

SELATTYN and GOBOWEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th September 2007 at Selattyn Primary School, Selattyn commencing at 7.00pm

In the Chair – Councillor Mrs E Morgan

Present: - Councillors: I W Bennett, P Cherrington, Mrs S R Crow, Mrs PA Evans, S Healey, L Hearne, R T Jones and Mrs E Morgan

1) Public Participation:

None

2) Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillor J R Bowyer (Family illness), David Cassidy, (Working) P Clare (Holiday), T R Kirk (Working) and D Lloyd MBE (Holiday).

3) Declaration of Interest

Councillor Crow declared a personal interest in item number 16(a) due to her relationship with a creditor.

4) Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2007

The minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2007 were approved and signed.

5) Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Progress Report

A Progress Report was issued and considered and it was agreed that

- i) The Clerk to write to Network Rail regarding the railway crossing works.
- ii) The “No Smoking” signs that had been posted in all of the parish bus shelters have disappeared. It was agreed not to replace these.

6) Police Report

PC Clarke reported on the recent crime in the parish and, in particular, a motor car that had been stolen from Fern Lane, a burglary in Hammonds Place, a computer was amongst the items stolen. A handbag and its contents were stolen from an open window of a property on Bypass Road. A laptop, MP3 player and car keys were stolen from a property on Chirk Road, the keys were later used to remove a car from the driveway; the car was later found abandoned in the Wrexham area. Also on Chirk Road 3 males were disturbed when attempting to steal a car from a driveway, they left empty handed. 4 burglaries were reported in Oswestry on the same evening. 2 bikes and a chainsaw were amongst items stolen from a garage in Selattyn.

PC Clarke outlined a pilot scheme in Whittington and Gobowen as an alternative to public meetings, a door knocking scheme is being tested whereby the public can discuss matters directly, without having to attend meetings.

Mosquito Alarms were discussed and PC Clarke kindly agreed to gather more information for the committee to make a more informed decision as to the use of these within the Parish.

The Clerk enquired as to the date of the first meeting of the PACT Committee. PC Clarke would make enquiries and report back to the Council at a later date along with a start date for the CSO inspections etc.

The Clerk suggested that it would be helpful if PC Clarke could briefly outline the specific items included in all future Police Reports in writing. PC Clarke agreed to do this.

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

7) Borough Councillors Reports - Councillor Jones had nothing to report.

8) Planning Applications

- a) 15075/FULL Robert Jones And Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital
Refurbishment of former Day Hospital Ward and erection of a proposed single storey extension to provide new Maternity Ward

No objections

9) Report of the Pavilion & Playing Fields Committee

Members considered a written report of the meeting and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the teams informing them of the present situation. The work has been carried out and the pitch should be ready for marking out next week, it will not be ready for games until the end of the month. The goal mouths will have to be moved upon commencement of games. The Clerk also expressed thanks to Councillors Healey and Cherrington for their commitment in agreeing to assess the pitch regularly to decide if its condition is suitable for play.

10) Report of the Emergency Panning Committee held on 27th August 2007

Members considered a written report of the meeting. The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Councillor Clare regarding the decision of the Chairman of the Committee to disregard certain matters as inadmissible and that he had resigned from the committee and would wish to retain his right to make his position publicly known.

Members discussed the meeting in detail and respected Councillor Clare's decision although were sorry to lose him. It was agreed that the Planning Department was the best place for Councillor Clare to direct his concerns as an individual. It was also agreed that the Clerk write to Councillor Clare and explain this matter.

11) Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts

Members considered the current polling arrangements in the Parish and agreed to recommend that Selattyn (although missing from the list) remain as before but felt that Gobowen Pavillion would be large enough to host two stations with more thought given to the distribution of voters.

12) Gobowen Roundabout

The Clerk reported on the improved standard of the roundabout since the Parish took over maintenance and he reported that he had applied, on the Council's behalf, to the County Council for a financial grant for maintenance. A grant of £700/annum had been awarded by the County Council. Members considered this matter and agreed that some thought be given to the future design and planting of the roundabout. Members agreed to seek expert advice and possible sponsorship from local companies; that an item be included in the next issue of the 'Parish Roundabout' and on the Parish Website; that it be included in the agenda of the next meeting.

13) Village Speed Limit Policy

Members considered the policy documentation and the comments received from parishioners and concluded that although County speed limits will be put in place it would be beneficial to invite Inspector Jim Stafford to a meeting in Selattyn Village to give a "Speed Talk" and to discuss any other measures that may prove helpful. Cllr Jones agreed to request results from the County/Speed Partnership speed monitoring exercise.

14) Parish Plan

The Clerk reported on the progress of the Parish Plan, which was almost complete, and outlined the plans for publication.

Consideration was given to the publication in disc format (which would be more cost effective) with a limited number in print version. An Action Plan would be distributed to every house and the Parish Plan would be available if requested. The Plans would also be available for download on the Parish Website.

