



## High Offley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 19:30 hours on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022, at Woodseaves Village Hall.

### Councillors Present.

E. Halls; D. Turpin; R. Hockenhull; P. Mason & M. Turvey, together with the Clerk and four members of the public.

### Public Open Forum.

- i) A member of the public asked if the average speed cameras were working, as they had noted an apparent increase in the speed of vehicles passing along the A519 through Woodseaves of late.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to obtain current statistics relating to the speed cameras.

- ii) A member of the public said that the junction of Dicky's Lane with the Stafford Road had become dangerous due to the overgrown hedge around the property adjacent to the junction.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to raise the issue with Staffordshire County Council Highways.

**19:48\*:** Staffordshire County Councillor M. Winnington arrived.

- iii) Members of the public reported increasing issues with Severn Trent works being carried out to the sewerage plant at Moscow Lane, Woodseaves, including but not limited to, work being carried out at unsociable hours and damage to the road caused by large vehicle constantly accessing the site.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to seek the assistance of Stafford Borough Council's Environmental Health and also raise the matter with Severn Trent, if necessary.

### 22/094: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor M. Smith. Apologies were also received from Stafford Borough Councillor P. Farrington.

Councillor S. Celecia was not present at the meeting.

**22/095: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were approved, with one minor amendment, as a true and accurate record.

**22/096: To Note any Declarations of Interest.**

Councillor Halls declared an interest in Item 22/102 (b) as a parent governor at the school.

**22/097: To Receive an Update on the Post Box at Grub Street.**

The Clerk stated that he had received a reply to a request for assistance in this matter made to from Sir Bill Cash, MP. The response from Paul Scully, MP, was:

*“The siting of post boxes is an operational matter for Royal Mail, a private company. The Government is not involved in the day-to-day operations of the company and does not play a role in handling or resolving complaints regarding Royal Mail’s services.”*

Council were unsure if there were any other avenues open to the council in resolving this issue, after numerous complaints to Royal Mail, and representations also made by Councillor Farrington on behalf of Stafford Borough Council, proved unsuccessful.

**22/098: To Receive an Update on the Speed Indicator Sign for Stafford Road.**

The Clerk reported that he had made enquiries with Staffordshire County Council Highways concerning the procedure for the placement of a sign on Stafford Road and had been advised that an appliance on the highway licence (£378) and a permit to dig (£367) would be required before an approved contractor could be engaged to complete the necessary work.

Councillor Winnington said that he was willing to explore the possibility of Staffordshire County Council providing more assistance with this matter.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to forward correspondence regarding this matter to Councillor Winnington, so that he could make further enquiries.

**22/099: To Consider Maintenance of the Noticeboard at Shebdon.**

As Councillor Smith was not present, there was no update regarding enquiries he had agreed to make with a local contractor. Councillor Halls reported that the noticeboard was in a poor state when she had sought to the post the agenda for this meeting in it.

**Action:** Councillor Turvey agreed to assess if he was able to conduct repairs to the noticeboard.

**22/100: To Discuss Public Rights of Way Issues and Receive an Update on the PRoW Group.**

Councillor Halls reported that she was still awaiting contact from Nigel Hopkins from Staffordshire County Council, concerning advice and assistance regarding maintenance that the PRoW Group may be able to conduct, and would chase this up.

**22/101: To Receive an Update Regarding the Website.**

Councillor Halls reported that she had conducted an assessment of a website already provided with the assistance of Staffordshire County Council, from an accessibility point of view, and that the results were very encouraging.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to further pursue the creation of a new website with Staffordshire County Council.

#### **22/102: To Discuss Highway Issues.**

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

Councillor Winnington reported that he understood a new sign, to replace a missing sign on the A519 from Eccleshall to Woodseaves, was on order.

- b) To receive an update on the provision of the child silhouette signs to Woodseaves C of E Primary.

Councillor Halls reported that the signs had been very well received and were proving effective in change driver behaviour.

#### **22/103: To Consider Finance Matters.**

- a) Payments made since the last meeting.

The Clerk provided a summary of the payments made since the last meeting, including the donation to the Eccleshall First Responders; grass cutting at the school for the Jubilee party; the Data Protection fee and the child silhouette signs.

- b) Requested payment for Annual Insurance.

It was unanimously agreed to pay the annual insurance premium of £241.32.

- c) Requested payment for Website Domain Name.

It was unanimously agreed to pay the Website Domain Name renewal fee of £14.39.

- d) Requested payment of Clerk's quarterly wages.

It was unanimously agreed to pay the Clerk's quarterly wages of £770.96 (gross).

Councillor Turvey asked if the possibility of having a savings account would be worthy of consideration.

**Action:** The Clerk agreed to explore options, with regard to a savings account.

#### **22/104: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.**

In addition to currently unresolved matters and regular items, those concerning matters raised in Public Open Forum were requested for the next meeting's agenda.

**22/105: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Meeting.**

The next meeting was confirmed as being at 19:30 hours on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 20:33 hours.

S. Ridgewell, Clerk to Council. Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022.