

**SELATTYN and GOBOWEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Pavilion, St. Martins Road,  
Gobowen commencing at 7.00pm**

**In the Chair – Councillor Mrs E Morgan**

**Present:** - Councillors: - I W Bennett, R Bowyer, Mrs S Crow, Mrs PA Evans, Mrs S Healey, RT Jones, S Jones, T Kirk, Mrs E Morgan, J Manetti, D Meredith-Jones and NJ Stokes

**0) Public Participation:**

None present

**1) Apologies**

Apologies were received for Councillors D Lloyd MBE (OBC meeting); S Westwood-Bate (working) and J T Thorpe (ill)

**2) Declaration of Interest**

None

**3) Gobowen Postal Services – Mrs Pauline James and Mrs Sue Hodges- The Post Office**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs James and Mrs Hodges to the meeting and outlined the Council's concerns over the filling of the vacant Post Master position. Mrs James addressed the meeting and explained the current situation and the likely appointment timetable indicating that there were two strong candidates who would be interviewed week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

Members raised a number of questions from the floor of the meeting including the new postal arrangements, rural community facilities, and the postal box at the old Post Office and likely postal services at the new Post Office.

It was agreed that the Royal Mail be requested that the old letter box in central Gobowen be replaced with a larger, more secure model.

The Chairman thanked Mrs James and she then left the meeting.

**4) Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were, following the inclusion of Councillor Mrs Morgan in attendees, approved and signed.

**5) Matters arising from the Minutes**

a) The Clerk confirmed that the County Highway matters had been actioned

## 6) County Councillor's Report

It was noted that the County Councillor was again not present. It was agreed that a letter be sent to him expressing the Council's concern over this matter and requesting him to attend and give a report at the next meeting of the Council.

## 7) Borough Councillors' Reports

Councillor RT Jones reported that although the youth discount card plan to access local leisure facilities had been defeated it was hoped that a County –wide scheme could come to fruition.

He further reported that the Council Tax increase had been restricted to just 3% resulting in a basic amount for a Band D property of £197.99. He concluded that there were concerns over the large number of empty private properties in the Borough and steps were in place to tackle this issue.

Councillor D G Lloyd was not present but a written report, retained on file, was circulated.

The Chairman thanked Councillor RT Jones for his report.

## 8) Flooding Incident

Members considered the flooding incident which occurred in Gobowen on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and also a reply received from the Borough Council concerning the constructional issues. Following consideration it was agreed to request a full site meeting with the Borough and County Council Officers so that the Council could bring to light local knowledge of the site in question.

## 9) Tree Felling Proposal

Information had been received concerning plans to fell 20 acres of trees on Selattyn Hill followed by replanting over a three year period. Following explanation by Councillor T Kirk of the industry practice and procedures involved with such work, the matter was noted.

## 10) Planning Applications

- a) 14777/Full      Amendment to planning application  
Magnolia Cottage, Hengoed  
Opposed on the grounds that the intended development is too large and is out of character with the area. Further that the loss of agricultural land is unacceptable.
- b) 14825/Full      Proposed new garage block to replace existing  
Woodbine Cottage, Hengoed  
No objection
- c) 14826/Full      Conversion of existing buildings to provide 3 no. additional bedrooms etc  
Hengoed Park Residential Home  
  
No objection

d) Hennle Hall Development

Concern was expressed about recent development works, new roadway and building works to the property, with apparently no planning approval. It was agreed that a letter of objection be sent to the Borough Council expressing the Council's concerns and requesting urgent intervention by the Council.

## 11) Parish Matters

### a) Gobowen Roundabout Publication

The Clerk reported on the meeting with the Roundabout Committee and explained that an early meeting of the Publicity Group would take place to finalise the first issue of the new combined newsletter.

### b) Members' Reports

- i) Councillor questioned the road works on the A5. This was explained by other Members.
- ii) Councillor RT Jones reported that a boundary fence on Rhewl Lane had been damaged. It was agreed to report the matter to the County Highways Division.
- iii) Councillor RT Jones also raised the matter of the redundant road signs on St Martins Road and also salt distribution and collection. It was agreed that both matters be reported to the County Highways Division.
- iv) Councillor Kirk requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the County Highways division for their excellent work during the snow period. This was agreed.
- v) Councillor Meredith-Jones requested that a letter be sent to Oswestry Fire and Rescue Services for their excellent work during the flooding incident. This was agreed.
- vi) Councillor Bennett requested that the County Highways move the 30mph sign at the new roundabout. This was agreed.
- vii) Councillor Bennett reported that a cedar tree branch had fallen at the Hengoed Cemetery. It was agreed to request the Borough Council to remove the branches and make safe the area.
- viii) Councillor Mrs Crow reported abandoned signs following road works in Fernhill Lane. It was agreed to report this to the County Highways Division.
- ix) Councillor Mrs Morgan reported a burnt out car incident on the Selattyn Road. This was noted.
- x) Councillor Mrs Morgan gave a full report, copy retained on file, of a meeting of the Oswestry Fort Project Team where proposals were being brought together to develop user access and facilities at the site.

