


Madeley Parish Council

MINUTES OF Madeley Parish COUNCIL Meeting held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 commencing 7.00pm at The Madeley Centre, New Road, Madeley

Present: Councillors J. Stephenson (JS) (Chair), Cllr. K. Walley (KW) (Vice-chair), A. Collins (AC) (late), C. Hopkin (CH), J. Whitmore (JW), T. Morgan (TM), P. Camall (PC) C. Cahill (CC), T. Nicoll (TN), G. White (GW), S. White (SW).

In attendance: Natalie Lovell (Clerk), 1 Member of the Public (MOP)

- 141.11/1 Apologies for Absence in accordance with Standing Orders
Council received apologies from Cllr. M.B. Ruscoe and Cllr. D. Whitmore.
- 142.11/2 Councillors' Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in item on the Agenda
Council **received** declarations of pecuniary interest from Cllrs. G White and S White in regard to item 148.11/8 on the Agenda.
- a) Council **received** a written request for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests from Cllr. A. Collins. The Council considered the request for dispensation in order to allow Cllr. Collins to participate in discussions and voting regarding matters involving allotments.
 - b) JS proposed, KW seconded, TM abstained, Council **resolved** unanimous to grant the request for dispensation.
- 143.11/3 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting: To be disclosed as matters arise.
- 144.11/4 Public Participation
MOP expressed concern regarding the overgrown hedge growth along Heighley Castle Way and enquired of progress made by the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that permission had been requested from County Council for the Parish Council to undertake works. Councillors advised that landowners bordering the road would be contacted by the Parish Council requesting permission for works to be undertaken.
- 145.11/5 Police Update
Police advised 2 road traffic collisions and 2 instances of anti-social behaviour had been reported. A group of hunt saboteurs had also been moved on.
- 146.11/6 Financial Update
- a) Council **noted** no new applications had been received under the Grants Programme (balance £1,945.00/£500 per application).
 - b) Council **noted** the signing of the change of address form for Unity Bank.
 - c) Council **considered** the report of the Clerk regarding the transfer of £30,000 from the Council's Deposit bank account to the Council's Savings account to ensure sufficient funds be available for Council payments and a future transfer of £30,000 from the Council's Deposit bank account to the Council's Savings account to provide continued funds in the event of any delay in the Council's receipt of the precept payment. JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous in favour to authorise transfers as needed. Council further **resolved** to authorise the signing of the draft authorisation letter to bankers.


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- d) Council **considered** the quotes received from Steve Hough for repairs and locks to be replaced at Birchdale play area:
 - i) To repair and replace the lock to the rear gates £73.00 approx.
 - ii) To replace the lock to the main gates £35.00 approx.
 JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to authorise repairs as per the quote supplied.
- e) Council **considered** the purchase of replacement grit bins. JS proposed, JW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to purchase one 60 litre grit bin from Screwfix at a cost of £99.99 to replace the missing grit bin near to the old Cheese Mill. Council further **resolved** to remove the damaged grit bin near Madeley Pool.
- f) Council **considered** the purchase of suitable outdoor replacement Christmas lights. CC proposed, JW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to purchase replacement Christmas lights at a cost of £299.95 from the Sparkling Light Company.
- g) JS proposed, GW seconded, Council **approved** payments/orders, receipts and transfers, budget update and bank reconciliation. Including the incremental salary increase for the Clerk due to obtaining the ILCA qualification.

147.11/7

Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Borough Councillors reported ongoing actions regarding HS2 including writing to and meeting with local MPs to request they lobby the Secretary of State to obtain answers urgently for local landowners, which has resulted in the matter being raised in the House of Commons. Councillors advised the large horse chestnut tree will be felled, cut and wood sourced available to the local community for firewood.

Borough Councillors also advised they were dealing with several planning issues and liaising with other Councillors and planners regarding the Planning Inspectorate's appeal decision regarding Baldwins Gate. Councillors advised the Neighbourhood Plan should be refreshed every 2 years, but public consultation would not be required.

Borough Councillors advised their recent charity ball had raised over £30,000 for charities and had been attended by around 320 people.

No County Councillor was present at the meeting. Councillors had planned to raise issues regarding flooding at Bar Hill. JS proposed, KW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous that JS write to County Council regarding the flooding issues and send a copy of the correspondence to democratic services. Council further resolved to encourage residents to make reports via the County Council online report it tool.

148.11/8

Planning Matters


a) Council considered the following planning applications:

Cllrs. G White and S White left the meeting.

- **23/00769/FUL:** Old Hall Poolside Madeley, Conversion of property from residential/commercial. Council **resolved** no comments be submitted.

Cllrs. G White and S White returned to the meeting.

- **23/00790/FUL:** The Old Swan, Swan Bank Madeley Heath, Proposed catering trailer. Council **resolved** not to submit any objection but to add a comment to ensure sufficient arrangements would be put in place to deal with any additional litter created as a result of the application.


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b) Council noted the following decision:

- **23/00606/FUL:** Land At Station Road Onneley, change of Use of Land to Holiday Lodge Site. **REFUSE.**

149.11/9 Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan

Council **considered** any submission of comments, as a statutory consultee, regarding Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan. JS proposed, CC seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous not to submit a comment.

150.11/10 Madeley White Star Lease

Council **noted** the update from the Clerk regarding the response received in connection with suggested amendments to the Parish Council lease to Madeley White Star.

151.11/11 Parish Council Memorial Policy

Council **considered** actions regarding the adoption and implementation of a Parish Council Memorial Policy. JS proposed, TM seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to adopt the draft policy and application form, subject to the addition of a clause requiring the Parish Council to approve the wording suggested for any memorial and the insertion of operational procedures and cost. KW to ascertain operational requirements and Clerk to obtain details of costings.