15) Parish Matters

- a) Signposting at Old Racecourse – With issues still outstanding it was agreed to request a site meeting with The Engineer, Transport and Access Officer Richard Jones, the Chairman and the Clerk with referral back at a future meeting.
- b) Youth Fun Day – The Clerk reported on the postponed Fun Day. Members considered the matter and agreed that it be put on the next agenda to decide on a suitable date to stage the event in 2008 as it is now so late on in the 2007 calendar and more forward planning of the event would be beneficial.
- c) Bus Shelters – The Clerk reported that the shelter on Whittington Road had been demolished due to its unsafe condition. He further reported that he had, on behalf of the Council, applied to the County Council for two 75% grants for the erection of two new shelters, in the Parish style, to replace this shelter and position a new one on St. Martins Road next to the bridge. Members considered this matter and it was agreed that with the approved grants for 75% now in place, fencing be erected and a blackthorn hedge be planted at the site of the demolished shelter and to go ahead with the proposed two new shelters.
- d) Playing Field Repairs – The Clerk reported that the repairs had now been completed and that within a few weeks the field would be playable. Members considered this matter and it was agreed that both clubs should be contacted and directed as in agenda item 9.

- e) Speed limit signing in Selattyn Village – The Clerk reported on the vandalism of two 30MPH signs in the village which were delaying the endorsement of the 30 limit in the Selattyn. Following consideration it was agreed that an item be included in the ‘Parish Roundabout’.
- f) The Clerk reported on the Unitary Debate held at Shire Hall on 8th September and the likelihood that the next local elections will be either 2009 or 2013. Parishes had been asked to submit their preference to SALC before 17th September. Following consideration it was agreed that the Council preferred the 2013 date.
- g) Member’s Reports.
 - (i) Cllr S Crow reported that there were no dropped kerbs at the top of School Lane outside the school. It was agreed to report this matter to the County Highways Department.
 - (ii) Cllr S Healey had written to Network Rail in response to the recent newspaper article. She expressed a view that the crossing is “worse now than ever” and is not acceptable taking into account of the 5 new trains that will be covering the London route. Councillor Healey also reported on the amount of cigarette ends outside the Working Men’s Club. Members agreed that the Clerk should write to the committee on this matter.
 - (iii) Cllr Jones noted that although the railway crossing had been surveyed and a date given for work to commence there had been no evidence of the works being carried out. It was agreed for the Clerk to write to Network Rail with a request for a date of when the scheduled works will take place. Councillor Jones also highlighted the order that had been issued by S Oakley in July for the clearing of the brook; this work had not yet been carried out. The Clerk is to raise the issue with the County Highways Department.
 - (iv) Cllr. L Hearne raised the matter of the lighting column in Presshenlle Lane. Members agreed to have the contractors inspect the column and the Clerk is to report the findings at a future meeting.
 - (v) Cllr Evans reported the light at the Methodist Chapel. The Clerk has already reported this. She also highlighted the problem of litter within Gobowen village. The Clerk is to place a piece in the Parish Roundabout. Councillor Evans welcomed the re-opening of the village Post Office and stressed that “residents need to use or loose” their Local Post Office.
 - (vi) Cllr Hearne raised the situation with regards to the delivery of the Parish Roundabout. Members agreed to move to a future agenda to consider how delivery could be better distributed throughout the Parish.
 - (vii) The Chairman explained that the Racecourse Management Committee AGM had been rescheduled for next week after the quorum for the previous meeting was not met.

Play Partnership bid is being finalised, this funding will cover the cost of the MUGA, tarmac and lighting. The play equipment will be funded separately. The Chairman suggested that an application is forwarded to the ‘Playful Ideas’ for funding. The deadline for applications is December 2007.

Chairman raised the issue of the Dog Control Order. It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

Chairman reported further on items for information, namely, the Hill Fort Committee - has arranged a seminar on Saturday 15th September at the Memorial Hall; Cllrs Jones and Hearne agreed to attend.

The Post Office re-opening, the Chairman is to attend and Cllr Evans was also hoping to attend this event.

There will be a guided archaeology walk at the Hill Fort on the 23rd September.

- (viii) The Clerk spoke about the Code of Conduct and following further advice from NALC and Standards Board with regards to the changes that need to be made to “standing orders”
- (ix) The Clerk also reported a clear audit from Hacker Young.
- (x) It was agreed that the Chairman, Clerk and Assistant Clerk attend the SALC AGM on Saturday 17th November, and that the Chairman, Cllr Cherrington and Assistant Clerk attend the SALC “Code of Conduct” session on 8th October.
- (xi) Members were invited to take part in a walk on the Thursday 1st November at 10am, meeting at The Leisure Centre. Members need to respond to the Clerk before the end of September.