Councillor DJ Lloyd joined the meeting
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## 12) Financial Matters

### a) Outstanding payments for agreement

		£Net	£ VAT	£Gross
2719	Sodexo – Grounds Maintenance	320.81	56.14	376.95
2720	Shropshire County Council- Joint Energy Charge	704.12	123.22	827.34

2721	Micro-Plus	- Laptop repair and update	150.58	29.41	179.99
2722	Daren Brewer	(January)			
		- Hengoed Cemetery	140.00	Nil	
		- Selattyn	<u>45.00</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>185.00</u>
2723	Inland Revenue	- Tax and NI payments	714.24	Nil	714.24
2724	Mrs Hodge –	- February Salary	126.05	Nil	126.05
2725	Clerk –	- February Salary	714.86	Nil	714.86

**b) Income since the last meeting**

		£
Cemetery		469.00
Pavilion lettings		92.00
Oswestry PCCG – Administration Fee		75.00

**c) 2007/8 Cemetery Charges**

Members considered recommendations from the RFO and following consideration agreed that the charges for 2007/8 would be:

a) Administration Fee

Parishioner	£35.00
Non-Parishioner	£70.00

b) Purchase of Plot at the time of burial

Parishioner	£150.00
Non-Parishioner	£400.00

c) Pre- Purchase of Plot for future use

Parishioner	£300.00
Non-Parishioner	£500.00

Use of the Plot within a year will result in a rebate of £50

d) Garden of Remembrance

Parishioner	£ 60.00
Non-Parishioner	£120.00

e) Introduction of Headstones

Cemetery	£60.00
Garden of Remembrance	£50.00

f) Reduction for Children

Under 18 years  
Under 5 years

50%  
75%

### 13) Correspondence

#### a) Matters Requiring attention

Description	Agreed Action
i) The Post Office - Network Consultation	Complete and return
ii) DCLG – Revised Model Code of Conduct – Consultation Document	Refer to SALC position
iii) Audit Commission – Appointment of Internal Auditors	Noted
iv) Shropshire County Council – Wear Bridge Closure	Noted
v) Shropshire County Council – Rights of Way Order	Noted
vi) Shropshire County Council – Highway matters	Noted
vii) Oswestry Borough Council – Parish Matters	Noted
viii) Oswestry Borough Council – Surface Water Drainage	Request site meeting
ix) Oswestry Borough Council – Play Partnership	Request further information
x) Oswestry Borough Council – Honorary Freeman of the Borough	Noted
xi) Oswestry Borough Council – New Development at Silverways	Noted
xii) SALC – Training Courses	Noted
xiii) SALC – Open Conference – 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Four Members to attend
xiv) SALC – Democracy Pack	Clerk to action
xv) North Shropshire District Council – LDF Statement	Noted
xvi) Old Oswestry Hill Fort Community Project - Meeting	Noted
xvii) Selattyn Show Committee – Appeal for donation	Defer to March meeting

#### Matters for Information

Description
i) Oswestry Borough Council - Planning Permits (5) Oakhurst Hall, Oswestry; Hart & Trumpet, Gobowen; Rock Cottage, Selattyn; Land adjacent Little Barkhouse, Weston Rhyn; Beechbrook, Gobowen and Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.
ii) Oswestry Borough Council – Planning Refusals (2) Land opposite Ty Coch, Pant Glas and 2 Green Villas, Gobowen.
iii) Oswestry Racecourse Management Committee – Agenda and minutes
iv) West Midlands Assembly – West Midlands Spatial Strategy

- v) Shropshire County Council – Public Transport News
- vi) Shropshire Union Canal Society – Newsletter
- vii) Shrewsbury-Chester Rail Users’ Association - Severn Dee News
- viii) CPRE – Landscapes Newsletter.

#### **14) Exclusion of the Press and Public**

*To resolve: “That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1992, the Public and Press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 of part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act*

##### **a) Retirement Arrangements of the Clerk**

Members considered a report from the Clerk regarding his intention to retire from his post and following consideration agreed:

- a. That Council accept the Clerk’s notice to retire with effect from January 2008 or sooner if the Council believes that the new appointee is sufficiently able to carry out the full duties of the post.
- b. That the post of Assistant Clerk be advertised with immediate effect .
- c. That the Executive Committee be appointed as an Appointments Panel with powers to carry out interviews and report back to Council with an appointment recommendation.
- d. That on the successful candidate taking up their post that the contractual hours of the Clerk be reduced to 10 hours per week with the new appointee being contracted in the first instance to 8½ hours per week. The balance of these two contracts being adjusted over the ‘shadowing’ period to reflect the individual workload and responsibility levels.

#### **14) Date and time of the next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **12th March 2007 at the Pavilion, Gobowen** at 7.00pm