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High Offley Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of Council held at 19:30 hours on
Thursday 14th November 2024, at Woodseaves Village Hall.

Councillors Present.

Cllrs E. Halls (Chair); P. Haslop; R. Hockenhull; P.Mason; D. Turpin; M. Turvey, together with the Clerk.

Cllr Scott Spencer, Stafford Borough Council and Cllr Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council

Public Open Forum.

Members of the public are invited to address the Council on any issue over which it has power, for up to 5 minutes each.

High Offley Road – Speed of Vehicles

A resident raised concerns around the speed of vehicles travelling on High Offley road and the potential for fatalities if action is not taken. The resident wanted to discuss possible ways of slowing the traffic and educating drivers on driving safely on country roads. The resident felt that awareness of the issue needs publicising via different avenues including social media.

Chair Halls suggested reporting to Staffordshire County Council's Highways Department as High Offley Parish Council have limited powers and resource. An extension of the 30 mph zone was discussed including the lengthy timescales and costs involved. Speed cameras were mentioned but again timescales and costs were highlighted. Councillor Haslop suggested taking to the Fundraising Committee to consider options and funding.

ACTION: Councillor Mason to write to the Highways Department at Staffordshire County Council asking for a review of the 30 mph zone. Agenda item for next meeting.

Public Transport

Chair Halls reported that she had been sent a communication about the lack of public transport between Woodseaves and Newport. The recent budget update had highlighted a need to improve public transport for those people in rural areas as not everyone is able to

drive. The resident reported that a taxi cost is £20 to the nearest supermarket. Chair Halls did some research and has found that the Chase Rider bus, number 432 operates between Stafford, Woodseaves and Eccleshall on a daily basis. However, it was noted that there are no buses to Newport.

ACTION: Councillor Spencer offered to highlight with the local MP. Agenda item for next meeting.

Remembrance Poppies

Two residents have queried if it is possible to purchase and display remembrance poppies. Local businesses fund poppies in other areas and it was suggested that High Offley, Woodseaves and Shebdon may like to do the same. The soldier silhouette was thought to be a nice addition. The Royal British Legion supply 20 poppies for approx. £95.

ACTION: Councillor Haslop to speak to Roden about their displays. Chair Halls to approach Woodseaves Primary School to see if their students would like to be involved in producing poppies for display. Agenda item for next meeting.

Blocked Bridlepath

Chair Halls on behalf of a resident reported a blocked bridlepath however after initial investigation, the location of one of the reported bridlepath issues was found to not be a formal Public Right of Way. Subsequently some of the blockages have now been cleared. Reports were also given that footpath markers have been knocked down, but no precise locations were given, so this will be checked with the member of the public so they can be reported to the PROW team via their website.

The resident has started a WhatsApp group for parish residents to talk about Public Rights of Way matters and any areas that need to be cleared, restored by volunteers. If anyone would like to join, please contact Chair Halls for the details.

24/104: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.

Apology: Councillor Smith

24/105: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 10 October 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

24/106: To Note any Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

24/107: To Discuss Old Hall Farm

High Offley Parish Council have received no further applications to date regarding Old Hall Farm. On the planning portal there is a Lawful Development Certificate for existing agricultural building but these along with PAGR's and NAGR's are not sent to High Offley Parish Council for consideration.

Chair Halls has followed up with the Public Rights of Way Team regarding the path situated in the High Offley 10 but no additional information has been forthcoming.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Mark Darnforth to ask for an update a full case history review on all applications and ask for an extension to all outstanding including those not added to the planning portal so we can consider them. Clerk to also request that notices be displayed as this has not always been the case.

ACTION: Clerk to also write to the Case Officer at Stafford Borough Council and ask to be supplied with any action taken to date.

24/108: To Discuss Planning Applications

24/39756/HOU - Laburnum Cottage, Newport Road, Woodseaves

This application had a respond by date of 8 November 2024, therefore Councillors considered their response prior to the meeting and unanimously agreed that there are no objections.

