

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes of the scheduled meetings of the Parish Council
Wednesday 23 October 2024 7.00pm in Aymestrey Parish Hall

Present: Cllrs Domenica Dunne, Ian Goddard, Helen Hamilton, Mike Snoswell, and Eleanor Waldron (Chairman). Cllr Alison Archer joined the meeting after co-option at 69. /2024
In attendance: Three members of Public, The Footpaths Officer, Ward Councillor Carole Gandy, Mrs Maggie Brown (Clerk).
Not present: Cllr John Probert.

66./2024 **Election of a Chairman** of the Council. **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Eleanor Waldron as Chairman. Cllr Waldron signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

67./2024 **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Nicola Luscott.

68./2024 **Declarations of Interest** and written Dispensation requests. None received.

69./2024 **Vacancy**. Application for co-option to the Parish Council. One application had been received. **RESOLVED** to co-opt Alison Archer as a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Archer signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Parish Council.

70./2024 **Open Discussion:**

- a) Ward Cllr Carole Gandy's report can be seen on the Parish Council's website. In addition, she reported that Herefordshire Council is dealing with the results of flooding across the county. If any flood signs are still up, please advise the Locality Steward, via the Clerk.
- b) Views of residents on parish matters. When the new Speed Indicator Device will be deployed at the southern end of the village was queried.
- c) Reports from Councillors.
Cllr Snoswell reported a road traffic accident at Mortimers Cross on 10 October 2024. The fire brigade was in attendance. It is understood a vehicle turning out of B4362 from Lucton was hit by a vehicle travelling north on the A4110 pushing it into the eastbound carriageway of the Shobdon road.

71./2024 **RESOLVED**. **Minutes** of the scheduled meeting held 25 September 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

72./2024 **Public Rights of Way (PROW)**

- a) Signing up to the new Herefordshire Council Parish Footpath Officer Scheme. Agreed: Clerk to feedback to Herefordshire Council that the scheme is considered too prescriptive and may deter people from volunteering. To be discussed further.
- b) Additional assistance to complete installation of gates/finger posts by end March 2025. No assistance is needed at this stage. To be discussed further.
Noted: permission is needed from three landowners before stiles can be replaced.
- c) Update from Footpaths Officer. The PFO confirmed AY4a towards Wigmore has been cleared as has the PROW up the hill from Yatton to the Iron Age Fort (part of the Wigmore Loop). Timber to restore steps below Pokehouse Wood has been collected. Agreed: To thank the National Trust for supplying materials for this task. **RESOLVED** to pay expense claim of £32.09 including £5.35 VAT for fuel to the PFO.
- d) Works to be undertaken by the Footpaths Officer. None were raised.

73./2024 **Planning**. Application to be determined by Herefordshire Council

[P242404/FH - Full Householder](#) Aymestrey, Mortimer, Bower Cottage Bacon Lane Aymestrey Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9SX. Retrospective application for a single storey extension to replace dilapidated single storey lean-to., Valid. Deadline 29 October. **RESOLVED** The Parish Council has no objection to this planning application.

74./2024 **Budget & Precept 2025-26**. First draft of the budget and potential precept for 2025/26.

Following discussions draft figures were agreed. A draft precept of £13,668.00 (a rise of 2% on the 2024/25 figure) and a draft budget of £19,118.40. The difference between the two to made up of £600 contributions to cost of printing Aymestrey Matters: £2748 estimated Lengthsman Grant for 2025/26 and £2,102.40 from General Reserves. The draft Budget is to be placed on the website for residents' information and finalised at the November meeting.

75./2024 **Financial Matters**

- a) The Responsible Financial Officer's Financial Report to end Quarter 2, April to September 2024, was received and the following recommendations were agreed:
 - i. To update the Online Banking Policy once accounts with Unity Trust Bank have been set up.
 - ii. To allocate £1,000 of General Reserves to a Mortimer's Cross Traffic Calming ringfenced fund.

- b) Noted: verification of the Bank Reconciliation for Quarter 2, July to September 2024 had been completed by Cllr Snoswell.
- c) Noted: payment since publication of the September agenda. One Stop Print Shop £303.60 Aymestrey Matters printing.
- d) Noted: balances on 17 October 2024. Lloyds Current a/c £15,233.73, 32-day notice a/c £10,203.52.
- e) Noted: Reserves and Ringfenced funds.

