



Lawley & Overdale Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at Lawley Community Centre, Lawley
on Tuesday 3rd April 2007

Present:

Cllr. Pauline Picken (Chair), Cllr. Darren Blackburn, Cllr. John Dixon, Cllr. Alan Hussey, Cllr. Malcolm Jarvis and Cllr. Roy Picken

Clerk:

Sharon Clayton

971/00 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

972/00 Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

973/00 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: -

- Cllr. Mike Morgan who was absent due to his wife's long term illness
- Cllrs. Tony Proctor who was absent due to a stay in hospital.

These apologies were ACCEPTED and AGREED as APPROVED absence.

974/00 Declarations of Interest

| Councillor | Interest | Declaration | Minute no. |
|------------|----------|---------------|------------|
| | | None declared | |

975/00 Minutes

975/01 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6th March 2007 were **APPROVED**.

RESOLVED that the minutes be signed as a true record.

975/02 The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2007 were **NOTED**.

976/00 Clerk's Report

976/01 Members received the following written information:

- a. A copy of the minutes from the SLCC Shropshire Branch meeting held on 24th March 2007
- b. A copy of the minutes from the Wrekin Area Committee meeting held on 18th January 2007
- c. A report from the Larger Local Councils meeting held on 14th March 2007

Noted

976/02 The Clerk gave the following verbal report which was **noted**:

- a. Although it had been approved at the last parish council meeting that the current ISP for the parish council's telephone and IT provision should be changed to BT, it was not possible since the present contract with Sky Broadband was effective until September 2007.
- b. The Clerk had attended a SALC Executive committee meeting held on 2nd April 2007 and Members were issued with a copy of the notes giving an update on proposals relating to the Shropshire County PCT Strategic Services Plan.
- c. The aforementioned Executive meeting had also discussed concerns raised by Stirchley & Brookside Parish Council who felt that SALC does not adequately represent larger local councils. Although Telford & Wrekin represents 33% of the total electorate in Shropshire its voting power on the Executive only equates to 17%. 14 of SALC's 168 councils are classed as larger councils and their subscription fees subsidise the smaller councils. It may be necessary to restructure SALC if Shropshire gains unitary status and it was suggested that a separate county association may be needed for both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. SALC propose to establish a Task and Finish Group to put forward recommendations at the 2007 SALC AGM on how it can best serve the needs of all its member councils.
- d. Confirmation has now been received from the Audit Commission stating that the present auditors, UHY Hacker Young will continue to act as external auditor to the parish council.
- e. The Clerk had forwarded a message to Derek Owen from Neville Stebbing, Director of the Lawley Development Group, regarding the upgrade of Princes End Play Area. Neville was anxious that the upgrade should go ahead as soon as possible yet Derek was still not in possession of the s106 monies to continue with the project.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to contact Kath Whitfield in Planning for an update on the situation.

977/00 Councillor Training

The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council adopt a training strategy in lieu of the impending local elections in May 2007 so that new Members in particular should be trained sufficiently to serve the local community. Members were also advised that a training strategy was a recommendation for re-accreditation of the Quality Parishes Scheme. The following resolution was therefore considered for approval.

'In order to maintain the standards expected from a Quality Council, all Members of this council will participate in appropriate councillor training as soon as is practicable following their acceptance of office and that the Chair will participate in appropriate training in Chairmanship according to (21) in the Parish Council's Standing Orders'.

RESOLVED that the resolution be adopted.

978/00 Transport related issues and Rights of Way

978/01 Local Transport

The next meeting of the Bus User Group meeting was scheduled to take place on 3rd July 2007.

NOTED

978/02 Rural Transport

Members were informed that the £1,000 awarded from the Rural Access Grant towards the bus shelter refurbishment had been received.

NOTED

978/03 Rights of Way

Descriptions and maps of the proposed rights of way to be added to the Definitive Network in Lawley & Overdale had been received from Bob King. Although they had been passed to TWC legal department for action in 2002 they had still not been formally agreed as rights of way. However, it was expected that they would be actioned in the 2007/8 financial year.

Cllr. Malcolm Jarvis expressed disappointment that, in spite of numerous promises from Telford & Wrekin Council, the hand rail at 'The Shut' had still not been fitted.

ACTION: The Clerk was asked to write to Meredith Evans to:

- a. enquire how long it would take before the legal department added rights of way that were not yet included to the Definite Network
- b. and urge him to place pressure on those responsible to install the hand rail at 'The Shut'.

979/00 Finance

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | <u>Parish Council</u> | <u>Lawley Community Centre</u> |
| 979/01 | Payments for March 2007 | £28,374.51 | £922.87 |

RESOLVED that the financial reports for March 2007 be accepted although it was noted that these were not the final year end figures.

979/02 Members considered the transfer of £15,750 into the 2006/7 financial year balances held in reserve for the CSO from the previous financial year.

RESOLVED that £15,750 be brought forward from last year's reserve.

980/00 Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and **NOTED**

- a. Open Space spring 2007 volume 28 no 8
- b. CPRE Countryside Voice spring 2007
- c. CPRE Fieldwork March 2007
- d. Thomas Telford School Review 2006 issue 27
- e. Invitation from UK Coal to attend public information exhibitions
- f. West Midlands Regional Assembly newsletter Speaking Out issue 14

981/00 Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960

In view of the confidential nature of the business that was transacted members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting.

Members received a report from the Chair following a meeting with officers of Telford & Wrekin Council where proposals for the parish council to take on the lease and management of the Carpenter Centre, Overdale had been discussed.

RESOLVED that the Chair and Clerk should have further discussions with Telford & Wrekin Council so that sufficient information would be available to enable Members to make an informed decision at an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 24th April 2007.

982/00 Date of next meeting

It was **AGREED** that:

- a. The Annual Parish meeting would take place on Tuesday 17th April 2007 commencing 7.00 p.m. at Lawley Community Centre, Lawley.
- b. An Extraordinary meeting would take place on Tuesday 24th April 2007 following the Planning and Environment Committee meeting.
- c. The Annual Parish Council meeting would take place on Tuesday 8th May 2007 commencing 7 p.m. at Lawley Community Centre, Lawley followed by the Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 20.20 p.m.

Signed.....
Chair

Dated.....