and **bank reconciliation** to date.
- c) **Ringfenced funds review** – This item was accidentally missed and will be on the next agenda.
- d) Council resolved that Nigel Clifford be removed as a **signatory** to the Unity Trust Bank and CCLA accounts. Remaining signatories: ND, JH, HJ.

24/057 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE AND EMAIL

- a) Council resolved to purchase a **new domain name**, *vis.* 'hadnallparishcouncil.gov.uk'. It was agreed to keep the remaining domain address active for 6 months after the launch of the new domain, with redirection in place.
- b) Council resolved to delegate the **selection and appointment of an Approved Registrar**, with due diligence regarding expense, to the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk.
- c) Council resolved to **keep its current website** (with Web Orchard), changing the domain only. Cllr Harrison pointed out that we pay an annual amount for website development which should cover some, or all, of the related costs.
- d) Council resolved that **designated parish council email addresses**, using the hadnallparishcouncil.gov.uk suffix, should be set up for all councillors and the clerk. Related costs to be borne by the council.

24/058 NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Council carefully considered the proposal that had been received regarding the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The consensus was that the benefits do not justify the projected cost to the parish (c. £20K). Council resolved to reject the offer and to continue instead with a new Community Led Plan. Prop: JH, Sec: HJ, unanimous.

24/059 LITTER PICKING EQUIPMENT

Free equipment has been received from Freedom Fibre. (Hi-vis jackets, long pickers, etc.) Cllr Jassell to ask whether this may be kept at the shop so that it is available for public use. Clerk to advertise in newsletter.

24/060 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Paul Cawthorne – Has cut hedge along A49 and lay-by footpath. Thanks sent.
- b) Moat grass cutting – Query raised on FB, response from Sansaw.
- c) West Mercia Police – July newsletter from Wem team.
- d) Crowdfund Shropshire - Next round of funding is now open. Online workshop for community groups on Thursday 18 July 2024 10.30am and 11.30am. Projects can pitch for up to £10,000 from the Shared Prosperity Community Fund (in partnership with VCS team at Community Resource), and up to £20,000 from the Green Spaces and Active Travel Fund (in partnership with Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Energize Shropshire).
- e) Police and Crime Commissioner Survey – Deadline 5th August. Cllr Duxbury agreed to complete on behalf of HPC.
- f) Leader's Update from Lezley Picton, SC.
- g) SLCC – Clerk's membership due for renewal. Has been of little help. Let slide.
- h) Resident – Query regarding Declarations of Interest (see also public session).

Highways

Road Closure: ASTLEY LANE END OF TO UPPER ASTLEY JUNCTION WITH A53 from 02/09/24 to 03/09/24. (Freedom Fibre).

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.

The next meeting of the parish council will be held on Monday 9th September.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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