Cllr. A Collins arrived at the meeting.

152.11/12 Designated Bench Location Policy

Council **considered** actions regarding the adoption and implementation of a Parish Council Bench Location Policy, in order to identify pre-designated locations for benches around the Parish. JS proposed, JW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous for Cllrs. C. Cahill and T. Morgan to compile a plan identifying current bench locations and the details of any memorial plaques on them.

153.11/13 Councillor Code of Conduct

Council **considered** actions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct. JS proposed, TN seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to adopt the Model Councillor Code of Conduct. Council further **resolved** to ensure any absent Councillors be made aware of the policy.

154.11/14 CCTV

Council **considered** actions regarding the installation of the Parish Council CCTV system:

JS declared an interest in item a) as a trustee of the Madeley Centre. Cllr. P. Carnall chaired the meeting for this item.

- a) Council **considered** the draft licence agreement between the Parish Council and the Madeley Centre for the installation, operation and maintenance of the recording system at the Madeley Centre, including payment of an annual fee of £250; PC referred to emails circulated to Councillors regarding the proportionality of the suggested fee. PC proposed, TM seconded, JS abstained, Council **resolved** unanimous to authorise the signing of the licence agreement on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b) Council **considered** the completion of the initial operating checklist including the direction of the cameras to be installed. Council **resolved** unanimous that cameras be directed away from residential properties and towards the Madeley Centre and One Stop shop to maximise coverage and limit encroachment on resident's privacy. PC explained that cameras would be fitted to a winch which


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could be lowered to enable ease of changing camera direction. The winch required to be supplied by ADT at a cost of around £289. Payment to be authorised by Chair, Vice-chair and Clerk to ensure no further delays would be incurred.

- c) Council **considered** approving delegated authority to the Clerk to purchase signage and other materials required in order to comply with relevant laws regarding the operation of the CCTV system. GW proposed, JS seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous in favour to provide delegated authority to the Clerk for the purchase of CCTV signage.

155.11/15 Events

- a) Council **considered** the recommendations of the events Committee regarding:
- Remembrance Day; TM and SW provided their apologies since they would be unable to attend the service. SW advised that the deputy Mayor would be in attendance. CH advised that he had erected around 32 remembrance poppies around the village and requested Councillors check whether they have any further poppies.
 - Christmas; TM advised that Tesco, Crewe had donated 50 selection boxes to be distributed after the pantomime performance. The Parish Council **noted** its thanks. TM proposed, JS seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to hold a raffle and requested donations for prizes. Half of any amounts received for the raffle would be donated to Keele First Responders Charity.

Council **considered** the contract received from the panto company for the Christmas pantomime, which this year would be Robinson Crusoe, at a cost of £1,500 plus VAT for two performances. JS proposed, SW seconded, Council **resolved** unanimous to authorise signing of the contract and payment of the deposit of £100 plus VAT required to secure the booking.

The events committee further proposed that the older persons Christmas lunch would be a Christmas buffet at a cost of £10.99 per person to be provided by the Madeley Centre. Tickets to be sold by the Madeley Centre at £5.50 per ticket and the Parish Council to subsidise the remaining cost, which may also include entertainment, which was yet to be confirmed.

The Christmas lights switch on would take place on 25th November at around 5pm/5.30pm to coincide with a Christmas market to be held at the Madeley Centre. Cllrs JS and DW were contacting stall holders for confirmation and details to be confirmed at the next events committee meeting.

- b) Council **noted** the report of the events committee advising of a successful Halloween event which took place on 29th October.


156.11/16 HS2

Council **noted** the update regarding HS2 provided by Borough Councillor at agenda item 147.11/7.

157.11/17 Parish Appearance

Council **considered** any actions required regarding:

- Location of the Welcome to Madeley Sign. Council **noted** the sign was the property of the County Council and therefore the Parish Council did not have authority to move the sign.
- Standard of grass cutting around village. Council **noted** the issues and **resolved** to monitor the situation.


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- c) Graffiti on bus shelter opposite the Madeley Centre. Council **noted** that this had been removed by Councillor D. Whitmore.
- d) JW advised that she had received a report of fly tipping near Bower End. Council **noted** that all reports of this nature needed to be reported to County Council online.
- e) JS reported that the roof had been blown off the bus shelter near to the Meadows and efforts were underway to obtain quotes for repairs.

158.11/18 Play Area at College Gardens

Council **considered** any action regarding responsibility for the park. Council **resolved** to take no further action at this time due to budget constraints.

159.11/19 Aspire Garage Site Disposal

Council **considered** any action in response to an email received from a resident regarding the sale of the garage sites. Council **noted** that the property concerned did not fall within the adjoining properties which were consulted by Aspire as advised. Council **resolved** to take no further action at this time and **noted** the importance of uniform feedback on such matters from all Councillors.

160.11/20 Property Issues

Council **noted** that an update regarding all leases would be provided at the next Council meeting.

161.11/21 Clerk's Update

Council **noted** the report of the Clerk providing updated information regarding ongoing matters.

162.11/22 Equality & Diversity


Councillors **noted** the Equality & Diversity Policy and their crime prevention powers for the Meeting.

163.11/23 Councillors' planned absence

No future absence advised.

164.11/24 Council **noted** the date of the next regular Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 7th December 2023 to commence at 7pm at Madeley Centre.**

Meeting closed at 8.40pm. Chair thanked Councillors and members of the public for their attendance.


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