



## High Offley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 19:30 hours on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, at Woodseaves Village Hall.

### Councillors Present.

E. Halls (chair); D. Turpin (Vice-Chair); S. Celecia; R. Hockenull; P. Mason; M. Smith; & County Councillor M. Winnington, together with the Clerk, S. Ridgewell and three members of the public.

### Public Open Forum.

A member of the public reported an issue with a footpath in the parish that was duly noted by Councillor Halls for consideration by the Public Rights of Way Working Group.

The Chair proposed that Item 22/041 be addressed earlier in the meeting, after Item 22/029, which was unanimously agreed to.

### 22/027: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Turvey. Apologies were also received from Stafford Borough Councillor Farrington.

### 22/028: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

An amendment was requested by Councillor Smith to Item 22/012 to reflect his expressed view that comments made by members of public from outside the parish concerning Item 22/007 should have been disregarded and not included in the response to Scottish Power.

An amendment was requested by Councillor Smith to Item 22/022 (a) to clarify the location of the obscured sign.

\* **19:38:** Councillor Winnington joined the meeting.

The Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the requested amendments being made.

### 22/029: To Note any Declarations of Interest.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

## **22/041: To Further Discuss Celebration of Her Majesty, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

a) Tree and plaque at Woodseaves C of E Primary Academy.

The prospect of providing an oak tree with a plaque was discussed.

**Action:** The Clerk was requested to explore further options to those previously considered in relation to an appropriate plaque to accompany the tree.

**Resolution:** It was unanimously agreed that an oak tree be purchased by High Offley Parish Council for planting within the school grounds.

b) Party at Woodseaves C of E Primary Academy.

Information provided by the Headteacher at Woodseaves C of E Primary Academy, was that a party would be held on the school field on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022, to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

It was conveyed that a working group led by the school, to assist in realising this event, would be set up. Councillors Halls and Turpin both volunteered to contribute to the group on behalf of High Offley Parish Council.

**Action:** Councillor Smith agreed to explore the feasibility of Dicky's Lane being closed on the day, outside the school.

c) Commemorative items for local children and young people.

Commemorative items and recipients were discussed. A preference was expressed to purchase commemorative coins.

**Action:** Councillor Winnington agreed to make enquiries with Staffordshire County Council's Education and Learning Department, to ascertain how many children and young people within the parish were in full-time education.

**Resolution:** It was unanimously agreed, in principle, that High Offley Parish Council purchase commemorative coins for children and young people living within the parish, to be ordered by the clerk, once an accurate amount required was ascertained.

d) Ring of trees on the Green at Willowcroft.

Following discussion, it was decided that this project would no longer be pursued.

## **22/030: To Receive an Update on the Post Box at Grub Street.**

The chair reported that she had received a response from Royal Mail to the effect that there were no plans to reinstate the post box. It was noted that councillors that had submitted separate complaints to Royal Mail had receive inconsistent information about the fate of the Grub Street post box.

**Action:** Councillor Smith agreed to pursue the matter further with Royal Mail.

**22/031: To Receive an Update on the Speed Signs and Speed Limit on Stafford Road.**

The Clerk reported that no further update had been received.

**22/032: To Receive an Update on the Accessibility of the Website.**

Councillor Halls reported that she had undertaken an accessibility assessment of the website and identified issues.

**Action:** Councillor Halls agreed to forward her finding to the Clerk for the issues to be addressed.

**22/033: To Receive an Update on the Parish Defibrillators.**

The Clerk reported that he was continuing to establish the maintenance situation regarding the defibrillators.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to contact two members of public identified by councillors, in an attempt to clarify the situation.

**22/034: To Receive a Report on Decals for the Bus Shelter at Willowcroft.**

Councillor Hockenhill confirmed that the decals were being provided free of charge and that he believed that were in the process of being made.

**22/035: To Receive a Report on the '20's Plenty' Scheme.**

Councillor Halls reported that she had attended an online presentation concerning the scheme and outlined the possible benefits and disadvantages.

**Resolution:** It was unanimously agreed that such a scheme would not be suitable for the parish, due to practicalities and cost.

**22/036: To Receive an Update Regarding the Civic Amenities Visits for 2022.**

The Clerk stated that the dates for the Civic Amenities visits had been set for 30<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to provide a plan, as requested by Stafford Borough Council and Veolia; compose a notice of the visits for the noticeboards and forward the information to the producers of the Church and Village Magazine.

**22/037: To Consider Planning Application 21/34522/ADV for the Post Office, Newport Road, Woodseaves.**

There were no objections to this application. One councillor abstained from voting.

**22/038: To Discuss Public Rights of Way Issues and Receive an Update on the PRow Group.**

Councillor Halls reported that the 2026 time limit, requesting inclusion of paths on the Definitive Map, had been repealed. Nonetheless, it stated that the group would continue to work on identifying 'lost paths' and work toward conducting light maintenance work.

Councillor Halls also reported that she had been in contact with Paul Rochfort at Staffordshire County Council, who had agreed to give a presentation to council and the PRow Group. It was suggested and accepted that could be done at the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **22/039: To Discuss Highway Issues.**

- a) To receive an update on the signs warning of the low bridge at Shebdon.

Councillor Winnington reported that no further progress had been made with this matter at the current time.

- b) To receive an update on the flooding issue at The Larches.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mason, Councillor Winnington and Staffordshire County Council officers for their prompt responses in resolving the urgent issue.

### **22/040: To Consider Finance Matters.**

- a) Requested Expenditure on Web Hosting Fees of £71.86.

**Resolution:** Payment of the Web Hosting Fees was unanimously agreed.

- b) Requested Expenditure on Annual SPCA Subscription of £280.29.

**Resolution:** Payment of the SPCA Subscription was unanimously agreed.

### **22/042: To Request Items for the Next Council Meeting Agenda.**

All unresolved issues were requested for inclusion on the Agenda for the next meeting. The Clerk stated that council would be asked to consider authorising a letter being sent to the Minister for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, to request that local councils be given the power to decide whether or not to their meetings online. The Chair asked that an increase in staff wages also be considered.

### **22/043: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Council Meeting.**

The chair reminded councillors that the date for the next meeting had been decided at the February meeting as Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 20:02 hours.

S. Ridgewell, Clerk to Council. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.