

SELATTYN and GOBOWEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th October 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, L Hearne, T R Kirk, D Lloyd MBE, Mrs E Morgan, and J Thorpe

1) **Public Participation:**

None

2) **Apologies**

Apologies were received for Councillor R T Jones (Missionary Work), Mrs S Healey (Illness) County Councillor T Davies (Holiday)

3) **Declaration of Interest**

Cllr D Lloyd declared a personal interest in the Planning matter at Item number 10, Ebnal Hall.

4) **Internal Auditor-Mr B Towson's Report** - Mr Towson introduced himself to Members and gave a brief description of his relevant work experience. He outlined the duties and responsibilities of the Internal Auditor and updated Members of their responsibilities as Councillors. He commended the present systems within the Council and said that all were working well. Mr Towson highlighted the lack of communication between Internal Auditors generally with both NALC and SALC. The Council is to raise this matter with SALC.

5) **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th September 2007**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 12th September 2007 were approved and signed.

6) **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) **Progress Report**

A Progress Report was issued and considered and it was agreed to write to the residents in relation to the light column on Preeshenlle Lane informing them of the costs involved in moving the column.

b) **Signposting at Old Racecourse.**

At a meeting with The Engineer, Transport and Access Officer, Richard Jones, he explained the reasons for the placement of the sign.

The sign could not be placed at the preferred location as concluded in a site visit, as there are no houses along that road. The sign is more beneficial to the Emergency Services at the chosen location. He also explained that the boundary map held by OBC shows that Llawnt covers the area where the sign is now located. For these reasons the recently placed sign will not be moved but Mr Jones has no objection to sign being adapted by the word Llawnt being painted out in keeping with the colour of the sign. Members agreed to request that The Engineer, Transport and Access Officer consult the Parish Council on such issues in the future

c) Bus Shelters Report

The County Council has now agreed to the erection and part funding of two new bus shelters. Inspections are due to take place over the coming weeks.

d) Dog Control Order

The meeting has already taken place and the Dog Control Order has been passed. An area of the Racecourse was exempt from the order.

e) Desecration of Hengoed Cemetery Report.

There is great concern over the distress caused to families with the recent dog fouling at the Cemetery. Although signs are present they are being ignored.

It was agreed to speak to the Dog Warden with regards to this matter suggesting he make a more visual presence at the Cemetery. Members agreed to write to the people they suspect are responsible, informing them of the seriousness and consequences of this offence. Members also agreed to approach any persons observed allowing their dogs to desecrate the Cemetery. If the fouling continues it was agreed to report the matter to the press. PC Clarke is to check the laws on desecration and inform the Council.

f) Change of Trade Refuse Collection Service Provider.

Notice has been given that with effect from 1st October 2007 Veolia Environmental Services will now be responsible for Commercial Trade Collections. Members thought that the collection from the Cemetery should be free of charge; the Clerk is to look into this.

7) Police Report

PC Clarke reported on the crime in the parish between the 22nd September and the 13th October and in particular the theft of two pedal cycles one from Hammonds Place and the other from Fox's Field. Criminal damage was caused to an electric street light on West Place and an awning was stolen from a caravan on New Road. Criminal damage was caused to the window of a bungalow in Fox's Field.

A spate of incidents were reported in Hammonds Place, on the 4th October, several vehicles were entered and a CD player was taken from one of the vehicles; the attempted theft of a Silver Ford Fiesta and one other vehicle on the same evening were unsuccessful however a white Vauxhall Corsa was stolen and later found abandoned in Wrexham, it was parked alongside another vehicle that had been stolen from Wrexham earlier that evening.

Vehicles were entered and stolen in the Whittington area and Oswestry Town on that same evening.

PC Clarke handed Members a copy of a report for information on Mosquito Alarms as previously requested.

Members were informed that Shrewsbury has given the green light for the CSO to use the Pavilion as a base station, allowing members of the public to make contact with him. Signage will be needed and a Pavilion key is to be given to the CSO; P C Clarke agreed to raise the question of signage with Inspector Stafford.

The Clerk raised the serious issue of the recurrent vandalism of one particular light column at West Place. The door had been removed and the switch gear had been shattered. The column was left live by the vandals. The Contractors replaced the switch gear and fixed a temporary door to the column and secured it with steel bands. However, the vandals were not deterred and a damaged the column once more leaving the Council no option but to disconnect the column, leaving residents with no light and presenting the

Council with a large bill. Members suggested approaching the Blacksmith to produce a secure plate for the column; until this is in place the column will remain unlit. Members agreed to include a report on the cost of vandalism in the Parish Roundabout. The Clerk also produced a tension bar that had been removed from the Pavilion gate.