Reserve Fund £5,000, General Revenue Reserve £8,535.88, Total reserves £13,535.88

Ringfenced funds Traffic Calming Schemes £4,245.98 (not including payments listed below), Election Fund £829.94

Total ringfenced £5,075.92 Non reserve/ringfenced funds available: £6,825.45

f) RESOLVED to approve payments as follows:	Gross	VAT
i. Elan City, Speed Indicator Device. Inv. SAJ-UK/2024/02013	£2,747.99	£458.00
ii. Clerk's Payroll Month 7	£285.58	
iii. HMRC PAYE Month 7	£71.40	
iv. Clerk Expenses*	£123.22	£17.09
Total Payments	£3,228.19	£475.09

*Stamps £6.80; A4 Paper £4.75; Ink £5.99; Pole for SID £82.80; Spanner for SID £8.99. VAT £17.09

76./2024 **Aymestrey Mill.** A request for support in preserving the Aymestrey Mill Race which is in a state of disrepair was considered.

Noted: falling trees are pulling the banks of the Mill Race into the stream causing erosion. The heavy weight of vehicles, including 40-tonne forestry trucks, is contributing to the tilting of the road, causing damage to both the roadway and the Mill Race. Agreed: To write to the Head of Highways at Herefordshire Council asking for the road to be reinforced, and to write to Forestry England asking them to support this request. Agreed: Cllr Hamilton will meet Natural England to discuss pollarding of trees on the bank of the Race.

77./2024 **Mortimers Cross.** Repairs required to notice board at Mortimers Cross.

Noted: The board is not a good design and allows water ingress to the front and rear. Cllr Goddard offered to refurbish the board and replace the pin board inside. Cllr Goddard was thanked for this action.

78./2024 **Yatton Defibrillator.** Noted: date of Defibrillator Training Session Saturday 23 November, starting at 10.30am at the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

79./2024 **Traffic Calming. Aymestrey.**

a) An update following the Working Group meeting on 16 October was received.

- Road re-surfacing has slowed traffic.
- Two sheep sculptures have been ordered.
- A third speed indicator device (SID) socket has been supplied by Herefordshire Council and is due to be installed at the southern end of the village.
- Data from the new SID – collected with visual display switched off: 68% of vehicles driven at over 30mph. With visual display switched on: 35% of vehicles driven at over 30mph.
- Breedon Quarries has offered to sweep the road through Aymestrey once a month. Agreed: To write a letter of thanks.
- Licence is in place for Mortimer Trail decorative markings on the A4110.
- A pledge to fund one sheep sculpture has been received from a resident.
- Signage. Costings are being sought for brown 'tourist' signs for St. John the Baptist & St. Alkmund Church and the Parish Hall, directional signs for The Riverside and Bacon Lane, concealed entrance sign between village gates and Bacon Lane, and a junction sign indicating right turn to The Furlong.

Update on the Floral Display actions

- Cllr Gandy is seeking written confirmation from Mr Simon Hobbs and Mr Ed Bradford that existing wooden planters may be used, noting any further planters purchased should not be made of wood.
- A licence may be needed. It was proposed that an application be submitted for planters, signage, sheep and deer sculptures.

The following actions arising from the report were agreed.

- i. To accept quote from Lengthsman for installation of SID base and arrange installation.
- ii. To purchase paint for the vintage fingerpost at Ballsgate Lane, to an upper limit of £100. Clerk to follow up.
- iii. To consider how to re-surface the village gates recently removed from Aymestrey village making them easier to clean. The gates are in store with Cllr Archer and if permitted, will be used at Mortimers Cross.

b) The balance of ring-fenced funds and allocation of funds was considered. The Clerk confirmed that funds from General Reserves may be needed to complete the project. Up to £1,000 is still earmarked for use by the Floral Group as agreed by full council.

c) The receipt of the invoice for 2 x Willow Sheep was noted. **RESOLVED** the invoice may be paid on receipt of goods.

80./2024 **Traffic Calming. Mortimers Cross.** Report from Cllrs Snoswell and Goddard. An initial meeting is to be arranged, and initial proposals put forward at the November meeting.

81./2024 **Lengthsman.**

- a) **Agreed** to authorise payment of invoice(s) from the Lengthsman due to be received, having first circulated them to members.
- b) Works to be undertaken by the Lengthsman. The Clerk to discuss completion of tasks to utilise Lengthsman funding before the end of the financial year.

82./2024 Contents of the Information Sheet were noted. No matters arising.

83./2024 Confirmed date of next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, Wednesday 27 November 2024.

Meeting closed: 20:53

Original signed and on file.

Signed
Chairman of the Parish Council

Dated 27 November 2024.