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High Offley Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting of Council held at 18:00 hours on
Thursday 12 December 2024 at Woodseaves Village Hall.

Councillors Present.

Cllrs E. Halls (Chair); P. Haslop; R. Hockenhull; P.Mason; M. Smith; 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.

A resident attended in support of the display of Remembrance Poppies and had conducted research around cost and availability. The resident extended an offer of help to install along with an ask that, if agreed, poppies are purchased for Woodseaves, Shebdon and High Offley. The item is on this meeting's agenda, and will be discussed under 24/127.

Chair Halls reported she has received a letter from a resident regarding speeding on High Offley Road. Item is on this meeting's agenda and will be discussed under 24/124.

24/120: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences.

None received.

24/121: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 14 November 2024

Public Open Forum Amendment: High Offley Road – speed of vehicles. Action should have been allocated to the Clerk and not Cllr Mason.

24/111 Amendment: The Local Plan is not yet out for consultation. Cllr Spencer to update under item 24/125.

24/122: To Note any Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Turvey declared an interest in the letter received from a resident to be discussed under 24/124, speeding on High Offley Road.

24/123: To Discuss Old Hall Farm

Chair Halls reported that she has received communication from the Public Rights of Way Team who have had a meeting with Stafford Borough Council regarding public right of way, High Offley 10, to discuss formally diverting the footpath around the farm buildings that Staffordshire County Council approved. SCC have agreed to look into this further and provide an update to the PROW Team in due course.

High Offley Parish Council have not to date seen any further planning applications. Currently on the planning portal there are two items relating to Old Hall Farm - 'Lawful Development Certificate for existing agricultural building' and a 'Retrospective consent for the retention of buildings approved under prior approval for storage, now being used for livestock housing and full approval of size and design'. Both are awaiting decision. The Clerk has written to Mark Danforth at Stafford Borough Council for a list of all (current and historical) applications received including PAGR/NAGR and a request that all future applications are sent to us for oversight/decision. The Clerk has also written to the Enforcement Case Officer (A Mahmood) for an update. Neither have replied.

Action: Clerk to email both again for a further for an update and involve Cllr's Winnington and Spencer and Cllr Ant Reid, Cabinet Member for Planning, Stafford Borough Council, if necessary.

A resident reported that the rat problem at Old Hall Farm which is impacting surrounding properties is now prevalent. Cllr Winnington advised that rodent problems can be reported to Stafford Borough Council.

24/124: To Discuss Highway Issues

a) Staffordshire County Council's grit delivery

Staffordshire County Council have delivered a tonne of grit for distribution locally.

b) Speeding on High Offley Road

Chair Halls read a letter received from a resident regarding speeding on High Offley Road, particularly between the junction of Back Lane and The Green, and up to Home Farm. They are concerned about their ability to safely continue to walk along the road due to the speed of traffic, pot holes, overgrown and unmaintained hedgerows, blocked ditches and flooding. They noted the 60mph speed limit but feel it would be safer if the 30mph zone could be extended. The suggested extension would be to move the 30 mph signage to The Bungalow, Holly Lea ST20 0LH.

Action: Clerk to write to the Highways Department at Staffordshire County Council and ask for their consideration regarding this matter, copying Cllr. Winnington.

Action: Cllr Turvey to report the pot holes online to Staffordshire County Council.

c) Potholed road list

Cllr Spencer is working with Colin Perkins, Maintenance Manager at Staffordshire County Council around roads that we deem as unsatisfactory and Colin will instruct Local Teams and provide updates. The roads agreed by Councillors to submit are:

- Gregory Lane
- The Street outside Mostyn House
- High Offley Road at the junction of Back Lane/The Green
- Grub Street

24/125: To Receive Reports from Borough and County Councillors

a) Councillor Scott Spencer – including public transport update

Cllr Spencer has emailed our local MP Leigh Ingham about the lack of public transport between Woodseaves and Newport but has not yet received a response.

Action: Cllr Spencer to email further asking for a response.

Local Plan – the consultation is now going to be significantly delayed due to the recently announced housing targets. Stafford Borough Council have responded to Westminster to state the proposal for Staffordshire is unsustainable.

b) Councillor Mark Winnington

No additional update given. Cllr Winnington suggested writing to the Leader of the Council regarding bus provision and highlighting the gap in service.

Action: Clerk to write to Staffordshire County Council about the lack of bus provision in the area.

24/126: To Consider the Civic Amenities Cost Increase – January 2026 Onwards

Civic Amenity Visit costs remain the same for 2025 as previous years. In April 2025 costs will be determined for 2026. No further consideration at this point is needed other than to note a potential cost increase. Councillors agreed to consider at the point of receipt.

24/127: To Discuss Remembrance Poppies

Cllr Haslop has spoken to a contact at Roden who has said that the garden display had been created by local residents and funded by local fund-raising and individual donations. The solid silhouette can be purchased for a cost of £204.95 inc. VAT.

Poppies can be purchased for a cost of £95 for 20.

Discussion took place around funding options including shared costs with local businesses, fundraising at the local church fete and asking residents to contribute.

Chair Halls has positioned an ask for help from Woodseaves Primary School in producing poppies for display.

Action: Cllr Haslop to take to the members of the church committee.

Resolved: Agreement was given to set aside an amount towards the costs (including supplies for the school). Figure to be determined at a future point.

24/128: To Discuss NALC's Fee Increase and Correspondence to Chief Executive's Bulletin – 21.11.24

Cllr Smith suggested writing to the CEO of NALC after hearing that he had congratulated the Chancellor on her budget, to explain the impact that it will have on local economy, particularly the farming community.

Action: Cllr Smith to draft response for the Clerk to send.

24/129: To Discuss Stafford Borough Council's Local Plan Consultation

Discussed under agenda item 24/125.

24/130: To Consider Finance Matters.

- a) Payments made since the last meeting.
 - PAID: Council administration costs = £143.21
 - PAID: Clerks backpay = £54.69

24/131: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.

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

24/132: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Meeting.

19:30 – 13 February 2025

Cllr Mason gave his apology for the next meeting.

D Cox

Deb Cox, Clerk to Council. Thursday 27 January 2025