

Culmington Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting on 4th March, 2025

Present: Councillors Mr M Seabrook (Chair), Mr A Pike (Vice Chair), Mrs C Byng, Mrs M Holland, Mrs J Mear, Mr I Steele. **In Attendance:** Cllr C Motley (Shropshire Council), H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Mr Ian Alderson, Mr J Turley and Ms J Watts.
2. **Declarations of Interest relating to this meeting:** None
3. **Public Involvement Session:** Two members of the public were in attendance. Mr Andrew Mear reported that Shropshire Council have found the plans of the drain on Seifton Lane installed in the 1990 which he shared with councillors. Mr Mear has been asked by John Bellis, Shropshire Council to organise for the area in front of the outflow of the drain on Cllr Turley's land to be desilted. It is hoped that this will improve the drainage on Seifton Lane and allow for the drain cover to be repaired.
The Clerk read out a report from PCSO Lisa Thomas (West Mercia Police) who apologised for not being able to attend the meeting. She reported that there had been two crimes in Culmington Parish Council area during the last six months – vehicle thefts. There have been no reports of hare coursing from Culmington but they are conducting regular patrols of the Corvedale as there have been reports in other areas. The team are keen to receive reports of offences as they are occurring. They have recently conducted speed monitoring in Culmington village – the average speed of vehicles checked was 33.54 mph with one at 41mph and another at 45mp in the 40mph speed limit area. They have conducted a number of rural crime operations in the area which involve saturating the area with marked and unmarked vehicles during the evenings. They have visited farms offering security advise and there are free SmartWater kits for farms that do not already have it. The Council wishes to retain the same three priorities for the next six months: Thefts (farm), speeding and wildlife crime which includes sheep worrying.
4. **Minutes:** To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th February 2025: Cllr Mear asked for the entry 5.2 to state that 'the committee are seeking a new treasurer'
RESOLVED: once corrected the minutes were signed by the chair.
5. **Reports from Members**
 - 5.1. Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley reported that the council had its last council meeting last week before it goes into the pre-election period. They have settled the accounts for this financial year but further savings will need to be made next financial year. The Council has received the Care Quality Commission rating of 'good' after the inspection last June. They have been working on the Devolution Agenda. She expects that the review of parish boundaries will restart after the election.
 - 5.2. Village Hall Committee– Cllr Mear reported that the AGM is on the 20th May.
 - 5.3. Flood Action Group – Cllr Byng reported that the Shropshire Wildlife Trust were visiting local farmers to look at storage ponds and how to prevent soil erosion and hope to increase the leaky dams in Seifton Batch. The FAG has been informed by Shropshire Council that in future when a drain is being emptied it will also be jetted. Cllr Pike reported issues with water running from Sparchford Lane to the church after heavy rain. The Clerk will report this to Shropshire Council.
 - 5.4. South Shropshire Area Committee – H Coonick (Clerk) reported that there had been an update on arrangements for the elections. Stanton Lacy Parish Council were concerned about an increase in fly tipping which will hopefully reduce now the booking system at the recycling centre has stopped. Nash Parish Council were concerned about the cost to small councils of the elections. The Committee

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plan to invite John Campion, Police and Crime Commissioner and a representative of the Planning Enforcement Team to future meetings.

6. Highways

6.1. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Funding Application:

RESOLVED: to check if Shropshire Council intends to clear ditches and if not to write a letter of objection. The consideration of the funding application was deferred to the next meeting.

6.2. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Hourly Rate for 2025-26:

RESOLVED: to increase the rate to £19 per hour from April 2025

6.3. Update on the Request to Shropshire Council to Move the Vehicle Activated Sign at the Western Entrance to Culmington Village Further West: Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer, Nick Newton had responded to the request stating that the present site allowed drivers time to adjust to the speed limit, clear access for the solar panels and the VAS would detract from the importance of the remaining signs if it was moved further towards the speed limit sign. The Clerk has asked West Mercia Police if speed checks could be taken from the entrance to the village hall.

6.4. Consider Installing Village Gateways at Entrances to Culmington Village: Any gateway installed on the verge would need to be at least 450mm from the highway. The narrowest gates that are available are 960mm – the clerk will continue to investigate this and will measure the verge at the speed limit sign. The Clerk will check if there will be a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner for traffic calming in the new financial year.

7. Flooding

7.1. Update on Site Meeting with Shropshire Council Flood Engineer: this had been a very useful meeting and the plans for the drain had been found.

7.2. Consider Desilting Seifton Brook and Permit Application: It is unlikely that the brook will be desilted this year.

RESOLVED: to submit a Permit Application in mid-April.

8. Agree Items for the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda: the Council will invite the Chair of the Flood Action Group and the Emergency Officer – Mr Hugh Disley. Consideration of Parish Boundaries will also be included in the agenda.

9. Update on Parish Council Election on 1st May 2025: nomination papers are now available from the Clerk or Shropshire Council for anyone interested in standing. The closing date for nominations is the 2nd April.

10. Review the Risk Assessment: to include the need for specific Parish Councillor emails in the section on Cyber Security.

RESOLVED: to adopt the Risk Assessment.

11. Consider the Tree Preservation Order on the Limes and Pines Opposite the Village Hall (TPO 2025 (SC/00530/25): a preservation order has now been placed on the trees.

12. Update on the Blocked Bridleway: there has been no response from Shropshire Councillor Macey (Portfolio Holder - Culture and Digital)

RESOLVED: to write again and copy in Lezley Picton(Shropshire Council's leader),

13. Update on Letter to re Ludlow Hospital: Replies from both the Mayor of Ludlow and the MP that they share the Council's concerns about the health and wellbeing of parishioners and are engaging with relevant partners to develop an action plan that will make healthcare simpler, faster and fairer.

14. Finance:

14.1. Review the Asset Register:

RESOLVED: to agree that the register was accurate.

14.2. Agree the Statement of Internal Controls

RESOLVED: to adopt the statement.

14.3. Decide on Grants and Donations:

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RESOLVED: to retain £70 of the donations budget to support the Village Hall's maintenance of the defibrillator. To give donations of £35 each to Ludlow Hospital League of Friends, Shropshire Dial-a-Ride, Ripples Magazine and Midlands Air Ambulance.

14.4. Note Income: Parish Paths Partnership (P3) £250 – noted.

14.5. Authorise Payments: Information Commissioner £47, H Coonick and HMRC for Salary Jan-March £889.85 and Travel Expenses £17.55, D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) Inv 700 £54, J Williams (reimbursement Parish Paths Partnership £171.46

RESOLVED: to make the above payments

14.6. Consider Opening a Savings Account: it was considered that the additional administration of a second account would outweigh the small amount of interest now paid on savings accounts.

RESOLVED: to not open a savings account.

15. Items for the Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 1st April 2025: a. Invite the candidates standing for Election for the Corvedale Division of Shropshire Council b. Agree the Environmental Maintenance Funding Application c. Consider installing village gateways. e. Update on the Blocked Bridleway

Signed:

Date: