

Madeley Parish Council

MINUTES OF Madeley Parish COUNCIL Meeting held on Thursday 6th July 2023 commencing 7.00pm at The Madeley Centre, New Road, Madeley

Present: Councillors J. Stephenson (JS) (Chair), C. Hopkin (CH), B. Ruscoe (BR), J. Whitmore (JW), D. Whitmore (DW), T. Morgan (TM), P. Carnall (PC) G. White (GW), S. White (SW), C. Cahill (CC).

In attendance: Natalie Lovell (Clerk), A. Collins (AC), 4 Members of the Public (MOP).

38.7/1 Apologies for Absence in accordance with Standing Orders

Council approved apologies from Cllrs. T. Nicoll and K. Walley.

39.7/2 Councillors' Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in item on the Agenda

To be disclosed as matters arise.

40.7/3 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting: TM declared a personal interest in item 48.7/11a) and would not be present or take part in consideration of this item.

41.7/4 Public Participation

MOP advised that the Darby and Joan Club had organised several trips including days out to Burston and Liverpool and arranged a Coronation lunch. There is an upcoming trip to Bolton and they are also arranging a mystery tour. MOP advised that all activities are available to members and villagers.

MOP advised that hedge growth at Heighley Castle Way is preventing two cars passing at the same time. The issue was reported to Staffordshire County Council two years ago but no works have been undertaken. PC advised that he had also contacted Staffordshire County Council regarding the matter and JS advised that he had contacted Paul Northcott, County Councillor, regarding the issue three months ago. The junction at New Road was of particular concern. The Parish Council advised that the village lengthsmen had been requested to undertake works at that junction.

MOP expressed concern regarding the Draft Local Plan with reference to the identification of land behind Bar Hill as a potential development site. CH advised that the Local Plan identifies areas which could potentially be developed but this does not mean that development will be undertaken. JS advised that the area is currently within the HS2 exclusion zone.

MOP enquired about the development at Madeley Manor. JS advised that the current plans are to transform the building into flats, developers are currently awaiting the enabling application to be processed.

42.7/5 Confirmation of Minutes

TM proposed, JW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to **approve** and for the Chair to sign as a factual record the Minutes of the last **Council Meeting** held on **Thursday 1st June 2023**.

43.7/6 Matters Arising none.

44.7/7 Police Update

Police advised that anti-social behaviour figures had fallen 18% in Madeley 1, 14 incidents reported in June this year compared to 17 in June of last year. Madeley 2 saw a fall of 64%, 4 incidents reported in June this year compared to 11 in June of last year.

Crime figures had risen by 7% in Madeley 1, 107 incidents reported in June this year compared to 100 in June last year. Madeley 2 saw a rise of 35%, 54 incidents reported in June this year compared to 40 in June last year.

Police advised the cost-of-living crisis had contributed to the rise in figures and the fact that there are more agricultural thefts in the summer months.

JW and CH requested a detailed breakdown of the types of crimes committed. Police advised that they would provide this information for June and then include this information as part of the monthly reports.

45.7/8 Financial Update

- a) Council considered the grant application received from Lea Court Residents Association for £300 towards the creation of a wild garden and mobility pathway. Representatives of the Association advised that space had been allocated for the project and some works had already commenced including the planting of fruit trees. The grant funds would be used to employ a contractor to rotavate the area, in order for wild flower seeds to be planted in October. The Clerk advised that copies of the Association's Bank Statements and accounts would be required in order for the application to be fully considered.
JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to award the grant of £300 in principle, subject to the receipt of satisfactory Bank Statements and accounts.
CH proposed, JW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to increase the grant award to £500.
- b) Council considered obtaining a Parish Council debit card to be issued to the Clerk. GW proposed a debit card be applied for with a maximum limit of £500, JS seconded, council **resolved** unanimous for the Clerk to apply for a debit card and Financial Regulations be amended to reflect this change.
- c) Council considered the purchase of a new Parish Council smart phone and sim due to the current phone being outdated. PC advised that he would provide a smart phone for Parish Council use and would also source the appropriate sim plan.
- d) Council considered the quote received from Steve Hough regarding the works required to the steps and metal sign at Heath Wood. JS proposed, CH seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to approve the quote and schedule the works.
- e) Council considered the quote received from Steve Hough regarding the works required to secure the bench at Heath Row playground. JS proposed, CC seconded, Council **resolved** unanimously to approve the quote and schedule the works.

