

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 following the Annual General Meeting at The Sambrook  
Centre, Stirchley**

Present: Cllrs C Lloyd (Chair), C Addison, S Cook, A England, K Jolly, J Loveridge, G Sinclair, T Skidmore, C Turley, S Vaughan-Hodkinson, A Watkin, T Wood

In Attendance: C Maclean (Locum Clerk/RFO), J Creed (Environmental Services Officer)

Members of Public: 1

**FC/24/022 WELCOME**

Cllr C Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting which commenced at 7:25pm.

Cllr C Lloyd noted with Cllrs that a key event from the previous year was undertaking of the local governance review and that the outcome was awaited which may impact the parish.

Cllr also noted the recent joining of Cllrs Cook and Jolly and their positive contribution to their roles. Others continue to serve as previously.

Cllr C Lloyd appreciated with Cllrs the efforts of the Locum Clerk and team members to address the issues and activities impacting the Parish Council. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council was moving towards a stronger position and better able to serve the community.

Cllr T Wood acknowledged with Cllrs the efforts and contribution of Cllr C Lloyd as chair over the past year.

**FC/24/023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**FC/24/024 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr K Jolly declared an interest in agenda item FC/24/031b.

Cllr G Sinclair declared an interest in agenda item FC/24/35b.

Cllr S Cook declared an interest in agenda item FC/24/037.

**FC/24/025 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No comments or points raised.

**FC/24/026 OPERATION SPREE AND OPERATION STEER CLEAR**

Cllr K Jolly advised Cllrs of the ongoing Operation Spree which attempts to deal with offroad bikes. Further operations continue.

Cllr K Jolly advised Cllrs of Operation Steer Clear which is an initiative to educate youngsters of the dangers of knives and help deter them from knife crime. Cllr C Addison enquired whether parents' consent was obtained which was confirmed.

Creed advised Cllrs that periodic sweeps of the parish were undertaken by the Police to search for and remove knives. Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson suggested that the Council be involved in the next sweep.

Cllr J Loveridge enquired of the possibility of the bee angel visiting the parish. Cllr K Jolly advised that enquiries would be made. Cllr S Cook noted there would be benefits of undertaking a community wide initiative with the youngsters within the parish.

Two representatives of the Brookside SNT team joined the meeting at 7:38pm.

**FC/24/027 POLICE REPORT**

PCSO D Ramsden advised Cllrs of apologies from PCSO W Turley of the Nedge SNT team but advised that there was nothing to report in relation to The Nedge.

PCSO D Ramsden advised Cllrs that there was nothing new to report for Brookside. Focus remains on dealing with anti-social behaviour and offroad activity.

Cllr T Wood enquired of the team's priorities within Brookside. PCSO D Ramsden advised that day by day it could vary but in line with the charter priorities focus was on anti-social behaviour, drugs and violence. The team were also supporting the authorities conducting Operations Spree and Sceptre.

Cllr T Wood noted that the parish contained a high level of shoplifting. PCSO D Ramsden advised that an individual was known to the authorities and was being dealt with.

Cllr T Wood expressed concern over the level of violence and sexual offences within the parish which remained high. Cllr T Wood enquired what was being done to address these as no information was forthcoming. Cllr K Jolly advised that enquiries would be made with the team in Madeley station.

Cllrs noted that knowledge and education of the issues that revolve around sexual offences was important and the Locum Clerk advised that discussions were ongoing with representatives from Axis Counselling Service on a borough wide initiative led by Axis and that it was intended to have the sessions hosted within The Sambrook Centre.

Cllr C Addison enquired whether the statistics relating to violent crime could be broken down further. PCSO D Ramsden advised that enquiries would be made. Cllr S Cook expressed concerns over ages of the individuals involved. Cllr A Watkin enquired whether the team undertook vehicle checks as he had concerns over a vehicle located within Stirchley village. PCSO D Ramsden advised that enquiries could be made with the team via 101 or online.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson noted there was an individual appearing to live in a tent on Stirchley Avenue and had reported this by email. PCSO D Ramsden advised she would discuss this with PCSO W Turley and appreciated the potential for concern over the state of the person's wellbeing.