16) Financial Matters

a) Outstanding payments for agreement

		£Net	£ VAT	£Gross
2816	LR McKenzie - Demolish Bus Shelter	200.00	35.00	235.00
2817	V& W Electrics Ltd - Lighting maintenance	113.55	19.88	133.43
2818	Cllr. P Cherrington - Travel to training	17.50	Nil	17.50
2819	Morgans - Materials for fencing	49.70	8.70	58.40
2820	JC Welding - Repairs at Pavilion	50.00	Nil	50.00
2821	BT - Parish phone line	73.41	12.05	85.46
2822	Severn Trent Water - Pavilion water	390.68	Nil	390.68
2823	UHY Hacker Young - Audit Fee	400.00	70.00	470.00
2824	Sodexo - Grounds maintenance	664.08	116.22	780.30
2825	V& W Electrics Ltd - Lighting maintenance	162.80	28.30	191.30
2826	SALC - Member/Staff Training	85.00	Nil	85.00
2827	Oswestry B. C. - Election Costs	195.00	Nil	195.00
2828	SCRUA - Membership Fees	10.00	Nil	10.00
2829				
2830	D Brewer (Aug) - Hengoed Cemetery	140.00	Nil	
	- Selattyn	40.00	Nil	
	- Roundabout	<u>70.00</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>250.00</u>
2831	Cllr. L Hearne - Mileage allowance	4.90	Nil	4.90
2832	Clerk - Miscellaneous expenses	151.14	Nil	151.14
2833	Inland Revenue - Tax and NI payments	237.83	Nil	237.83
2834	Mrs Hodge - September Salary	126.05	Nil	126.05
2835	Clerk - September Salary	409.21	Nil	409.21
2836	Assistant Clerk - September Salary	363.36	Nil	363.36

b) Income since the last meeting

Scottish Power Line	8.05
Grant	700.00
Cemetery Charges	569.25
Adverts in Parish Roundabout	100.00

c) Enhancement of the Cemetery package.

The Clerk reported on the development of the software for the Council's Cemetery package. Following consideration it was agreed to convert the Council's annual maintenance agreement with Edge Designs Ltd into an online service (Epitaph) on a five year agreement of £85/year plus VAT. It was agreed also to agenda the security of Cemetery Records at a future meeting for further discussion.

17) Matters requiring attention

Description	Agreed action
i. ICO – Data Protection Renewal	Noted
ii. Scottish Power – Proposed Overhead Line Route	Noted
iii. NALC – Public Participation at Parish Meetings Information	Noted
iv. NALC– 2007/08 Pay Negotiations-Update Information	Noted
v. Shropshire County Council – Request for Passing Place	Noted
vi. Shropshire County Council – Rural Transport Strategy	Information
vii. Shropshire County Council – Walking for Life Project	Information
viii. Shropshire County Council – Local Highway Maintenance Plan	Information
ix. Oswestry Community Partnership – Oswestry Memory Bank	Information
x. Oswestry Borough Council – Town and Country Planning Act 1990-Appeal	Information
xi. Oswestry Borough Council – Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council Elections	Item No 15
xii. Oswestry Borough Council – The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005	Noted
xiii. Oswestry Borough Council – Affordable Housing Interim Planning Guidance Draft	Information
xiv. Oswestry Borough Council – Polling Places Review	Noted
xv. Oswestry Borough Council – Mayors Gala Charity Ball	Noted
xvi. Oswestry Community Partnership – Environment Delivery Group Mtg.	Information
xvii. Oswestry Area Committee of SALC – Register of Interests	Noted
xviii. Susan E Warrall – Speed in Selattyn	Item no. 13
xix. Dr Mathew K Makin – Selattyn Village Traffic	Item no. 13
xx. Mary Howe – Selattyn Village Traffic	Item no. 13
xxi. SALC – Training Opportunities	See below
xxii. Harper Adams University College – Rural Crime Conference	Information
xxiii. Safer Roads Partnership – Annual Review Conference	Information
xxiv. Gobowen Post Office – Branch Re-opening	Item no 15
xxv. Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health – Volunteer Recruitment	Noted
xxvi. Oswestry Community Partnership – Parish Plans Steering Group Consultation	Item 14
xxvii. Oswestry Borough Council – Housing Transfer	Information

Matters for Information

Description

- i. Shropshire County Council – Shropshire Bus...
- ii. The Playing Field
- iii. Shropshire Landscapes
- iv. Oswestry Borough Council – Planning Permits
 - a) Ashcroft, Old Chirk Road, Gobowen
 - b) 3 Hammonds Place, Gobowen
 - c) Higher Vron Farm, Selattyn
- v. Shropshire Union Canal Society – Newsletter
- vi. Shropshire Union Canal – Cuttings
- vii. Shropshire County Council – Oswestry History Week
- viii. Shropshire County Council – Public Transport News
- ix. Severn Dee - Newsletter

18) Date and time of the next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **17th October 2007 at the Pavilion, Gobowen at 7.00pm.**