- f) Council considered the quotes received for legal advice and potential lease amendment drafts. JS proposed, JW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to approve the quote received from Nowell Mellor as being the best value for money and for the Clerk to instruct Nowell Mellor, all costs incurred to be borne by Madeley White Star.
- g) Council considered the additional funding required by the bid writer for the bid applications for the pump track. GW advised that the bid writer had completed the application to Walleys Quarry, but required additional time to complete the application to HS2. GW proposed, CC seconded, Council **resolved** 8 for and 2 against to vire funds of £1,000 from the pump track enabling works budget for the additional work required.
- h) Council approved payments (list attached). Cllr. C. Cahill was appointed to inspect the bank statements and bank reconciliations for accuracy at the end of each quarter. CC completed checks of the quarter April to June 2023. Council considered the budget update and detailed payments list. JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to vire the remaining funds in the RFO salary budget and Community Support Worker budget to the locum clerk budget.

46.7/9 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

GW and SW advised there had been two Borough Council meetings, consisting of one annual meeting and one to celebrate 850 years of the Borough.

Consultation had begun regarding the draft local plan and a public consultation meeting would be held at the Madeley Centre on 13th July at 5pm. Planning Officers would be present to offer advice. GW and SW advised that they had distributed leaflets to residents in Bar Hill and Moor Hall Farm advising of the meeting and offering advice.

GW and SW advised they are continuing to pursue HS2 regarding the rental of empty properties at Bar Hill, of the six empty houses only one has been made available for rent. GW and SW are also providing assistance to two residents of Bar Hill with the need to sell team. GW advised that HS2 continues to dominate their time.

GW provided an update regarding the issues with the Borough Council Recycling Services and advised that this was due to vehicle breakdown and high employee absence. Notifications have been made on social media advising residents to leave their recycling bins out for collection.

GW and SW met with Police regarding the ongoing issue with drugs in Madeley.

47.7/10 Onneley Village Hall and Rural Run-about

CH reported his attendance at the recent Onneley Village Hall meeting and his appointment to the Committee. The Village Hall is undergoing renovations to the kitchen and toilet area and once completed will be formally opened by the Mayor (SW). The next meeting of the Onneley Village Hall committee will take place in September.

CH also reported his appointment as secretary to the Rural-Runabout Charity Committee.

48.7/11 Governance

Councillor T. Morgan left the meeting.

- a) The Council considered the applicant for co-opted Councillor, Mr Andrew Collins and conducted an interview.

JS asked AC his reasons for his application as Councillor. AC replied that he had the necessary time and wanted to give back to the local community.

JS asked what experience AC had that would be useful in the role of Councillor. AC replied that he had previously held the position of Councillor in Wigan from 1999 to 2005. He had administered a children's charity in Stafford and also set up and administered the 'Unified Credit Union' in Wigan, which was still active to date. He also works in the caring profession.

JS asked whether AC would have sufficient time available to undertake the duties of Councillor. AC replied that his current position worked on a shift pattern of 4 days on 4 days off. This may change to a Monday to Friday 9am-5pm work pattern in the near future.

JS asked AC what areas he thought the Parish Council should be focusing on. AC replied that he felt passionate about services for older people, having worked in specialised older persons housing. He also has a keen interest in wildlife, environmental and housing issues.

DW asked AC how long he had lived in Madeley, to which AC replied 9 months, but had assisted with last year's Madeley Carnival and the King's Coronation celebrations.

DW questioned the conflict between housing needs and environmental matters. AC replied his interest in housing referred to social housing.

AC left the meeting whilst Councillors voted.

JW commented that although AC had not been resident in the village for very long he had the experience needed.

The Council **resolved** unanimous to appoint AC as a co-opted Councillor.

AC and TM returned to the meeting and AC signed his acceptance of office and completed his declaration of interests form, at which point AC joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

- b) Councillors considered the Parish Council's response to the first draft local plan.

Councillors considered that the main impact of the local plan for Madeley Parish was the inclusion of land at Bar Hill as a potential area for development. Councillors stated that the main concern was any external impact of future development.

Councillors agreed that it would not be viable to reject any development and some additional housing is required for the needs of the community, moreover,

one large development may prevent numerous smaller developments. The Council should take a responsible and balanced approach to housing requirements, if future development is undertaken the Parish Council should set out the conditions for that development. The Parish Council should accept that some additional housing is required but it is important for the Council to have the power to decide where any new development would be situated and ensure the Parish receives adequate and proportionate compensation for any development in the form of Section 106 payments or traffic management works.

Traffic management is already an issue for the Parish, particularly at the Monument and Manor Road Junctions. Bar Hill already has heavy traffic passing through. Any future development should include traffic management works for these sites. Parish Councillors expressed the need for a bypass to be built in order for Madeley to cope with increased traffic. Infrastructure for cycles and E-scooters should also be implemented.