24/39713/FUL at Old Hall Farm Shebdon Road High Offley

This application had a respond to date of the 13 November 2024, therefore Councillors considered their response prior to the meeting and unanimously agreed to object to the planning application.

24/39890/PAF Manor Farm Barns, Shebdon Road, High Offley

Councillors considered the application and agreed unanimously to no objection to this application.

Appeal 24/39326/OUT Land off Stafford Road Woodseaves

Councillors considered the appeal and stood by their original objection as the proposed buildings are outside of the boundary development.

24/109: To Discuss Highway Issues

a) Staffordshire County Council's grit availability – location of delivery and quantity
Staffordshire County Council have agreed to supply a quantity of grit. Councillor Hockenhull confirmed it could be delivered to his property.

Councillor Turvey asked for prior approval for 2x 1 tonne storage bags.

Resolution: Agreement was unanimously given.

b) Oldershaws Lane speed limit signage

The 30mph repeater signs appear to be missing on Oldershaws Lane and one is leaning at 45 degrees. The issues have been reported to Staffordshire County Council who said that the lane is actually 60mph. Discussion took place around potential ways to tackle speeding in the area. A Community Speedwatch group was suggested and Councillor Winnington supported the initiative and said volunteers are always sought after.

Chair Halls reported that the '20 is plenty' initiative had been considered previously but discounted as all roads would then need to become 20mph.

It was agreed that evidence in data form is needed rather than anecdotal reports. A 'data logger' was suggested as one way of capturing the information to be able to influence change.

24/110: To Discuss Public Rights of Way

a) To discuss reports of an inaccessible bridlepath
Raised and discussed under public open forum.

24/111: To Receive Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Councillor Spencer reported that the Local Plan is out for consultation again until January 2025 and now incorporates the new housing targets.

Councillor Winnington stated he is pleased that locally pot holes have been a priority and many have been repaired.

24/112: To Receive an Update on Shebdon's Defibrillator Removal

The landowner has confirmed removal of the defibrillator in Shebdon. Item to be now removed from the agenda.

24/113: To Receive a Report regarding the recent Civic Amenities visit and to consider booking visits for next year

Chair Halls that the visit held on 2 November 2024 was really well used. Dates for 2025 were suggested – 26 April and 1 November.

Action: Clerk to confirm dates with Stafford Borough Council

24/114: To Discuss Correspondence relating to the proposed Solar Farm in Adbaston (Councillor Mark Winnington)

No further information on connectivity to the sub-station has been forthcoming. All attempts to fact find have not been successful. Item to now be removed from agenda until further developments arise.

24/115: To Discuss Collection of Mail in Shebdon – Response from Royal Mail

Royal Mail have responded to apologise for the reported issues and gave assurance that the Collections Manager for the area will take appropriate steps to stop them happening again where possible. They state that the postbox was emptied at the expected time.

24/116: To consider NALC's Response to the Law Commission's Consultation on Grave Re-use

Councillors decided to not respond to the consultation.

24/117: To Consider Finance Matters.

a) Approval of payments made since the last meeting.

PAID: Council administration costs = £101.10

PAID: Staffordshire Parish Council Association membership fee = £293.33

PAID: Q2 Village Hall Hire = £18.00

PAID: Q2 HMRC PAYE = £89.80

b) To agree the reimbursement on behalf of Councillor Smith of stamp costs = £8.10

Resolution: Payment was unanimously approved.

c) To consider the purchase of a new flag for High Offley Church

A new flag is now needed for the church. Councillor Turvey has a flag that can be used.

d) To agree Clerk's Backpay following release of latest government pay scale

Resolution: Payment of £68.36 was unanimously approved.

24/118: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.

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

24/119: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Meeting.

18:00 – 12 December 2024

D Cox

Deb Cox, Clerk to Council. Monday 2 December 2024