

Aymestrey Parish Council

Minutes of scheduled meeting on Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 7.30pm in Aymestrey Parish Hall

Present Councillors Domenica Dunne, Ian Goddard (Chairman), Helen Hamilton, Dan Hurcomb, John Probert, Mike Snoswell and Eleanor Waldron.

In attendance The Tree Warden, Ward Councillor Carole Gandy and Maggie Brown (Clerk).

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Cllr David Duggan.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Goddard declared an interest in item 5.7, specifically payment of £142.65. No written Dispensation Requests received.
3. **Open Discussion**
 - 3.1. A written report from Ward Cllr Carole Gandy was circulated prior to the meeting. It can be seen on the website www.aymestrey.org. Cllr Gandy advised that no planning application had been received for Smokey Quarry.
 - 3.2. Update on parish matters from Chairman
 - 3.2.1. Aymestrey Phone Box. British Telecom is due to pay Western Power today. Once payment is received Western Power will disconnect the live cable.
 - 3.2.2. Hedges next to the pavement on the A4110 in Aymestrey. Letters have been delivered asking householders to cut back vegetation to ensure full width of pavement is available to pedestrians.
 - 3.2.3. Road Sweeper. Whilst there is evidence that the road has been swept, it has been ineffectual. Noted: Cllr Hurcomb has cleared debris on one side of the bridge, for which he was thanked.
 - 3.2.4. Queen's Green Canopy. The Tree Warden was invited to update the Parish Council:
The Tree Wardens propose two walks, to be arranged over a weekend in March 2022. The walks would (where possible) follow parish boundaries, and trees would be planted at agreed locations. Ten Oaks have been obtained free of charge. Other species may be preferable, depending on location. The first walk would start from Blue Mantle and a mini bus is proposed to ferry walkers safely to the location. Costs would include tree guards, mini bus hire and refreshments at the Parish Hall. The Tree Warden was thanked for his report, and it was agreed to discuss the subject further in November.
 - 3.3. Report from Councillor Snoswell. Data has been downloaded from the Speed Indicator Device and will be available to view on the website. An average of 50,000 vehicles per month was recorded, some travelling at over twice the speed limit. Please see Appendix 1.
 - 3.4. The resident present did not raise any views on parish matters.
4. **Minutes. RESOLVED** minutes of the scheduled meeting 22 September 2021 be signed as a true record.
5. **Financial Matters**
 - 5.1. Received: quarter end report from the Responsible Financial Officer. Noted: Bank reconciliations for Quarters 1 and 2 had been verified by Cllr Snoswell for which he was thanked.
 - 5.2. Finance Working Group. Confirmed that Cllr Waldron had joined the Group. She was thanked for her input at the recent working group meeting.
 - 5.3. Report from Finance Working Group. A suggested increase of 3% in precept will be discussed under item 5.5. The difference between budget and precept would be made up from reserves.
 - 5.4. Increase in cost of Broadband, to supply Fibre connection to the Parish Hall. **RESOLVED** to accept offer from PlusNet for a Fibre to the Cabinet connection, unless the Parish Hall asks to take on the contract. Arrangements to be made before the November meeting, to ensure a smooth transition. Note: contract ends on 27 November 2021.
 - 5.5. The first draft of budget for 2022/23 was considered. It is available to view on the website, and will be discussed again in November.
 - 5.6. Noted: payments between meetings: Direct Debits 20/9/21 £20.40 & 20/10/21 £24.42, inc. VAT to PlusNet for broadband; £256.60 One Stop Print Shop – printing Aymestrey Matters September edition.
 - 5.7. Balances noted, and **RESOLVED** to approve payments (Cllr Goddard withdrew from decision about payment of £142.65): **Lloyds Bank Balance at 20/10/21 £20,954.86.**

Ringfenced funds: For Traffic Calming Schemes £2,795.98; Parish Initiatives (topped up from General Revenue to cover Benches on order) £1,234.50; Election Fund £910.78; IT replacement £100; Reserve Fund £5,000.00; General Revenue Reserve £4,555.22.

TOTAL ringfenced £14,596.48 Un-ringfenced funds available: £6,358.38

Payments approved. Figures include VAT if applicable.

