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## Atworth Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 6.30pm in St  
Michaels Church Hall, Atworth

**Present:**

Cllrs. Effie Gale-Sides (EGS) (Chairman), Richard Clark (RC), Arnold Snowball (AS), Kate Hartley (KH)

Cllr. Phil Alford (Wiltshire Council)

Clerk: Phil McMullen

**Ref. Agenda items**

028/18 **1. Welcome**

The Chairman warmly welcomed those present to the meeting. It was noted with regret that Cllr. Alan Lee had resigned from the Parish Council for personal reasons. A new bank signatory would be required.

029/18 **2. Apologies for absence**

The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllr. Phillipa Gray this evening.

030/18 **3. Declarations of interest**

AS and RC are trustees of the Atworth Village Hall Charity. SH is vice-Chair of the Youth Club.

**Closure of meeting for public participation**

EGS explained that in this part of the meeting, the Public were entitled at this stage to speak to the Parish Council through the Chairman.

## **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present this evening, however Cllr. Alford spoke of his work for Wiltshire Council in the past year.

“This was always going to be an exciting year for me; in my first year as a Wiltshire Councillor I knew I would be busy getting up to speed, pushing forward our local priorities and representing us at Wiltshire Council in both a scrutinising roll and in a quasi-judicial one. There is so much that I could put into this report to reflect my activities this past 10 months but I will endeavour to slim it down and give as brief as possible overview of my time so far. There is no doubt that I have joined Wiltshire Council in one of its most challenging times. Just last month we had to agree a 3% tax rise to cover our inflationary linked costs; fill some of the funding gap generated by central government withdrawing all our grant and to cover the costs of increases to the minimum wage. In addition, a 3% increase was also added to fund our extra Adult Social Care responsibilities. We have an aging population in Wiltshire and it is vital that we make sure we can provide the best possible care to ensure people are supported at home in a dignified and safe way. We also need to find a further £6.6 million of savings from our existing £327 million a year budget. This is about 2% and will not be as easy since the economy drive of the past 10 years has meant that we are already one of the leanest local authorities in the country.

To date I have attended over 100 meetings and at every chance I have been championing our local priorities. At the CATG meetings I have pushed every project for the residents of Atworth to secure funding to improve pavements, roads and any other manner of minor highways investments. On the Area Board I have sought to direct investment into the all local projects as well as prioritise the issues that most affect us. The campus and highways being notable examples. Other meetings include parish meetings, conservative group meeting’s, full council, flooding updates and the Neighbourhood plan steering group.

Immediately after election I sought a position on the Planning committee and in that role I have attended 11 meetings to date. We have scrutinised many planning applications across West Wilts and sought to balance planning law with local need. Evaluating the applications, interests and law to come to a balanced and legally secure position is a delicate skill and has required a thorough consideration of the law and issues in play.

Of all these meetings one group is particularly important to me as a priority and that is the CAMHS task group that I chair. Wiltshire Council and the NHS are jointly funding the Community Adolescent Mental Health Service across Wiltshire and we have recently moved to a new delivery model. I am Chairman for the task group looking into how the service is accessed, provided and overseen. I report to the Children’s Select Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The intention is to make recommendations on how to improve the service for our young people and will hopefully have a crucial impact on some of the most in need people in our society.

In addition to this I have been involved in lots of local casework. These range from helping people access mental health services, challenge planning decisions, working with the police to influence traffic speed on the A350, filling numerous potholes, applications for Rights of Ways, helping with an asylum claim and hours liaising with the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council to deal with the blocking up of a tributary feeding the river Avon.

This has been an eventful year for, it has thrown up new and exciting challenges to solve, opened my eyes to parts of our community I was completely unaware of, allowed me to meet an extraordinary range of fascinating people and I very much look forward to seeing what the next year brings.”

Cllr. Alford encouraged the Parish Council to come forward to the Area Board with any potential projects requiring funding.

### **Reconvene meeting**

The meeting was reconvened.

## **031/18 4. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to discuss on this occasion.

AS asked whether a replacement roof would be subjected to planning permission. The meeting was of the opinion that replacing something outside of a conservation area which doesn’t

increase the footprint of the building would not normally be subject to planning permission; however the Clerk pointed out that Building Regulation approval may still be required even where there was no necessity for planning permission, to ensure compliance in terms of structural stability.