Any future development should include the provision of additional GP services and School places and should include Housing Association homes.

The Parish Council would need to review its Neighbourhood Development Plan upon the completion of the Local Plan.

CH proposed, CC seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous that JS compile a response based on the issues raised and circulate to Councillors for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

49.7/12 Planning Matters

The Council considered the following planning applications:

- **23/00456/FUL**: 1 Newcastle Road, Madeley. Alterations and extension to form an additional two bedroom dwelling with associated hard and soft landscaping works and alterations to existing vehicular access. Councillors comments were circulated via email and a response submitted by the Clerk on 3rd July due to the submission deadline of 6th July.
- **23/00518/SCH17**: Land North West of Bower End Farm, Madeley. HS2 application. Council **resolved** not to submit a response.
- **23/00399/FUL**: Moss House, Moss Lane, Madeley. Erection of detached dwelling and detached garage with living accommodation at first floor level. Council **resolved** not to submit a response.
- **23/00528/AGR**: Bar Hill House Farm, Madeley. Erection of three buildings. GW provided additional information and plans for Councillors information. Council **resolved** not to submit a response.

50.7/13 HS2

Council **noted** the traffic issues with the ongoing works to install power lines and the need for a solution to alleviate the issue of traffic queuing and vehicles constantly turning due to the diversion in place.

The Council **noted** the requirement to display the Route Widening Injunction Order on Parish noticeboards.

51.7/14 Village Appearance

TM confirmed that works had been undertaken to address the issues at the little pool off New Road and the area had now been tidied.

The village lengthsman had been requested to attend to the overhanging trees between the old Working Mens Club and the motorway bridge.

DW advised that the commemorative bench at John Offley/Izaak Walton Way was breaking and in a dangerous condition. He had made inquiries to ascertain any interests in the bench but had not received any response. The Council **resolved** unanimous to obtain a quote to replace the bench and the commemorative plaque.

DW advised that works were required to the flower bed at Greyhound Corner and that he would make a start to the works himself.

DW to circulate an email to Parish Councillors regarding any other works he feels are required.

CH thanked the village lengthsman for his works at Onneley.

52.7/15 Aspire Housing Disposal of Assets

The Council considered the notification received from Aspire regarding their disposal of garage sites at Madeley and the additional information supplied to the Clerk. The area of hardstanding in front of the garages was used by residents for parking and if this were to be removed it would result in additional vehicles being parked on the roads at John Offley, Morning Side, Laveroc Grove and Birchdale. DW proposed, TM seconded, the Council **resolved** unanimous to make an initial objection to the proposal and then consider the possible purchase of the site by the Parish Council.

53.7/16 Events

The Council **noted** the update of the Carnival preparations provided by JS. GW advised additional volunteers were required for the parade, JW offered her assistance and CC advised she may be able to provide an additional volunteer, GW advised he would also contact Councillor Nicoll.

54.7/17 Committees and Working Groups

Council **resolved** unanimous to defer this item to the next Parish Council meeting.

55.7/18 Madeley Pool

- a) Council **noted** that picnic benches had been delivered and were now on site.
- b) Council **resolved** unanimous not to secure benches at present and to monitor the usage in order to establish if benches were appropriately situated.
- c) Council considered the proposals circulated by Ground Works and the Madeley Pool Partnership. JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous that Councillor Nicoll complete the presentation and provide details on social media, Parish Council website and Survey Monkey and hold three public consultation meetings.

- d) The Council considered establishing the Madeley Pool Partnership as an executive Committee. DW advised that the Council must consider the sub-lease to the Fishing Club once the Parish Council lease had been finalised. CH advised that the lease terms were close to finalisation. JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to establish the Madeley Pool Partnership as an executive Committee, with the power to decide how to spend Section 106 funding, but not Parish Council funds.

56.7/19 Annual Playground Inspections

Council **noted** the contents of the annual playground inspections which concluded that risks at the playgrounds were minor. The Clerk advised that valuation reports had been requested.

57.7/20 Clerk's Update

Council **noted** the contents of the Clerk's update and the further update from the Clerk that a Section 50 licence was no longer required for the installation of the CCTV camera pole and that works should commence within three weeks.

58.7/21 Equality and Diversity

Councillors were requested to be mindful of the Equality and Diversity Policy and their crime prevention powers for the meeting.

59.7/22 Councillors' Planned Absence

None.

60.7/23 Next Meeting

Council noted the date of the next regular Council meeting would be **Thursday 3rd August 2023** commencing at 7pm at the Madeley Centre.

Chair thanked the MOP's for their attendance and participation.

Meeting closed at 9pm. Chair thanked Councillors for their attendance.