



High Offley Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of Council held at 19:30 hours on Thursday 13th June 2024, at Woodseaves Village Hall.

Councillors Present.

Cllrs E. Halls (Chair); P. Haslop; R. Hockenhull; P. Mason, D. Turpin; M. Turvey and Staffordshire County Councillor M. Winnington (20:10 arrival), Stafford Borough Councillor, Scott Spencer together with the Clerk.

Public Open Forum.

Chair Halls opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

Residents (5) attended on behalf of agenda item 24/055, planning application 24-39092.

24/051: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.

Cllr. Mike Smith.

24/052: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 9 May 2024

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9 May 2024 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

24/053: To Note any Declarations of Interest.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

24/054: To Discuss Highway Issues.

a) To receive an update on Grub Street

Cllr. Mason gave an update on his observations over multiple visits he had made recently; the area appears to be quiet, mess free and inhabited by one car which is not near the gateway.

There is one boat moored.

Cllr. Winnington suggested that the situation should be monitored and if the resident affected sees a surge again in activity to report this to us and we can then look to investigate this further.

Action: Clerk to write to resident in response with update.

b) To receive an update on Staffordshire County Council's grit availability

Staffordshire County Council are unable to install a new bin but have sent details on where existing bins are which will be filled in readiness for Winter. Due to health and safety reasons, collection of reserves is not permissible.

Action: Cllr. Winnington to speak to Diane Firkins to see if there is any leeway.

24/055 To Receive an Update on Planning Applications.

24-38748-FUL Land East of Brookside Gregory Lane, Loynton

No objections.

24-39092 NAGR Old Hall Farm Shebdon Road High Offley

Chair Halls noted that the NAGR's are not usually sent for consideration and the application has been given prior approval because it is agricultural. A definition of an NAGR application was explained.

A resident of High Offley reported that they were unaware of the application until this agenda was issued. A notice on the telegraph pole was not placed until this morning. The resident has been in talks today with Mark Danforth at Stafford Borough Council. The annotations on the maps are incorrect. A summary of the issues were given, namely; similar applications at the same property have been made and approved previously, however the residents feel that the buildings are not being used in the manner that they were originally intended i.e. agricultural equipment/food for animals. The barns (6) are being used to house livestock (photos supplied). The residents wished the Councillors to note that the application asks specifically if the barn will be used for livestock and within 400m of a dwelling and the boxes had been ticked 'no'. Two of the barns have no planning permission, Stafford Borough Council know about one and other they have stated that it was not worth pursuing. Ownership of the farm was discussed. Other issues raised; it is also believed that a static caravan is on the property (since February 2024) ostensibly being used to house sheep and a stile at the start of PRow is unusable as it has animal excrement dumped on it.

Councillor's agreed to draft a response that includes resident concerns; increasing number of barns since 2017 via the prior approval method and we would like the PAGR process to be instigated on the grounds that we have received information that potentially the two previous NAGR's have potentially been misused and therefore consultation should be initiated. There are also concerns about the proximity to listed buildings and the absence of information about the houses that are within 400m that are not listed.

Cllr. Mason asked that the response to Stafford Borough includes an ask that we be notified of any future planning applications relating to this property.

Action: Chair Halls to formulate a response for Councillors to sign off and Clerk to return by 24 June 2024.

24/056 To Receive Any Reports from Borough and County Councillors

a) Councillor Scott Spencer, Stafford Borough Council

Solar farms are a hot topic and there is some mis-information floating around. A desk study has been completed that identified some areas that could potentially be suitable for housing solar farms as they meet certain criteria such as south facing, size (3 acres) and access. No further plans have been made beyond this and owner agreement would be sought before proceeding. Additional conversation took place around the process and included the Solar Farm in Adbaston.

Local Plan – upcoming election and new administration will have an impact on the plan.

b) Councillor Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council

Following on from Local Plan conversation, early indications are that the next plan is going to collapse. Councillor consultation dates have been missed. There is less enthusiasm for

Meecebrook Garden Community and this could mean there will be more pressure on villages going forward for housing development.

Work is being carried out on the main roads.

24/057: To Re-affirm High Offley Parish Council Policies

- a) Code of Conduct 2021
- b) Complaints Procedure 2021
- c) Data Policy 2021
- d) Financial Regulations 2024
- e) Publication Scheme 2021

Amendments to the above policies were discussed.

Action: Clerk to update and place on website.

24/058: To Receive an update on Shebdon Defibrillator Removal

First Responders have confirmed that the defib can be removed from site and disposed of.

Action: Cllr. Hockenhull to seek permission from landowner for its retrieval.

CPR / Defib Training – will be held on the morning of 14 September 2024 at Woodseaves Village Hall. Max numbers are 25.

24/059: To Receive an Update on Installation of the Speed Indicator Sign for Stafford Road

Chair Halls confirmed that the speed indicator sign has now been installed and extended thanks to Cllr Winnington.

Action: Chair to write to extend thanks to those involved in the installation of the sign.

24/060: To Discuss correspondence relating to proposed Solar Farm in Adbaston

Cllr. Haslop has attempted to investigate the Solar Farm connection to the grid but has been unsuccessful as information can only be given to the owner or someone with authority (local council).

Chair Halls wrote to the objectors and they had no information re connection to the grid either. They were unaware of the Local Plan until recently and received no information or consultation notice about its proposal. The group viewed a parliamentary debate in which the Energy Minister stated that arable land is not suitable for solar farms. They passed their thanks to HOPC for listening / support.

Action: Cllr. Haslop to forward communication from National Grid to Cllr. Winnington to see if there is someone within Staffordshire County Council that can help with further information or pursue a response.

24/061: To Consider Finance Matters.

- a) Approval of Payments & Payments made since the last meeting.
 - PAID: Clerk's Wages = £202.00
 - PAID: High Offley and Knightley Parochial Church Council Grants 23/24 & 24/25 = £830.00
 - PAID: D Cox reimbursement of High Offley Church replacement flag = £39.99

b) Renewal of the annual ICO GDPR Licence = £40

Resolution: Payment was unanimously approved.

c) Annual Governance & Accountability Return

- i. The Internal Auditor Report was received and noted.
- ii. The Certificate of Exemption unanimously approved.
- iii. Each section (1-9) of Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 was unanimously approved.
- iv. The Accounting Statements for 2023/24 were unanimously approved.

24/062: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.

It was requested that all unresolved items feature on the agenda for the next meeting in July.

- Councillor Declarations of Interest / Pecuniary Interests
- Old Hall Farm Hedges

24/063: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Meeting.

19:30 – Thursday 11th July 2024

Apology Cllr. Mason

Deb Cox, Clerk to Council. Friday 21st June 2024