

SELATTYN and GOBOWEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th November 2007 at the Pavilion St. Martins Road,
Gobowen, commencing at 7.00pm

In the Chair – Councillor Mrs E Morgan

Present: - Councillors: I W Bennett, J R Bowyer, Rev D Cassidy, P Cherrington, P Clare, Mrs S R Crow, Mrs P A Evans, Mrs S Healey, L Hearne, T R Kirk, D Lloyd MBE, Mrs E Morgan and J Thorpe.

Also Present: CSO Dave Wagg and Bridie, the Detached Youth Worker.

1) Public Participation:

The Detached Youth Worker explained to the meeting that her work had again commenced and that there was an urgent need to provide a Skate Park on the field for the young people. It was accepted by her that she would submit a written request for consideration by the Council at the next meeting.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillor R T Jones (Illness) and County Councillor T Davies (Meeting)

3) Declaration of Interest

None were recorded

4) Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2007

The minutes of the Meeting held on 17th October 2007 to include the following amendments were approved and signed.

- a) That Councillor Crow did not undertake to investigate and report on Section 106 payment and that the minute should have read that the Clerk would investigate and report on the current outstanding Section 106 payments.
- b) Minute 13(e) (x) that it be made clear that walk was at the Racecourse.
- c) That Councillor Lloyd in his report (Min.9) stated that ‘on the large scale voluntary housing transfer’.

5) Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a) All items on the Progress Report are still outstanding.
- b) The Clerk is to further investigate whether previous use of the allotment areas was covered by the Allotments Act.
- c) The football pitch has now been moved and is in use. The mole catcher is to eradicate the moles from the field. The Clerk is to contact both teams to acquire a fixture list.

6) Police Reports

CSO David Wagg reported complaints from residents of North Drive with regards parking of vehicles across driveways and on the sides of the road, and from residents of West Place concerning the vandalized lamp column which is presently disconnected. The Clerk advised members this item is to be included on the next agenda.

A number of issues were raised by Members including the behaviour of youths on the Foxs Fields estate. Members were also concerned with youths driving around the village on small, but very loud, motorcycles with no protective head gear; the CSO confirmed they do have the powers to confiscate these items. Erratic driving had been reported at the Old Racecourse crossroads as was the speed of vehicles on the St Martins Road. The Clerk confirmed that the speed restriction signs will be returning to this section of road as they are on a rota system.

The matter of foreign vehicle license plates not being changed arose, police are aware of this issue.

PC Clarke reported on the recent crime in the parish and, in particular, the theft of diesel from Iron Mills Lane, a laptop computer was stolen from a property on Perry Road, fishing tackle had been stolen from a shed on Foxs Field and a window at Foxs Field had also been damaged. There was an attempted burglary from a shed on Iron Mills Lane however nothing was taken. Tyres were punctured on vehicles on Trewern Avenue. Thieves broke into The Shack on By Pass Road, and made away with two packets of crisps! The wing mirror from a vehicle on Foxs Field had been damaged

A number of questions were asked by Members including whether Sophie Dee's Takeaway had the relevant licensing. The Clerk is to make enquires with OBC.

P C Clarke gave a brief outline of the new Police initiative scheme "Lighten Up" and handed out relevant material.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his report and he then left the meeting.

7) County Councillor's Report

No County Councillor was present however it was noted on his behalf that all the lights on St Martins Road are to be replaced before the 31st March 2008, residents have been informed.

Members agreed to write to County Councillor T Davies to highlight the value of his presence at Parish Meetings.

8) Borough Councillors Reports

Councillor David Lloyd gave a report from the Town and Parish Council meeting which included the Drinking in Public Places Ban.

Councillor Lloyd informed Members that the Electoral Registration Officer, Veronica Catling, wishes to meet with local Members from the Parish Council to review the polling places arrangements.

Members were informed that the formal vote for The Voluntary Housing Transfer had been lost 2 to 1.

A memorial is to be erected in memory of the late David J Lloyd at Gobowen Train Station; Members agreed to include this item on the next agenda to consider a donation to the fund.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Lloyd for his report.