032/18 5. Reports from our partner organisations

5.1 Police report

033/18

PCSO Maggie Ledbury reported via email as follows:

Police report [link to download Police Report](#)

Atworth Report for February 2018:

9<sup>th</sup> - Failure to stop RTC in Purplit damaging parked vehicle.

23<sup>rd</sup> - Report of great crested newts on a building site in Atworth, a protected species.

034/18 5.2 Community Speedwatch report

Alan Lee and Gary Gale-Sides have both resigned from Speedwatch, so new community members are needed.

EGS brought to the attention of the meeting a letter dated 1997 from the Council requesting 30mph repeater signs through Purplit because of speeding, an application which had been unsuccessful. Wiltshire Council policy continues to be firmly opposed to 30mph repeater signs.

035/18 5.3 CATG report

AL reported via email that the following were the items relevant to Atworth that were discussed at the March meeting of the Community Area Transport Group.

Issue 5701 - Parking outside Albion House, Bath Road

In order to get a section 96 licence to put planters on the pavement, the clerk needs to make the request to Andy Cadwallader. It was agreed to formally close the issue at this time. **Action on the Clerk to inform CATG**

Issue 5750 - Request for safe crossing Bradford Road Atworth

This has now been added to the priority list, which means that it will get passed to the design team to come up with a costed solution. Mark Stansby is not confident that a solution is actually possible.

Issue 5824 - Request for additional signage near Churchfields School

This has also been added to the priority list, with an estimated cost of £275, so our share would be around £95. This is still a ballpark figure so may change once detail design is carried out. We need to confirm to Rhys Schell that we will accept our 1/3 cost. Once agreed this will progress.

**EGS asked that the Clerk place this on the Agenda for the next meeting in order that the expenditure can be formally approved.**

Issue 5868 - Request for Slow Down road markings A365

This was closed at the January meeting on the basis that the requested markings are not prescribed and so is not Wiltshire's practice to provide them. Instead, WC provide the red high friction pads and rumble strips, which we already have.

The Parish Council were of the opinion that these are badly worn and in need of replacement.

It was noted that Broughton Gifford PC had paid for a consultant to advise them on traffic

management issues.

#### Issue 6087 - Direction Signs for Churchfields School

This proposal is supported by the Parish Council. A total of four signs is likely, but no estimate of cost has been offered as yet. This sort of signage is not normally paid for by Highways, so CATG would expect the total cost to be recovered from Churchfields school.

#### Issue 6173 - Traffic Calming in Purlpit

This was a new issue which had been raised by the Clerk following an approach from a resident. A metro count is to be formally requested. The precise location of the problem is to be clearly defined. The meeting agreed that it should be as close as possible to the identified issue, which was at 179, Purlpit.

**Action on the Clerk to establish the correct lamp post number and inform the Community Engagement Manager.**

### 036/18 6. Minutes

6.1 To consider, approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st February 2018

[Download link to copy of unapproved minutes](#)

KH proposed, RC seconded and all were in favour that the minutes were a true record of the meeting. The Minutes were accordingly signed by the Chairman.

### 037/18 7. Outstanding Actions

*Updates on the following actions arising from previous minutes:*

#### 7.1 New village benches

The Clerk reported that two new benches were ordered on 8th January, and installed on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Issue closed.

EGS said she has received two compliments from people who have admired the new benches.

#### 7.2 New village noticeboards

The Clerk reported an order had been placed on 28<sup>th</sup> February for the four noticeboards and a delivery date was awaited.

The clerk reported that the best quote received for installation was £75 plus VAT per notice board. AS proposed this was accepted, KH seconded and all were in approval.

In addition to the Village Hall, the noticeboards are to be erected at the Purlpit turning, Churchfields school and Post Office Lane entrance. The old noticeboards are to be removed. Any that have any life remaining can be donated to the Recreation Ground. There is a litter bin attached to the Post Office Lane noticeboard which will need to be relocated onto the new one.

#### 7.3 Parish steward work

Mud on the pavements: AS reported that there was a particular issue on the pavement between the Village Hall and Nursery Close. Also, there is a hedge overhanging the pavement at Snapdragons which needs to be attended to. Weeds from the pedestrian access to Mount Pleasant on the Bath Road up to the village gateway were reported. These were on the footpath making it narrower and also in the gutter; **action on the Clerk to inform the parish steward.**

### 038/18 8. Finance

8.1 Approval of Clerk's Salary for March 2018

[Click to download copy of payslip](#)

KH approved AS seconded and all were in favour.