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

8) County Councillor's Report

None

9) Borough Councillors Reports

Councillor D Lloyd briefed Members on the current situation of the Unitary Authority. Shrewsbury is not now intending to appeal against the review.

All districts are now represented at meetings and this is proving constructive. An election will take place in May 2009, although the Parish elections will not take place until 2013.

The budget proposal has no intention to increase the Council Tax although this has yet to be endorsed by the Unitary Authority. Concessionary fares should be unaffected by the new Authority. On the large scale voluntary housing transfer Councillor Lloyd reported a good relationship between Tenants and their Landlords who will be in a better position to improve the standards of the properties concerned in the future.

The Chairman thanked the Members for their reports.

10) Planning Applications

None

Members received a letter inviting comments on the amended proposal for change of use of the redundant farm building application at Granary House, Ebnal Hall Farm. Members retained their objections. Members consider there to be a lack of trust for the applicants locally due to previous applications.

11) Maintenance of Gobowen Roundabout - Following on from last months meeting, Members agreed that there had been a marked improvement in the maintenance of the roundabout. It was agreed to establish a small working group of 3 to 4 Members to begin work on its new design. Councillors Sue Crow, Tim Kirk and Les Hearne agreed to work on this project and would like to invite Councillor Ron Jones to join them. Members agreed it would be a good idea to try to include others from the area including people who have been involved with the Parish Plan.

12) 2008 Fun Day Arrangements - A small group have agreed to press ahead with the arrangements for the Fun Day 2008. These will include Councillor Rev D Cassidy and Assistant Clerk, Anne Jones. Members recommended requesting some help from Councillor Darren Meredith-Jones along with a couple of people who had been most helpful in previous similar events. The group are to report back at a meeting in December or January.

13) Parish Matters

- a) Distribution of Parish Roundabout - It was agreed to divide the delivery round of the Parish Roundabout between the Councillors.
- b) Allotment provision - In a response from Dave Jones, Director of Community Services, at OBC he assured that he can not find any records relating to allotments in Gobowen and says that although land may have once been used for gardening purposes it would not have been designated allotment land. Members agreed to collate any information they could gather as evidence of previous use of allotment gardens in Gobowen.
- c) Notice boards for Pant Glas and Hengoed - Suggestions have been given from some residents of Pant Glas and the best possible sighting for the notice board appears to be at the cross roads by The Last Inn. Members have agreed to obtain quotes for the new Notice Boards, using materials in keeping with the surroundings.
- d) Cemetery Keeping of Records – The shortage of storage space available for Cemetery related documents resulted in Members agreeing to research the possibility of keeping electronic records where possible, in the future. Members agreed to obtain a quote for the cost of this service.
- e) **Member's Reports**
 - i. Cllr Ann Evans reiterated the problem with litter within Gobowen village.
 - ii. Cllr David Lloyd informed members that the Village Calendar was now available to buy from the Post Office for £4.
 - iii. Cllr D Cassidy highlighted the problems in the green area of the Meadows. Branches have been torn from the trees. Residents need to report this particular problem to the CSO not to the Parish Council in the future.
 - iv. Cllr L Hearne reported the increased number of horse riders and cyclists using the footpath at Wats Dyke down to the canal. He suggested a gate and fencing be fitted to deter this problem. Members agreed to raise the matter with the County Highways Division.
 - v. Cllr P Cherrington highlighted the lack of light at a previous Council meeting at Selattyn School. Members agreed that any future meetings at the school should be held during the summer months as the lighter evenings should resolve the issue.
 - vi. Cllr Ian Bennett proposed that the 30mph signs on the stretch of road from Gobowen to Oswestry should be moved closer to Oswestry on the completion of the highways improvement. It was agreed to report this matter the County Highways Division.
 - vii. Cllr T Kirk informed Members that Selattyn Village had been cleared of much of its trees; however these are to be replanted. Cllr Kirk also highlighted the possible closure of Selattyn School amid the Governments Smaller Primary School Closure threats. Although nothing official had at that time been received the school is to meet up with the County in the coming weeks.

