

# CORELEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Coreley Village Hall Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.00 pm

### 2021/12 Present

Mrs J. Thomas (Chairman)	Mr. I. Smith	Mrs. C. Clayton
Mr Terry Hilder	Mr. V Romeo	Mrs. J. Williams
Ms. K. Sylvester	Mrs. A. Austin	

Also Present: Mrs. S. Jones (Clerk)

### 2021/13 Apologies

None

### 2021/14 Public participation

None

### 2021/15 Shropshire Councillor Report – Simon Harris

The leadership of Shropshire Council has now been established with the election of Lezley Picton as the first woman Leader of the Council – Lezley represents the Tern Division for the Conservative Party. Lezley has formed her Cabinet; with Steve Charmley as her Deputy - and he also has responsibility for Highways.

Huge congratulations are due to Cllr Gwilym Butler who has been appointed to the Cabinet with responsibility for Resources – which among other duties includes the Council's finances. The south of Shropshire is further represented in the Cabinet through appointments to the Communities and Child Support portfolios. Moreover Richard Marshall, who represents Worfield (ie South Shropshire) is the Highways deputy – which hopefully will assist as we look for support for improvement to our rural roads. Richard has a transport business, so will be acutely aware of the challenges.

There does seem to be a determination to address the poor state of the roads; while this is no comfort, I understand that Shropshire's roads are no worse than those managed by other Local Authorities. South Shropshire's roads are a particular challenge as 2/3rds of the County's minor roads can be found in our locality. The relevance of this is that nearly 13% of B and C roads are considered to be in a poor condition while a whopping 21% of the ungraded roads are regarded as poor. Clearly there is much work to do to get this right.

I have been asked by 2 Parishes how much the Council and its insurers has had to pay out for claims to damaged cars as the result of the poor state of the roads. I hope to circulate these figures to the Parish Clerks next week; I have asked for a 5year trend. Shropshire is in the early stages of its next strategic Transport Plan – and it is clear that this will range from public transport, decarbonisation, the health benefits of walking / cycling as well as the future of the road network.

The Council inspects the busier roads monthly, then every 2 months, Quarterly, or 6monthly – but at least once a year. The Council is determined to digitalise as many as of its services as possible eg access to the blue badges for parking. This will not be easy if you don't have access to the internet – but if you know someone that does

then they can request your blue badge for you and failing that the libraries are there to assist.

**2021/16      Declarations of Interest**

None

**2021/17      Approval of Minutes**

**To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> May** the minutes Were **APPROVED**, and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record. Proposed by Ms. K. Sylvester & seconded by Mrs. C. Clayton, minutes **to be signed by the Chairman.**

**2021/18      Co-option of Councillor**

To be adjointed to next meeting

**2021/19      Matters Arising**

**Clerks Progress Report**

**Notes on Highways Meeting – 03/06/21**

In attendance – Steve Smith (Assistant Director of Infrastructure) and Mark Barrow (Director of Place), Dianne Dorrell (SALC) and various clerks from the county. Shropshire Council are looking to change the reporting system to “Fix my Street”, the system is more user friendly, you can add photos to the issue you are reporting (which should identify the grid reference) and you will be able to see if a problem has already been reported. Processes and Timescales should also be shown. They appreciate that there is a backlog of work but have asked for our patience while they address this. They are busy writing a programme of works for this year and hope to be working in a more planned way, obviously weather dependant. SS apologies for not giving the service that we would expect. There are 12 technicians and 3 area managers to cover Shropshire, so they have limited resources. There was disappointment shown by people attending that Steve Charmley (Portfolio holder for Highways) didn't attend this meeting. We are still encouraged to report through Myshropshire as officers are not available to reply to emails as they are out and about, as a response isn't guaranteed. MB said they are in the early stages of taking ownership of the issues and are looking at the possibility of having wardens for us to report to. Communication is also a priority.

**Notes on South Shropshire Area Committee Meeting – 07/06/21**

**Annual Report:** There have been 2 meetings in the last year due to the pandemic, areas of discussion have been: Highways – Still being discussed but seems now to be finally moving forward. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Survey and Planning Consultations. Boundary Review. Virtual meeting have become the hybrid way of working and have become invaluable for P'C's to communicate. PC's all need to be encouraged to communicate. There are 50 P'C's in this area.