Reimbursement to Cllr Goddard - items for relocation of phone box	£142.65
Clerk Payroll Month 7	£239.78
HMRC PAYE Months 7	£60.00
Clerk's Home Working Allowance Apr to Sep 2021	£50.00
Reimbursement to Ian Banks - Events Website Software (annual subscription)	£81.50
Total Payments	£573.93
Un-ringfenced balance after October Payments:	£5,784.45

6. **Good Neighbour Scheme:** No calls received since the October meeting. No financial support required.

7. **Consultations**

- 7.1. Herefordshire Local Plan Update – pre-consultation survey for rural parishes. *Deadline 17/1/22*

Cllr Hamilton advised: Herefordshire Council is updating the Core Strategy, and is inviting comments from Parish Councils. It would be helpful to consider how the Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to the Core Strategy, including policies which may be detrimental to the Parish, or which may be strengthened. The review will not be completed until 2024, by which time the National Planning Policy Framework may have been updated. Agreed: Cllr Hamilton will draw up responses to be discussed in November. All members are asked to consider questions, to be better informed when considering draft produced by Cllr Hamilton.

- 7.2. Stakeholder Consultation - Forest Management carried out by Bronwin & Abbey Ltd (SA-FM/COC-001216 / SA-PEFC-FM-COC-001216). *Deadline 10/11/21.*

Queried: why is the Forestry Commission not replanting areas which have been clear felled? Noted: The plan is to restore ancient woodland sites in the Parish with oak plantations or by natural regeneration.

The Tree Warden considered the documentation and commented that it appears to be a robust framework for assessing forestry/woodland management. Measures for reviewing/ auditing management bodies undertaking woodland management appears comprehensive and straight forward, as does the assessment of their goals and achievements against stated goals. **RESOLVED** to agree responses to the Consultation drafted by the Tree Warden. Clerk to submit before deadline.

8. **River Lugg.** Noted: The Environment Agency has offered to attend a public meeting, date to be confirmed. Agreed: The Parish Council wishes to discuss river management only. The River Lugg Drainage Board responded, explaining river / riparian owner responsibilities which are already known to councillors. Reported: A meander is altering course each year and is now only 8 paces from the road.

9. **Phone Box at Leinthall Earls.** Terms of sale of the phone box to be sent to the Agent at Gatley Estate for consideration. The terms are the same as agreed when the Parish Council bought the phone box from British Telecom. Clerk to action.

10. **Speed Indicator Device. RESOLVED** To purchase ladder/platform at approx. £100. Clerk to action.

11. **Defibrillators.** Noted: current arrangement for maintenance of 3 defibrillators: Upper and Lower Lye are maintained through fundraising and the generosity of residents. The Parish Hall maintains the defibrillator at the Hall. Noted: costs £80-£100 p.a. minimum per defibrillator. Agreed: to have further discussions with residents and consider a solid proposal in November.

12. **Highways**

- 12.1. Ballsgate Lane 'soft verge' signs. **RESOLVED** To purchase six, at approx. £6 each.

- 12.2. How to facilitate and improve drainage on the unclassified roads in the Parish. Proposed that 3 sites in need of improvement be targeted. Two were identified between Yatton and Leinthall Earls, and one at Lower Lye. Action to be discussed with landowners and/or Balfour Beatty, or completed by the Parish Council, if appropriate.

13. **Footpaths**

- 13.1. Noted: The Footpaths Officer is working on the Mortimer Trail at Croft. No expense claims received.

13.2. No works reported to be undertaken by the Footpaths Officer.

14. Lengthsman

14.2. No update on works completed. The Lengthsman has been asked to trim around reflective markers from Aymestrey Mill to Ballsgate Cottage. No confirmation of receipt received.