## 8.2 Approval of Payment Schedule and authorisation of cheques

[Click to download Approvals Schedule](#)

KH approved the Payment Schedule for February, AS seconded and all were in favour. The Payment Schedule was duly signed.

## 8.3 Approval to accept Budget Monitoring Statement to end of February 2018

<b>Atworth Parish Budget Monitoring 2017/18</b>			
<b>February 2018</b>			
	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Spend to date</b>	<b>Balance Remaining</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
CLERKS SALARY	5,000	4,357	643
CLERK'S OFFICE EXPENSES	500	436	64
WI VILLAGE CLEAN & TIDY	576	576	0
VILLAGE MAINTENANCE	2,920	1,445	1,475
GENERAL ADMIN	1,000	1,456	(456)
VILLAGE HALL	6,000	6,000	0
VILLAGE HALL RATES	120	110	10
REC RATES	160	147	13
WATER RATES	150	147	3
INSURANCE	3,700	3,776	(76)
AUDIT FEES	275	195	80
PRESENTATIONS	100	83	17
YOUTH CLUB RENT	30	-	30
GRASS CUTTING	2,000	-	2,000
ARMISTICE WREATH (S.137*)	20	17	3
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE EQUIPMENT	500	152	348
NOTICE BOARDS	1,500	-	1,500
VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS	1,000	-	1,000
CLOCK TOWER SITE IMPROVEMENTS	1,000	-	1,000
BENCHES	800	1,621	(821)
SID DEPLOYMENT	400	200	200
ADJUSTMENT	0	-	0
WALC	420	-	420
SLCC	50	38	12
CLOCK REPAIRS	-	940	(940)
VAT	-	535	(535)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>28,221</b>	<b>22,231</b>	<b>5,990</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
PRECEPT	28,221	28,221	-
Grants	-	-	-
Interest	-	1	(1)
VAT refund	-	962	(962)
	-	-	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,221</b>	<b>29,184</b>	<b>- 963</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,953)</b>	<b>6,953</b>
<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	<b>17,690</b>		
<b>Current Balance (Cashbook)</b>	<b>24,643</b>		
<b>Current Balance (Deposit A/c)</b>	<b>-</b>		
<b>-Current Balance (Bank)</b>	<b>23,748</b>		
=Unpresented cheques	-	895	

KH proposed and AS seconded and all were in favour.

## 039/18 9. Agenda items

### 9.1 Annual parish assembly 7pm on 18th April 2018 in Atworth Village Hall

Kate Hartley had been nominated to be a recipient of the award for outstanding contribution to Atworth . All were in favour. **Action on the Clerk to write and inform Kate Hartley.**

040/18 10. **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that the only correspondence received ahead of the meeting this evening was a letter from a member of the public regarding the placement of the bus stop adjacent to the old Post Office and requesting that a new bus shelter be erected outside Snapdragons.

[Letter re. bus stop](#)

The Clerk was asked to write and thank the resident for his letter. The council remains unconvinced by the proposal, however it will continue to monitor the use of the bus stop and take careful note of any further applications for an alternative location received.

AS raised the question of increasing the size of the aperture in the bus shelter at the eastern end of the village with glazing installed. Suitable tough glazing would have to be found. EGS proposed that it should be placed on the next agenda. **Action on the Clerk to ensure this is included on the Agenda for the next meeting.**

A proposed seat inside the bus shelter was discouraged to avoid people missing the bus.

041/18 11. **Any Other Business**

It was noted that A365 was to be closed at times for road resurfacing from April 25<sup>th</sup> between Atworth Bear Garage and Neston Farm Shop.

AS requested that the subject of Christmas lights in the Clock Tower be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting. **An action was placed on the Clerk to create an Agenda Item for the Christmas Lights.**

AS agreed to be a bank signatory in place of AL.

042/18 12. **Date of the Next Meeting**

Councillors to note that the Annual Parish Assembly, to which they are cordially invited, takes place in Atworth Village Hall at **7pm on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

**An action was placed on the Clerk to invite local groups and organisations to submit a report.**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 16<sup>st</sup> May 2018** at 6.30pm - this is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 20:30

Signed.....

Date .....