9) Planning Applications

07/15260/FULL

23 Rhewl Lane, Gobowen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7XA
Extension over existing garage

Delegated to Clerk and the Chair of the Planning Committee.

- 07/15281/FULL** Land Adjacent To Mardy Pumping Station, Selattyn, Oswestry, Shropshire
Erection of stable block.
No Objections
Concerns were expressed over the Muck Heap being close to the stream and the need to construct a retaining bund.
- 07/15283/OUT** Ashcroft, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3LL
Proposed dwelling and garage and new improved vehicular access
No Objections providing Emergency Service Vehicles can access the properties.
- 07/15247/FULL** White House, Selattyn Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7DQ,
Extension to house to provide further accommodation, and extension to old pigsty to provide garage and storage.
No Objections

10) Code of Conduct - Paragraph 12.2 – Adoption and change to Standing Orders.

Members acknowledged receipt of booklets containing relevant information and agreed to adopt the change as follows:

The Public Session

47. A Public session of fifteen minutes will be held at the commencement of the meeting. During that time the public may address the Council on any parish matter and any Member of the Council, who has declared a prejudicial interest, may as laid down in paragraph 12.2 of the Code of Conduct 2007, also address the Council with regard to the declared matter,

11) Handover arrangements to the new Clerk

Members discussed the handover arrangements and agreed that the current Clerk retain the RFO duties until 31st March 2008, he will therefore attend part meetings until that date to present the financial reports. The Assistant Clerk will take over these duties as from the 1st April 2008.

Members also agreed to a request from the current Clerk to retain his Cemetery duties as a ‘Sexton.’ The Assistant Clerk agreed to adopt these duties at a later date to be agreed.

To reflect these decisions it was agreed that the assistant Clerk’s hours remain at 15 per week until the end of March 2008 and at that time they should increase to 16.5hrs/week to reflect the additional financial duties and at such time as she adopts the cemetery duties the hours will increase to 18.5 per week.

The present Clerks hours will remain at 5 per week until the 31st of March 2008 and once acting as a Sexton this will be adjusted and he should be contracted to 8.66 hours per calendar month.

Members also agreed to the urgent need for a new Parish line to be installed at the Assistant Clerk’s home. Unfortunately the present Parish phone number cannot be transferred but it is hoped to negotiate a memorable number.

Members agreed to asses the Assistant Clerks performance at the Executive Committee meeting to be held on the 10th December 2007 and provided they are satisfied they will formally appoint her as Clerk from 1st January 2008.

12) Parish Matters

- a) **Letter from Councillor P Clare** – The Chairman read out a letter received from Councillor Clare and although Members felt some of the issues raised in the letter were more applicable to Building Consent rather than Planning they accepted that it would be wise to ask questions in future with regards drainage schemes on all future planning applications, where relevant.
- b) **Distribution of the Parish Roundabout** – It was agreed to divide the remaining areas for delivery of the Parish Roundabout between the Councillors with exception of Hengoed. The copies bound for residents of Hengoed shall be placed in a magazine rack to be located alongside the new notice board planned for Hengoed. Councillor P Clare has agreed to replenish stocks as necessary.
- c) **Notice Boards for Pant Glas and Hengoed** – Members agreed to the quote obtained by the Clerk for two new notice boards. The order is to be submitted for 2 notice boards constructed from wood with Perspex inlay rather than glass. The Clerk is to approach the Licensee at the Last Inn for consultation as to the placing of the notice board.
- d) **Members' Reports** –
 - i) Cllr A Evans highlighted the need for CCTV in Foxs Fields. This was noted.
 - ii) Cllr Evans also commented on the condition of the level crossing at Gobowen Station. The Clerk informed Members that there had been a site inspection of the crossing due the previous day but it had to be postponed by Network Rail.
 - iii) Cllr P Clare raised the subject of footpaths. Members agreed to agenda this item for the next meeting.
 - iv) Cllr D Lloyd raised the confusion for electorates over polling places and the possibility of signposts for Gobowen Roundabout. Members agreed that this item be included in the next agenda.
 - v) Cllr T Kirk briefed Members' on the Remembrance Day Proceedings at Selattyn and was pleased to report a record public turnout; however the poor condition of the epitaph was noted, Members agreed to agenda this item to the January 2008 budget meeting to consider obtaining a quote for cleaning the memorial.
 - vi) Cllr Bennett enquired as to whether an arm could be placed on the light on Baths Bank. The Clerk confirmed it is possible and will take the necessary action to upgrade this light.
 - vii) Cllr Bennett also brought to Members' attention the salt bin which has been overturned on the corner at the junction to Gobowen from Selattyn. The Clerk is to report the matter to the Highways Department.
 - viii) Cllr Thorpe raised concerns over the amount of fallen leaves that are considerably slippery and may pose as a hazard. The alleyways from West Place to Fernhill Estate seem to be particularly bad. The Clerk is to raise this matter with OBC.
 - ix) Cllr S Healey reported the works being done by Network Rail are continuing into the night and are causing some distress to residents, who had not been informed with regards this matter. The Clerk is to raise the matter with Network Rail.