14.3. No works were reported to be undertaken by the Lengthsman.

15. Contents of Information Sheet were noted. No actions arising.

16. Confirmed: date of the next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday 24 November 2021.

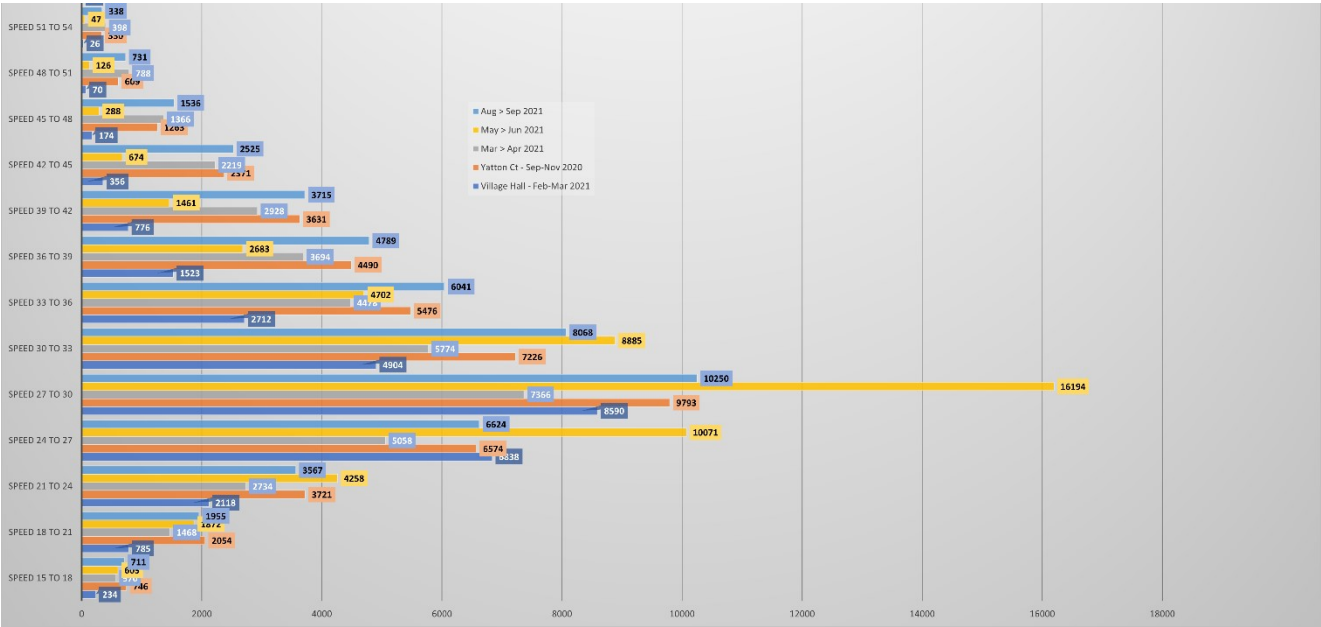
Meeting closed at 21:57

ORIGINAL SIGNED AND ON FILE

Signed
Cllr Ian Goddard. Chairman, Aymestrey Parish Council.

DATE 24 November 2021

Appendix 1
Data from Speed Indicator Device



Totals																
	15 to 18	18 to 21	21 to 24	24 to 27	27 to 30	30 to 33	33 to 36	36 to 39	39 to 42	42 to 45	45 to 48	48 to 51	51 to 54	54 to 57	57 to 60	60 to 63
Sep > Nov 2020	746	2054	3721	6574	9793	7226	5476	4490	3631	2371	1263	609	330	163	68	16
Feb > Mar 2021	234	785	2118	6838	8590	4904	2712	1523	776	356	174	70	26	16	3	1
Mar > Apr 2021	570	1468	2734	5058	7366	5774	4478	3694	2928	2219	1366	788	398	149	72	28
May > Jun 2021	603	1872	4258	10071	16194	8885	4702	2683	1461	674	288	126	47	26	14	6
Aug > Sep 2021	711	1955	3567	6624	10250	8068	6041	4789	3715	2525	1536	731	338	171	77	25

Percentages																
	15 to 18	18 to 21	21 to 24	24 to 27	27 to 30	30 to 33	33 to 36	36 to 39	39 to 42	42 to 45	45 to 48	48 to 51	51 to 54	54 to 57	57 to 60	60 to 63
Sep > Nov 2020	2%	4%	8%	14%	20%	15%	11%	9%	7%	5%	3%	1%	1%			
Feb > Mar 2021	1%	3%	7%	23%	29%	17%	9%	5%	3%	1%	1%					
Mar > Apr 2021	1%	4%	7%	13%	19%	15%	11%	9%	7%	6%	3%	2%	1%			
May > Jun 2021	1%	4%	8%	19%	31%	17%	9%	5%	3%	1%	1%					
Aug > Sep 2021	1%	4%	7%	13%	20%	16%	12%	9%	7%	5%	3%	1%	1%			