Cllr A England noted that Brookside was in an area of high in social deprivation. He expressed view that it is important to provide support to offenders and assistance to recover back into the community. Having stated his previous experience in mentoring youths, Cllr A England suggested the possibility of joint events between the Parish Council with the Police

authorities on intervention and mentoring support. PCSO D Ramsden would advise details of future sessions planned by the Police.

**FC/24/028 MINUTES**

**To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 9 April 2024.**

**Proposed by Cllr J Loveridge, seconded by Cllr T Wood and it was resolved by all who were present at the Full Council Meeting held on 9 April 2024 be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.**

**FC/24/029 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**FC/24/030 COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that whilst there had been some interest in the Brookside vacancy no applications had been received to date.

**FC/24/031 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**a. Application from Holmer Lake Primary School Stay and Play Sessions**

Cllrs noted the application received from Holmer Lake Primary School for support in their Stay and Play sessions.

Cllr A England expressed his keenness to see this supported as he was impressed by the school offering.

**It was resolved that the grant sum of £500.00 be given to Holmer Lake Primary School for their Stay and Play sessions.**

Cllr K Jolly left the meeting at 8:18pm in light of the subsequent agenda item.

**b. Contribution Request from Telford & Wrekin Council to Crucial Crew Funding**

Cllrs shared concerns over the blanket approach taken by Telford & Wrekin Council in seeking contributions towards the funding of Crucial Crew.

Cllrs agreed that proper consideration could only be given if the Parish Council's grant application process was followed.

Cllrs agreed that to enable consideration details would be required of the number of pupils within the parish eligible to attend and financial performances from previous years.

Cllrs thanked the Police representatives who left the meeting at 8:23pm.  
Cllr K Jolly rejoined the meeting at 8:23pm.

**FC/24/032 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**a. Allotments Provision and Maintenance**

Cllrs noted the report provided by the Environmental Services Officer.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that plot inspections would be introduced with documented evidence retained on their condition at times of inspections.

Cllr A Watkin enquired whether the weed poisoning would be environmentally friendly. This was confirmed.

Cllr G Sinclair suggested it would be useful to see the minutes from meetings of the Allotment Association. The Locum Clerk confirmed these would be forwarded on receipt.

**b. Revised Allotment Agreements**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that work continued on preparing the updated rental agreement.

**c. Gardening Service**

Cllrs noted the report provided by the Environmental Services Officer.

Cllr T Skidmore enquired whether onsite assessments were undertaken on applicants. This was confirmed.

Cllr A Watkin enquired whether checks were made of the electoral register to substantiate eligibility. Cllrs noted that the process was based on trust.

**d. General Environment Maintained by the Parish Council**

Cllrs noted the report provided by the Environmental Services Officer.

Cllrs noted the work undertaken by Creed to refer issues to Telford & Wrekin Council.

Cllr K Jolly noted the flooding and poor ground conditions in the area of the Stirchley MUGA. Creed advised that he would check this when it next rains.

**FC/24/033 HUMAN RESOURCES AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPORT**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that this item would be deferred to a future meeting of Council.

**FC/24/034 FOI/DATA PROTECTION/GDPR/LEGAL SUPPORT**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that this item would be deferred to a future meeting of Council.

**FC/24/035 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**a. New Applications**

Cllrs considered application TWC/2024/0308 relating to the property at 22 Churncote and proposed changes to the drive and entrance to the property. Following consideration Cllrs agreed that the Council would offer no comment.

Cllrs considered application TWC/2024/0331 relating to Holmer Lake, Holmer Lane, Stirchley and the proposed siting of a storage container. Following consideration Cllrs agreed that the Council would offer no comment.

Cllrs noted that no applications had been received subsequent to publication of the agenda.

