

# Munslow Parish Council



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## Draft Minutes of Munslow Parish Council on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

**Present:** Cllrs Barbara Archer (Chair), Richard Arnold, Nigel Dobson, Val Fotheringham, David Marston, Ed Povey, Richard Wilks and Graham Williams. **In Attendance:** H Coonick (Clerk/RFO)

- 1. Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Chris Meeson. Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council)
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 3. Public Forum:** No members of the public were in attendance.
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2024:** Item 10.3 Should read ' Cllr Motley informed the meeting that it has not been decided whether there will be a booking system'.  
**RESOLVE:** to approve the minutes with the above alteration and they were signed by the chair.
- 5. Update Regarding the New Councillors:** Cllr Archer welcomed Cllr Richard Wilks. Both Cllrs Arnold and Wilks have completed and returned their Register of Interest forms and Cllr Wilks signed the Acceptance of Office Form.

### 6. Reports

6.1. Chairs Report – Cllr Archer reported that Lezley Picton (Leader of Shropshire Council) had reported that a booking system for all five recycling centres will start on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and will remain open seven days a week until at least 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

6.2. Shropshire Council – Cllr Motley had sent a report:

#### Green Waste Bins

There has been a delay in getting enough stickers to put on green bins to show that the household is entitled to have the green bin emptied, but this week residents can put their green bins out and they will be emptied. Once the stickers arrive, they should be put on the back of the bin (below the handle so they are easily legible to the bin men).

#### Devolution

The Government wants to move towards devolved local authorities with mayoralities introduced. This poses a problem for Shropshire as a large rural authority with a small population. Shropshire's Leader, Lezley Picton has had a long conversation with the leader of Telford & Wrekin Council. Nothing is ruled in or out but it is more likely that Telford would wish to join the West Midlands Combined Authority, which is not such an attractive proposition for Shropshire. Our Leader will therefore hold talks with Herefordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire to see if there are enough synergies to make a combined authority look viable. The Police & Crime Commissioner, John Campion, is advocating a devolution deal based on the West Mercia authorities (which includes Shropshire). No-one is sure how far this has developed yet. You may have heard that Shropshire Council has decided it needs to move from Shirehall to the Guildhall at Frankwell in Shrewsbury. The Shirehall currently is not fit for purpose. Since Covid many staff work part time at home or in the market towns; and that the building was originally designed to accommodate 4,500 people and now has nearer 200 working there regularly, it is becoming very uneconomic. Nevertheless there has been considerable push-back, not least from the Save our Shirehall group and the Shrewsbury Civic Society. However, the plan is to start vacating the building before Christmas and complete the move by February. Finally, last week I had a meeting with Derek Buchanan, Andy Wilde (AD in charge of Highways) Dan Morris (Cabinet Member for Highways) and Rob Macey (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture & Digital) to discuss the increasing demand for VAS signs and the rules that should apply to setting them up. There is an increasing demand for VAS signs but still

confusion about who is responsible for what. The upshot of the meeting was that Derek Buchanan has been asked to come back with a set of rules for parishes to follow, acknowledging that there is an increasing demand for traffic calming measures and that most parishes are using some of their CIL Neighbourhood fund together with PCC funding to obtain VAS signs and put them up themselves.

6.3. South Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr Archer reported meeting the new MP, Stuart Anderson, and raised with him the issue of speeding on the B4368. Mr Anderson made a presentation to the committee stating that he has chosen to remain on the back benches so he can concentrate on constituency work. When comparing the rural with urban constituencies the rural areas are receiving much less government funding. There is a suggestion of moving the Ludlow Hospital to the Ecopark. He would like to see more building in Craven Arms. He is very concerned about the rate of rural crime in the County.

**7. Consider the Survey from Shropshire Council re: Future Options with Town and Parish Councils Survey:**

**RESOLVED:** To respond stating that the Parish Council had funded four vehicle activated signs and provided a defibrillator in the last two years. It requests that Shropshire Council reinstate the full Environmental Maintenance Grant in 2025.

**8. Place Plan Project Nomination Feedback:** Cllrs Povey and Dobson will produce a Place Plan entry on Traffic Calming for consideration at the next meeting.

**9. Highways**

9.1. Review of the Vehicle Activated Signs: The two new signs are now in use. Volunteers are needed to help with charging and moving the signs. Notices have been placed on the website and Facebook page asking for volunteers. There are issues with hedges overgrowing the signs, landowners will be asked to cut back the hedges.

9.2. New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor: to continue with general winter maintenance and clearance.

**10. Consider an Application to the Police and Crime Commissioner ‘My Community Fund’:**

Defer to the next meeting.

**11. Agree the Attendance at the War Memorial in Munslow on Remembrance Day and the Purchase of a Wreath:** Cllr Archer will attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**12. Accounts**

12.1. Review the Finance Report and Sign the Bank Reconciliation:

**RESOLVED:** deferred to the next meeting.

12.2. Note Income: None

12.3. Authorise Payments

12.3.1. H Coonick, Clerk (reimbursement for Stationery, stamps and training) £12.94

12.3.2. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) inv 636 £76.50

12.3.3. Wreath £30

**RESOLVED:** payments 12.3.1 – 12.3.3 were authorised.

12.4. Consider Items for Inclusion in the Draft Budget for 2025-2026: Councillors will inform the clerk of projects for inclusion in the draft budget.

**13. Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at Munslow Village Hall:** None.

**Signed by the Chair:**

**Date:**