

Cressage, Harley & Sheinton Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held at Cressage Village Hall on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Colin Campbell, Laura Christmas, Robert Davies, John Esp, Matthew Murray, Victoria Todd (Chairman), Shropshire Cllr Claire Wild, seven members of the public and the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey)

23.31 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman, Cllr Victoria Todd, welcomed everyone to the meeting

23.32 To note Apologies

An apology from Cllr Kal Parkash (alternative commitment) was noted and accepted

23.33 To note Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or consider dispensation requests.

There were none at this time

23.34 Public session

A Harley resident questioned who had cut verges in the last week as a strip had been taken from her front garden. This is private property, and it's planted with wildflowers and grasses. This is the second time this has happened; the first time was in 2021. No complaint was made then, but this time it will be followed up. It was confirmed that the cut was done by Shropshire Council, not the Parish Council's maintenance contractor. The Parish Council is not notified before this work is undertaken. Cllr Claire Wild suggested calling Shropshire Council. She also offered to follow the matter up herself, her advice being to find out who is the sub-contractor who did the work, and to ask that the resident's property is not cut again.

A Cressage resident raised a concern about hedges and shrubs spreading across the pavements, particularly on Severn Way, and asked what could be done about it. In places it impedes access for wheelchair users. Councillors noted that if hedges are blocking footpaths they can be cut before 1st September, it was also suggested that the next Village Life article from the Parish Council should request residents cut their hedges if they are impeding footpaths.

A resident expressed her concern at the speed of traffic going along the Sheinton Road. It is the speed rather than the volume, and particularly coming off the A458 through the village. She said that she did not want to experience someone being run over outside her door. Councillors noted that the speed limit is currently 30, and that the speed limit by the school is an advisory 20mph. Another member of the public noted that he had raised the same issue at the last meeting, and expressed his frustration at how long it takes for action to be taken. It is not currently safe for children to ride on their bikes.

Cllr Claire Wild said that Shropshire Council is rolling out a 20mph outside schools initiative; currently this is only advisory in Cressage. She questioned how often police speed check, and said that awareness about being more considerate needs to be encouraged amongst local people. There was some agreement on this from members of the public present, as it was thought that

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90% of the people using the route do so every day and that repeat speeders were likely to be local residents. A member of the public expressed the view that initiatives are not effective without enforcement.

The Chairman, Cllr Victoria Todd, said that she had been in contact with Shropshire Council Highways about road safety initiatives and that this would be pursued by the Parish Council.

Cllr Rob Davies said that he thought that draft minutes should go on the website in the interests of transparency. Other members present questioned if it would be preferable to wait until the minutes were ratified before publication.

23.35 Council to consider and agree the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2023

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th June 2023 as a true record

23.36 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Claire Wild said the Power Station Liaison Group will meet on 25th July and that all Parish Councillors are welcome to attend, and to meet on site at 10am. It will include a ride on a prototype electric train. The voids on the bridge, and the subsidence on the Cressage side, will be repaired in November .

23.37 Planning matters:

i. Decisions to note

The following was noted:

23/01782/FUL Harley Tower Cottage, Harley: Erection of garage with office studio space above, together with alterations to existing porch
Decision: Grant Permission

ii. Determine response to any new Planning Applications

There were none at this time

23.38 Highways matters:

There was discussion on the visibility of road signs including the following:

- Hedges at the Eagles junction are obscuring the Stop sign
- A willow tree is obscuring the Give Way sign by Fingerpost Cottage
- Shrubbery and trees are obscuring village signs

It was suggested that members of the public be asked to file highways concerns for the Parish Council's September meeting, and that the Fix My Street is used to log issues.

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23.39 Financial matters:

- i. It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to agree the payment of the following invoices and charges:

Payee	Item	Amount	Date of Invoice
Clerk	Salary month 4	£627.47 <i>gross</i>	15/7/2023
HMRC	Tax month 4	£tbc	15/7/2023
Clerk	Travel July	£15.39	
Water Plus (direct debit)	Pavilion water	£20.16	23/6/2023
Ecotricity (direct debit)	Pavilion heat/light	£22.52	29/6/2023
SLB Maintenance	June	£696.24	1/7/2023

- ii. It was agreed to note: receipts and expenditure to end June
- iii. It was agreed to note Bank Reconciliation to end June
- iv. It was agreed to note Spend Against Budget to end June
- v. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to approve the updated Financial Regulations
- vi. It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to approve the updated Standing Orders

23.40 Other Parish Matters

- i. The Eagles Junction: there was some discussion on the problems with junction being driving error rather than the layout. The Chairman, Cllr Victoria Todd, said that she was pressing for a visit from Shropshire Council Highways to look at the junction and to suggest a course of action.
- ii. West Mercia Police Safer Roads funding: generic information had been received from Shropshire Council Highways advising that the scheme could cover speed control signs and speed indication devices. A conversation is needed about what is possible and what would be suitable. It was agreed that the Chairman would pass on the information received to all councillors for consideration and meanwhile pursue advice and guidance. Cllr Claire Wild said that there was a lack of human resources would explain any reluctance on the part of Shropshire Council to get involved in plans. The scheme closes on 31st March 2024.
- iii. Under 11s play area and proposals for more accessible equipment, and access to the site: Cllr Laura Christmas has identified possible grant sources, noting that some funds are restrictive in what funding can be used for, possibilities include Sport England and the National Lottery. It was agreed that Cllr Christmas and the Parish Clerk apply for suitable grant funding.
- iv. Recreation area rents and income: £75 was received for the Tug-of-War event held on the football pitch. There was some discussion on seeding of the grass and what may be necessary moving forwards.

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- v. Bins for dog waste: the request for a new bin by the bus stop has been marked as 'closed' on Fix My Street, but it was noted that the bin has not yet been put in place and some clarification from Shropshire Council would be helpful.
- vi. Footpaths – to receive any outcomes regarding footpaths, including the bridge, and the kissing gate on the Wood Lane/Shaw Lane footpath: the Parish Clerk had been advised by Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership team that that this issue had been passed onto officers.
- vii. Update on securing the play area perimeter: it was agreed that a comment should be included in the Parish Council's Village Life article to request that householders secure their border with the play area for safeguarding reasons. The Parish Council will need to action and secure it if necessary. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk and Cllr Rob Davies work on a spec for works to secure the perimeter, and to send it to the current contractor, and two other contractors, for the future consideration of the Parish Council.
- viii. Streetlights: a resident has contacted the Parish Council in support of reducing the amount of night time streetlighting. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk contact Prysmian and Shropshire Council about maintenance contracts and timers.
- ix. Correspondence: a member of the public has contacted the Parish Clerk regarding a scheme to encourage residents to switch to a green energy provider. Potentially this would involve a visit to a Parish Council meeting and the offer of a financial donation to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Parish Council should not pursue this offer at the current time, and that it would be more suitable for a meeting promoting the scheme to be held separately from the Parish Council meeting.

23.41 Items for consideration at next Council meeting, not for debate or decision

Maintenance of the War Memorial

23.42 Date & time of next Council meeting

12th September 2023 at Harley Village Hall at 7.00 pm

23.43 Confidential Session

It was not considered necessary to move into confidential session

23.44 Contractual Matters

There was none at this time