Many thanks to Tim Ward who has retired from the position of secretary, Clive Leworthy has replaced him. Chairman – Jonathon Kemp and Vice-chair – David Mills. Allan Wilson discussed the Queens Green Canopy, planting will take place between Oct and March. Think about what tree and where, you are going to commemorate the Queen. There will be a plaque and the tree will be on a map that will be presented to the Queen. Popular trees are the Silver Birch, Oak and Ash. The Woodland Trust are giving trees to the Community and Schools, but the applications aren't open yet. There are also going to be contacts at SC but they are yet to be confirmed.

**Cecilia Motley** – Portfolio holder for Communities, Place, Tourism and Transport Joined SSDC in 2003 and became Leader by 2007, has been on the Scrutiny panel for the last 4 years. Also Chair of the AONB. She is aware that communication has

been poor over the last 4 years and the key is to get everyone working together. Smaller Parishes may be able to share costs and resources. The Community Reassurance Officers maybe used to help find funding sources. The intention is to have Local hubs and meeting places. There are Transport workshops taking place over the next few weeks. Highways Maintenance Grant – There needs to be closer working between SC Highways technicians and Parish Lengthsman to work more efficiently for less money.

#### **Diane Dorrell – SALC**

There has been increase support for Parishes over the last year, training opportunities have become more diverse, the cost of training is the lowest over the country. The new Clerks Networking meetings that were introduced for the elections is working well and will be continuing as it has become invaluable in sharing information and experiences between clerks. There will be 6 – 8 clerks becoming involved in the Working Group for the new reporting system.

Next Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September – Councillor to attend.

#### **Brookrow Footpath**

It has been confirmed by the PPP that Shropshire Council are aware of the closure of the footbridge as the decking is rotting. Their plan is to repair it with sheets of fibre glass. There isn't a time frame for the work to be done.

#### **Pound Lane – Triangle**

Andy Keyland has verbally confirmed that he would not want sleepers placed around the edge, he suggested that SC would put kerbs around to protect the edges. I have asked for this to be in writing and for him to give the PC ideas of what else can be done. Clerk will chase again.

**Hall Farm** – Some of the pothole have now been done.

**2021/20**

#### **Parish Matters**

##### **Cattle Grid Hints**

A meeting took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> June with Peter Gould (Bridges & Structures Engineer SC) Jane Thomas (PC), Carol Clayton (PC), Terry Hill (PC), Phillip Crawley (Resident) Andy Chapman (Commoners Association) and representatives from WSP. PG said that SC were planning to replace the cattlegrid with a wider one and remove the smaller gate. WSP agreed that the cattle grid could remain the same, but PG was keen to increase the size to enable larger vehicles to get through. The Parish Council informed them that they did not think this was the most appropriate thing to do as there are already enough large vehicles trying to get through the narrows without making the situation worse. PG said that extra signage could be included to warn large vehicles. Also removing the small gate would be very awkward for walkers and it would encourage the sheep to get through when the large gate was opened.

PG said that he would send the plans to the PC, before anything was agreed, but nothing has been received yet.

##### **The Phone Box**

VR asked AA if there was an update on the refurbishment of the phone box, AA said that due to COVID and the weather it has been difficult for the work to be done, hopefully there would be some progress during the summer months.

**2021/21**

#### **Planning Applications**

- i) Planning applications for consideration  
None

**2021/22**

**Financial Matters:**

**i) Approve Payments**

Chq No. 085 Clayton Contracting	£120.00
Chq No. 087 Hugofox – Website	£35.99
Chq No. 088 R. Skellern (Grass Cutting)	£250.00
Chq No. 089 S. Jones (Salary April – June)	£419.82
Chq No. 090 S. Jones (HMRC April – June)	£104.80
Chq No. 091 S. Jones (Expenses)	£10.20

**ii) Grant Application Form**

The application form was discussed, it was proposed by TH and seconded by CC to adopt this form subject to the addition of a submission and decision date. Poster on the notice board and website asking for applications to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> August and Decisions would be made at the September meeting.

**2021/23**

**Items for next agenda**

- i) Parish Plan – If there are any changes/additions to the plan to be discussed. The ask residents for comments when on the website.
- ii) Project Suggestions for the £300 donation

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m. The next meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 7.00 pm.