- x) Cllr Healey also commented on the recent use, by young drivers, of the Railway Station car park as a racetrack. The Clerk is to report the matter to P C Clarke.
- xi) Cllr E Morgan reiterated requests from Councillors to bring forward any items of interest for the Parish Roundabout.
- xii) Cllr Morgan commented on the good public turnout for the Remembrance Service at Gobowen however she was disappointed with the small show of Councillors at this event.
- xiii) Cllr Morgan reported the poor condition of the stone wall on Baths Bank, Selattyn. The Clerk is to raise this with the Highways Department.
- xiv) Cllr Morgan reported for information that Oswestry Hill Fort meeting was to take place on the 15th November 2007, and that she would be attending.
- xv) The Clerk reminded Members that decisions can only be made regarding items that are included on the agenda. If any Member wishes to add an item to the agenda that they need to do so 14 days before the meeting.
- xvi) The Clerk informed Members of a request received from Councillor R Jones to include an item concerning the Street light on West Place on the next agenda.

13) Financial Matters

a) Outstanding payments for agreement

		£Net	£ VAT	£Gross
2858	V & W Electrics Ltd - Lighting maintenance	562.47	98.44	660.91
2859	Sodexo - Grounds Maintenance	332.04	58.11	390.15
2860	British Legion - Wreaths	50.00	Nil	50.00
2861	AREVA - Emergency Power repair	460.00	80.50	540.50
2862	SLCC - Literature	21.00	Nil	21.00
2863	D Brewer (Sept) - Hengoed Cemetery	140.00	Nil	
	- Selattyn	45.00	Nil	
	- Roundabout	70.00	Nil	255.00
2864	Cllr. Cherrington - Travel to training	33.60	Nil	33.60
2865	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI payments	458.59	Nil	458.59
2866	Mrs Hodge - November Salary	126.05	Nil	126.05
2867	Clerk - November Salary	210.57	Nil	210.57
2868	Assistant Clerk - November Salary	520.78	Nil	520.78

b) Income since the last meeting

Hengoed Cemetery - Charge £820.00

14) Matters requiring attention Recommended action

Description

i. Shropshire County Council - Primary Schools Policy	Action
ii. Shropshire County Council – Community Tree Scheme	Deferred to next Agenda
iii. Shropshire County Council – Local Plan Progress Report 2006/07	Noted
iv. Oswestry Borough Council - The Clean Neighbourhoods And Environment Act 2005	Noted
v. Oswestry Borough Council – Affordable Housing Needs	Noted
vi. NHS Trust – NHS Foundation Trust	Deferred to next Agenda
vii. NALC – Employment Briefing	Received and noted

Matters for information

Description

viii. Clerks and Councils Direct – November 2007	Received
ix. The Farm Forestry Co Ltd – November 2007	Received
x. Countryside VOICE – Autumn 2007	Received
xi. Shropshire County Council – Public Transport news	Received

17) Date and time of the next meeting

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