

Ryton and Grindle Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2021
at St Andrew's Parish Church, Ryton at 7.30pm

In attendance:

Cllrs Caroline Davis, Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis, Gina Somerville, John Webb, Sarah Williams, and Shropshire Councillor Richard Marshall, Parish Clerk Vanessa Voysey, and two members of the public

21.22 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

21.23 Apologies

None at this time – all members were present

21.24 Declarations of Interest

There were none at this time

21.25 Public Forum

A member of the public asked about progress on the triangles project. Cllr John Webb answered that he had put this on the backburner due to personal commitments. It had been his intention to volunteer to do the work due to the cost of funding it. Cllr Sarah Williams said that it would be necessary to advise Shropshire Council when the road is being closed for the works and that caution was needed not to impinge on the road. The member of the public offered to help with the work. Cllr Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis suggested that the next step would be to draw up a plan and establish the materials needed, and it was agreed to pursue this via email.

A member of the public commented on the lazy standards of work done in Grindle, both the roadside verges and potholes. He commented that there were eighteen-inch long nettles with leaves lopped off. Some of the responsibility is with local landowners, some with the Council. Cllr Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis offered to go around Grindle with the member of the public to take notes and pictures and report back to the Council. Cllr John Webb advised that he had spoken to Apley Estates and passed on comments that were raised before. Cllr Sarah Williams noted that Apley Estates has previously requested that complaints are passed on, and that to get complaints dealt with it needs to be done as part of a formal process.

21.26 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Shropshire Councillor for Worfield, Richard Marshall, introduced himself to those he had not met before. He is here to work with and support Parish Councillors. He said that he agreed with Cllr Sarah Williams about formalising and documenting complaints. Informal conversations can be forgotten. He requested that Cllr Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis copy him into the mapping of problems.

He reported that there was no Ryton and Grindle specific news at this time from Shropshire Council, county-wide there will be a roll-out of new recycling bins over the next months. Contrary to some reportage, residents will not be charged. It will be an opportunity to recycle more, and will be more practical in inclement weather and will stop some of the problems of recycling material blowing down roads.

Fix-My-Street will be adopted by the Council, it is more efficient than My Shropshire but is not currently integrated with the internal system, so this is being rolled out.

Cllr Marshall is the Deputy Portfolio Holder for Highways. He noted that the contract with Kier has not always worked well, but that the relationship with the Council is improving, he also noted that the roads network needs investment. There is an increase of £80M in the Highways budget over the next four years. It will take time for this filter through but there is the expectation that an improvement in the highways will be seen over the next two years. There is a backlog in potholes repairs, and work does need revisiting after remedial repairs.

Cllr Marshall requested that email requests sent to officers are kept professional and courteous. Officers are inundated with emails and some are quite rude, to the extent that if he got them personally he would press delete. As an example, the Head of Highways had told him that one day he got 800 emails, 700 of which were abusive. He noted that this message is going out county-wide and is not in any way specific to Ryton and Grindle. .

It was noted that a sunken drain flagged up as an issue by Cllr Sarah Williams had been repaired in June after direct intervention by Cllr Marshall and Shropshire Council Officers. Cllr Marshall said that he would support Parish Councils if things weren't getting done but also the public are able to report issues through Fix My Street.

The most contentious issue in the county is the Local Plan, this is did not affect the Parish directly but did effect Bridgnorth. He said that he voted last Thursday in favour of the Local Plan being commented on by Inspectors, not necessarily for the Plan itself, and he waited for the Inspector's representation. It was expected that this would take about a year.

There are 7 Parish Councils in his ward and he will try and attend as many meetings as possible. Where there are clashes in dates he will alternate between the Parish Councils.

Wildlife and insect pollination was a consideration for maintenance of hedgerows. About 50% of his emails about verges are complaints at them not being cut properly, the other 50% are about them being cut and murdering wildlife. A variety of needs has to be looked at included passing places, wildlife, the environment, pedestrians, and road safety. Verges have to be serviced and maintained for many needs, it is not a binary issue.

Potholes are in categories and painting identification shows that Highway Inspectors are doing their job. The A442 is in the schedule of works but it will be a patch repair initially because of financial restraints.

The Chairman, Cllr John Webb, thanked Richard Marshall for his thorough report and for answering questions.

21.27 Minutes

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 19th May 2021

21.28 Matters Arising

There were none at this time

21.29 Policies

i) It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to adopt the following:

- a) Standing Orders
- b) Financial Regulations

ii) Climate Change Policy

Cllr Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis had filed a report prior to the meeting, requesting that consideration be made to Climate Change Policy for the Parish. He said that Shropshire Council had declared a Climate Emergency and aimed to be carbon neutral by 2030. The South Shropshire Climate Action Group had been set up and Cllr Hartnell-Beavis said that he was an part of it. His request was that the Parish Council looked at what it could do in the future to mitigate the problem within the Parish. He was willing to take a lead role.

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved**, that

Ryton and Grindle Parish Council declares a climate Emergency

Ryton and Grindle Parish Council resolves to investigate what I can do as a Council over the next 12 months to mitigate the problem within the Parish, to be reviewed in July 2022.

iii) Social Media Policy

Cllr Caroline Davis asked if the Parish Council had a social media presence as the draft policy referred to it. The Parish Clerk said that this was not presently the case but that she would be happy to set up Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Parish Council.

