

Minutes of Clungunford Parish Council

November 2019

Clungunford Parish Council met on **Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 8pm** in the Village Hall.

Present: Chairman: Cllr Jonathan Roberts. Cllr Keith Arbery; Cllr Mary Bason; Cllr John Elliott; Cllr Anne Gledhill; Cllr Elizabeth Lyster; Cllr Neville Rollason; Cllr Maureen Rooney; Cllr Mike Tucker.

Attending: County Cllr Nigel Hartin

Clerk: Mr Max Maxwell

Business

40. Declarations of interest

There were none.

41. Apologies

There were none.

42. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted and signed by the chair.

43. Matters arising from previous minutes

The Chair thanked Cllr Lyster for the article about antisocial dog behaviour that was published in the *Gunnas Gazette*. However, it appears that it has had little effect with various reports of dogs still running loose and fouling public areas in the village. The council agreed that the clerk should contact the dog warden again to explain the problem and see if visits to the village can be arranged.

Action: the clerk will write to the Dog Warden with input from Cllr Lyster.

44. Draft budget for 2020/21

The clerk had provided suggested figures for the 2020/21 budget based on existing expenditure. No significant additional costs have been identified for the coming year. The proposal would mean keeping the precept at the existing level, and this would still allow a reserve of roughly £6000 by year-end 2019/20 and potentially around £7000 by year-end 2020/21.

The council noted that this healthy reserve could be used to support improvements in the village in the coming year. Various ideas were discussed and it was agreed that a discussion with the Village Hall Committee would be useful to see what could usefully be improved around the Village Green/Recreation Ground. The Chair noted that we should seek to retain a reasonable reserve for contingency.

The council agreed the draft budget.

Actions: Cllr Lyster to raise potential funding with the Village Hall Committee.

45. Update on Speed Signs

Cllr Roberts reported that locations for poles to hold the speed signs have now been agreed with Shropshire Council. Count Cllr Hartin indicated that Bucknell Parish Council were looking to either sell (at cost) a speed sign for £2700 or lease at £200 per month. And we should

receive a letter to this effect shortly. The council agreed that purchasing was the best way forward and will respond accordingly.

Action: clerk to respond to the Bucknell Parish Council letter when received.

46. Correspondence

The Chair noted the second disappointing response from Severn Trent Water (STW) regarding hedges and visibility at the Abcott junction of the B4367. The council agreed that there was little point in further correspondence with STW and should now write to Shropshire Council regarding the matter.

The council noted that a similar situation persists at Long Meadow End where a privately-owned hedge obscures the view when turning from the B4367 onto the B4368. This has been a longstanding problem which we should raise again with Shropshire Council.

Action: Clerk to write to Shropshire Council about both hedges.

47. Finances

The council authorised the following payments:

- £12 HOWTLA annual subscription
- £30 Village Hall hire for six months
- £100 to Jim Gell for grass cutting in 2019.

48. Parish Matters

The clerk informed the council that Shropshire Council's system for dealing with highway problems is now almost exclusively through their website. Concerns can be reported by anyone and are issued with a reference number. The clerk has found this service provides varied results with the added difficulty that there is no easy way to 'chase' outstanding reports.

The quickest and more efficient way of reporting problems about roads to Shropshire Council will be to use this site, although the clerk is more than happy to report concerns that are raised with him. Issues that do not receive a satisfactory result through this process can then be escalated. Those concerns marked with an asterisk below will be reported by the clerk to Shropshire Council through the website.

Action: The clerk will share a link to this website with all councillors.

The following parish matters were raised:

1. Cllr Arbery reported that the drain at bottom of School Lane is overgrown and not taking in water. *
2. Cllr Rooney reported that a dead tree on the road to Long Meadow End seems dangerous and ought to be taken down. It was felt that this would be addressed through recent tree assessments.
3. Cllr Gledhill reported that the Twitchen Road has been affected by recent rains and has new pot-holes.*
4. Cllr Bason noted that Beckjay Lane is being resurfaced although she did not feel this was necessary. She also raised the difficulty of seeing past the hedge at Sycamore Cottage when exiting Chapel Road.

5. Cllr Elliott asked County Cllr Hartin about the new arrangements for road improvements. Cllr Hartin indicated that a new type of machinery was operating on minor roads but that the main problem was that Shropshire Council's contractual requirements with the highways repair operator were not being met. The situation is currently being reviewed.
6. Cllr Tucker stated that the drain outside 'Oakfields' at Hopton Heath is blocked again and a stream towards Hopton Castle had backed up and disrupted the railway. *
7. Cllr Roberts indicated that there is still no news regarding next steps in the planning application for poultry units at Hopton Heath. A meeting between various parties affected by such planning applications in the area and Shropshire Council's Director of Place (Mr Mark Barrow) will take place on 4th December at Shire Hall. The meeting will explore how Shropshire Council might improve the way they deal with such applications. Cllrs Roberts, Elliot and Rollason will attend for Clungunford Parish Council.
8. County Cllr Hartin indicated that County Cllr Lee Chapman will be attending a meeting on 4th December with EE, the telecommunications company, to discuss mobile coverage in the area. He asks anyone with information about black spots for EE coverage in the parish to email Cllr Chapman - lee.chapman@shropshire.gov.uk.

49. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 8pm in the village hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

Max Maxwell
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