- viii. Cllr Clare brought to the Council's attention the need to request residents to cut back overgrown hedges, especially close to junctions, as this is hazardous to traffic.
- ix. Cllr Crow raised the question, why soil has been set down on the building land at Wat's Meadow. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Officer for an explanation.
- x. Chairman E Morgan read out a report from the Racecourse Management Committee and is to circulate a report from the recent NALC conference which was attended by some Parish Members. For information the Chairman informed Members of a walk at the Racecourse aimed at highlighting Council works needed, this takes place on November 17th and 10am.
- xi. The Clerk reported that the Moles had been removed from the Cemetery. The Clerk suggested writing to the football team with regards the present location of the football pitch; Members agreed. The Clerk is to investigate and report on the current outstanding Section 106 payments.

14) Financial Matters

a) Outstanding payments for agreement			£Net	£ VAT	£Gross
2837	Oswestry B. C.	- Election Costs	0.48	Nil	0.48
2838	British Gas	- Pavilion Gas	39.63	1.99	41.61
2839	Wessex Hotel	- Accommodation	306.81	52.99	359.80
2840	Information Commissioner's Office (Data Protect)		35.00	Nil	35.00
2841	CPRE	- Membership	27.00	Nil	27.00
2842	David Davies & Sons	- Glazing Repairs	544.20	95.23	639.43
2843	Sodexo	- Football pitch repairs	2298.60	402.26	2700.86
2844	Sodexo	- Grounds maintenance	332.04	58.11	390.15
2845	V & W Electrics Ltd	- Lighting maintenance	628.77	110.05	738.82
2846	Waugh Communications	- WEB Site mgt	514.00	89.95	603.95
2847	SALC	- Member & Staff Training	93.00	Nil	93.00
2848	Julie Ruler	- Parish Plan	100.00	Nil	100.00
2849	Mr A Pope	- Mole Removal at Hengoed	40.00	Nil	40.00
2850	D Brewer (Sept)	- Hengoed Cemetery	140.00	Nil	
		- Selattyn	45.00	Nil	
		- Roundabout	70.00	Nil	
		- Tree removal	30.00	Nil	
		- War memorial planting	10.00	Nil	
		- Fencing on Bypass Road	95.00	Nil	390.00
2851	Cllr. Mrs Morgan	- Conference expenses	217.89	Nil	217.89
2852	Inland Revenue	- Tax and NI payments	56.91	Nil	56.91
2853	Mrs Hodge	- October Salary	126.05	Nil	126.05
2854	Clerk	- October Salary	210.57	Nil	210.57
2855	Assistant Clerk	- October Salary	520.78	Nil	520.78
2856	Assistant Clerk	- Miscellaneous expenses	56.20	Nil	56.20
2857	Assistant Clerk	- Mileage allowance (J-Sept)	149.00	Nil	149.00

b) Income since the last meeting	£Gross
Hengoed Cemetery - Charge	13.00
Oswestry Borough Council – Precept	24,000.00

15) Correspondence

a) Matters requiring attention

Description	Agreed Action
i. Shropshire County Council – War Memorial, Road Closure	Action
ii. Shropshire County Council – Let’s Talk Annual Meeting	Received
iii. Oswestry Borough Council-SP Manweb-Consultation on Proposed Route of Overhead Line.	Clerk to write in support of A483 route
iv. Oswestry Borough Council – Change of Trade Waste Collection Service Provider	Item 6 f
v. Oswestry Borough Council – New Development Postal Address	Noted
vi. Oswestry Borough Council - Meeting Cancellation	Received
vii. West Mercia Police – Speed Watch	Noted
viii. Shropshire DAAT-Young People and Alcohol Partnership Project	Cllr D Lloyd and Assistant Clerk to become involved with this project
ix. AdvantEDGE – Epitaph Software Licence Certificate	Received
x. N C Hughes – Vandalism of Selattyn Road Signs	Noted
xi. DEFRA - Birthday Honours Round 2008	Noted
xii. SALC – New Parish Insurance Scheme	Members Consideration
xiii. SALC – AGM Meeting	Some Members to attend
xiv. NALC – Employment Briefing	Noted
xv. SALC – Training Opportunities	Some Members to attend
xvi. DEFRA-“Ways to Tackle Climate Change”	Received
xvii. CCTV Volunteer Group-Monetary Donation Request	Defer to March meeting

b) Matters for information

Description
i. Oswestry Borough Council – Planning Permits
a) Henlle Hall, Preeshenlle Lane, Gobowen
b) Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen
ii. Oswestry Borough Council – Listed Building Consent
a) Henlle Hall, Preeshenlle Lane, Gobowen

16) Date and time of the next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **14th November 2007 at the Pavilion, Gobowen** at 7.00pm