Cllr Sarah Williams said that a newsletter by email would not need to be frequent but some regular feedback would be the intention. The NALC model Social Media Policy would be sufficient.

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to adopt the Social Media Policy.

iv) Code of Conduct

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to adopt the LGA (Local Government Association) Code of Conduct

21.30 Finance

21.30.1

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to approve the following payments

ICO	subscription	£35 (Direct Debit)
Riverwood	grass cutting, sign cleaning	£65 (paid by BACs)
Amazon	litter picking equipment	£18.95 (to reimburse Clerk)
SALC	affiliation fees	£119.92

21.30.2

The following was noted:

£155.50 was paid on 25th June by HMRC following submission of a request for reimbursement of VAT for the financial year 2020-21

21.30.3

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to receive and approve the following:

- a) To approve the Reconciliation and Bank Statements for the month of May 2021
- b) To approve Receipts and Payments including income and expenditure spreadsheets to month of May 2021
- c) The Asset Register

21.31 Insurance

The Parish Council's insurance is due for renewal on 12th September 2021, three days before the next Parish Council meeting. So far, the Parish Clerk has received one quote.

Cllr John Webb said that he was in favour of a three year deal.

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to delegate authority to arrange renewal of the insurance to the Parish Clerk and the Chairman.

21.32 Planning

- a) Planning notifications

No objection:

21/02708/FUL

Erection of single storey timber framed orangery extension to existing annexe building at Ryton Farm House, Ryton, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 9JL.

21/02709/LBC

Erection of single storey timber framed orangery extension to existing annexe building affecting a Grade II Listed Building Farm House, Ryton, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 9JL.

b) Planning decisions

There were none at this time

c) Update on Holyhead Farm

There has been no official update regarding Holyhead Farm

d) Any other planning matters

There were none at this time

21.33 Highways

a) Highway maintenance

Issues concern Highways maintenance had been covered by Richard Marshall in his Shropshire Council update. Cllr Sarah Williams asked if a reminder about road sweeping could be sent copying in Cllr Marshall.

b) Any other highway matters

There were none at this time

21.34 Environment

a) Triangles: to receive any updates on the Triangles maintenance project

An update had been provided in the public forum regarding the triangle in the village.

Cllr John Webb confirmed that the triangle known as Olive's Corner is owned by Apley Estates. This had been confirmed in an email from the Estate Manager to Cllr Webb, it was also stated that there would be no issues from Apley Estates if the Parish Council wanted to plant a wildflower area.

It was proposed, seconded, and **agreed** to continue planning the project via email.

b) Any other Environment matter

There were none at this time

21.35 Defibrillator

Cllr Gina Somerville requested that the Parish Council considered placing a defibrillator in the Parish. A report prepared by Cllr Somerville was filed in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Somerville referenced the high proportion of residents over 50 and the rural location presenting challenges for emergency access. The cost breakdown would include:

£1,495 for an AED Unit
£574 for an external cabinet
£155 for additional pads
£42 for a battery pack
£4 for a sign

There was general agreement from the Parish Council on the merit of this suggestion. St Andrew's Church was agreed to be an obvious site. Cllr Somerville said she had seen defibrillators placed on the side of buildings and brick walls, and noted that there would be a requirement for a power supply for the cabinet.

Cllr Sarah Williams questioned if the Parish Council should consider providing both Ryton and Grindle with a defibrillator rather than one in Ryton. It was noted that the cost of providing two defibrillators would be near £5K, and cost is a consideration.

Funding sources suggested including private funding, grants, and fundraising. It was noted that some grants would be dependent on having an open cabinet. Cllr Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis suggested approaching FOSCRAG (Friends of St Andrew's Church Ryton and Grindle) as it has some funds and the Church had been suggested as the ideal location for a defibrillator. He offered to do it as he is the Treasurer.

21.36 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The possibility of participating in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 was discussed, including the proposals for the lighting of a beacon and street parties. Cllr Caroline Davis suggested a street party in liaison with another Parish Council, possibly Beckbury. In the past Beckbury, Badger and Ryton had worked together and this had included a party in Beckbury Village Hall. Cllr Davis said she would be happy to be involved, and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should enquire if other Parishes were doing anything for the Jubilee.

21.37 Neighbourhood Plan

There was discussion on the viability of progressing the implementation of Neighbourhood Plan as a small Parish. Cllr Sarah Williams said that the questionnaire had shown interest but the level of engagement with the local community needed to be upped. Cllr Jonathan Hartnell-Beavis suggested that a way forwards would be to contact the other of the 6 Parishes to see if there is a consensus. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should contact the other Parishes.

21.38 Correspondence

- 1) A request from Hope House for funding was considered. There has been a severe drop in income due to Covid-19. It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to offer £50.

- 2) West Mercia Police has sent a Community Charter to the Parish council requesting contact requirements and the top three community issues. It was agreed that anti-social behaviour, rural theft and wildlife should be filed as the three areas of particular interest.

21.39 Parish Council Website

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

21.40 Any other Parish Matters

There were none at this time

21.41 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 15th September 2021 at St Andrew's Church, Ryton

It was agreed to move the November meeting to 24th at the request of the Parish Clerk