**b. Application Decisions**

Cllrs noted the following recent decisions by Telford & Wrekin Council which had been advised by the Locum Clerk on receipt.

**FC/24/036 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**a. Financial Report**

Cllrs noted the paper presented to Council advising of the current status of the Council's finances.

**b. Payments Requiring Approval of Council**

Cllrs noted no new invoices requiring approval at the meeting.

**FC/24/037 COUNCIL PROJECTS WITH EXTERNAL FUNDING**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that the Parish Council continues to seek external funding to its activities, both in terms of what it currently provides through Happy Healthy Active Holidays (HHAH) activities supported by Telford & Wrekin Council as well as new projects such as the Million Hours Project which is government funded. Successful detailed applications result in receipt of funds from external parties in tranches which means funds being provided with specific focus on spend relating to these activities. Costs relating to some of the providers and supporting organisations will exceed the discretionary limit of the Clerk and therefore requires Council approval prior to payment.

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that a formal structure was required to ensure that prior advice of the funding and its structure along with spend was required to ensure that a supplier was not delayed in receiving payment.

The Locum Clerk advised that a paper setting out the structure for future projects and payments would be presented at a future meeting to enable Cllrs to pre-approve payments as and when they became due.

**FC/24/038 CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEES FORUM**

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson advised Cllrs of recent developments relating to the forum that endeavoured to seek opportunities to enhance the climate footprint for communities across Telford and Wrekin.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson advised Cllrs that the latest initiative included "postcards from the future" where people were asked to think about what the future would like for the borough and set these out on postcards.

Contributions were required prior to the next meeting of the forum on 17 June.

Cllr T Wood suggested that an appropriate approach to this initiative would be to think as a child and wonder what they would wish to see. It was agreed that the FunZone team would seek contributions from the youths attending their sessions.

**FC/24/039 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

Cllr A England advised of continual car parking problems within Brookside. Cases of overgrown hedges were also noted.

It was also noted that the presence of rats within parts of Brookside continued to be an issue in light of the leaving out of rubbish.

**FC/24/040 PARISH MATTERS**

Cllrs noted the poor state of the area within the Brookside roundabout. Discussion followed on the ownership aspects of the area and it was agreed that clarification was required on the matter.

Cllr C Lloyd noted issues relating to disability access on Grange Avenue in the area of the assisted living care home being constructed due to large number of vehicles parking on verges.

**FC/24/041 FUTURE MEETINGS OF COUNCIL**

Cllrs considered the day within the week and timing for future meetings.

**Proposed by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson, seconded by Cllr K Jolly and it was resolved with 11 in favour and 1 objection that future meetings would remain on a Tuesday evening but commencing at 7:00pm.**

**FC/24/042 NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

- a. Parish Solar Farm. Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson advised Cllrs that there is information on storage facilities and advice can be provided to town and parish councils. Details may be available from Telford Energy Advice.
- b. Advice to Locum Clerk of items for next meeting.

**FC/24/043 NEXT MEETING DATE**

**a. Annual Electors Meeting and Extraordinary Meeting of Council**

Cllrs noted the date of the Annual Electors Meeting followed by an extraordinary meeting of Council on 28 May 2024.

**b. Brookside Parishioners Meeting**

Cllrs noted the plan to hold a meeting at Brookside Central. Discussion would be held with the Centre Manager to identify possible date(s). It was noted that this may include presentation from Telford Energy Advice.

Cllr T Skidmore conveyed his apologies as he would be unable to attend the meetings on 28 May 2024.

**FC/24/044 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC**

It is recommended that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information in relation to any individual, as defined in paragraph 1, and/or information relating to financial or business affairs, as defined in paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was unanimously resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.**

**FC/24/045 HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that matters relating to human resources would be deferred to a future meeting.

The Chair noted the next meetings scheduled for 28 May and thanked everyone, declaring the meeting closed at 9:22pm.

*Signed*

.....

Chair

Date: 25 June 2024