

Munslow Parish Council



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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Munslow Parish Council, on Wednesday 5th February 2025

Present: Cllrs Barbara Archer (Chair), Nigel Dobson, David Marston, Chris Meeson Ed Povey and Graham Williams **In Attendance:** H Coonick, Clerk.

1. **Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Richard Arnold and Val Fotheringham. Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council).
2. **Declarations of Interest: To receive any declaration of interest:** None
3. **Public Forum** (limited to 15 minutes): Four members of the public were in attendance. Member of the Public One (MP1), who does not live in the parish, objected to the number of speed restrictions that were in place from Craven Arms to Morville on the B4368. In the past she had been a class 1 driver so felt she was safe to travel at speed, slower traffic causes more pollution and the cost of signs was a burden upon the taxpayer. Those who have bought houses on the side of the B4368 should accept that traffic would be travelling at speed past their properties. Cllr Archer thanked MP1 for her comments and responded that parishioners had requested that the Parish Council act on the speed of traffic through the parish. The decisions to purchase Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) had been discussed at meetings over several years and were recorded in the minutes of meetings which were available to parishioners, giving them the opportunity to comment if they were dissatisfied – at no point has any parishioner complained to the council about its attempts to reduce speed on the B4368. Cllrs Williams, Meeson and Marston who all live in properties on the side of the B4368 raised the issue of fatal accidents that had been caused by speeding vehicles in the parish. Cllr Williams commented that there had been no new speed limits in the Parish and the VAS were an attempt to encourage drivers to stick to the present limits. MP2 who also lives on the side of the B4368 was very satisfied with the installation of the VAS. The Parish Council did not consider it needed to debate this matter further.
MP2 raised the issue of a culvert in Broadstone which needs unblocking to prevent water and soil from running off onto the B4368 with the potential of causing accidents. She also raised the issue of Agenda 230 which meant that farmland was being turned into Wildlife areas. The council asked the Clerk to instruct the Environmental Maintenance Contractor to regularly clear the culvert. If this does not solve the issue she will contact Shropshire Council Highways. The Clerk will investigate Agenda 2030 and consider entering it on the agenda for the next meeting.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th December, 2024.**
RESOLVED: to approve the minutes as an accurate record and they were signed by the chair.
5. **Presentation by Charles Edwards, Trustee of Shropshire Hills Landscape Trust:** Charles explained that the Trust receives grants from businesses, charities, individuals and parish councils to enable it to give grants to small nature recovery and related community projects. They are particularly keen to give grants to groups that involve the public, including children. They have supported a group surveying dormouse activity in Abdon, and a forest school – 'Into the Woods'. They would welcome support from local business etc and applications for grants between £500 and £1500 from groups supporting nature recovery in the parish. Cllr Archer thanked Charles for his presentation.
6. **Reports**
 - 6.1. Chairs Report – Cllr Archer reported that she had attend the Chairs meeting. There was a discussion on Affordable Housing.
 - 6.2. Shropshire Council (SC) – Cllr Motley had sent a report: (SC) had not received a favourable settlement from the government for 2025-26. They expect to be told that they will need to join

up with another authority but it is not clear which one would be chosen. It is unlikely that the local election will be delayed as the timing to postpone is now very soon. The Planning Inspectorate have asked for the Local Plan to be rewritten including a higher number of houses being built annually, particularly to house people from the Black Country. The Council is in the process of reviewing the responses to the Recycling Centre consultation. The Highways team are developing guidance for Parish Council on what they can and cannot do on the highways.

6.3. Munslow Village Hall – Cllr Dobson reported that he felt it would not be appropriate for him to continue as the Village Hall representative but will remain in place until after the election.

7. Update on Resurfacing the Community Car Park at Munslow and Land Registry

Notification: The Clerk has not had a response from Shropshire Council's Chief Solicitor re the maintenance of public land. The Land Registry required the enquiry to be made with more information on the site.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk will recontact SC's Chief Solicitor and Land Registry.

8. Consider the Parish Council Elections on 1st May 2025: Nomination papers will be available in March and need to be returned to Shropshire Council by the 2nd April. To allow sufficient time for new councillors to take office and agendas to be delivered the May meeting will be delayed.

RESOLVED: to change the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting to the 14th May.

9. Consider an Assessment of the Trees in Munslow Burial Ground:

RESOLVED: to ask Matthew Seabrook, who is a Trees and Woodlands Officer to make a basic appraisal of the trees.

10. Consider Appointing a Tree Officer: Defer to the next meeting.

11. Review the Use of The Craven Arms Household Recycling Centre: No comment

12. Accounts

12.1. Review the Finance Report, Expenditure Against Budget and Bank Reconciliation: As of the 6th December 2024 the income was £9,150.62 and expenditure was £9,816.98. The bank account held £9,458.62. The budget was slightly overspent on insurance and subscriptions but there were not concerns for the other budget headings.

RESOLVED: to accept the report and Cllrs Williams and Meeson signed the bank reconciliation.

12.2. Review the Banking Arrangements Including Fees and Interest on a Savings Account: Lloyds Bank were offering 1% interest on the savings account.

RESOLVED: Deferred to the next meeting.

12.3. Authorise Payments

12.3.1. D Lewis (Environmental Maintenance) inv 687 £135.00

12.3.2. Defibrillator Battery As Required up to £250.

RESOLVED: to make payments 12.3.1 and 2.

13. Update on the Defibrillator: The Community and Ambulance Resuscitation (CARE)

Subcommittee within Resuscitation Council UK are recommending that defibs are kept in unlocked cabinets. If the cabinet is unlocked the council's insurance would not cover the theft of the defibrillator.

RESOLVED: to keep the cabinet locked but attempt to ensure that every household in the parish has the code.

14. Highways - New Tasks for the Environmental Maintenance Contractor: Culvert at Broadstone.

15. Update on the Application to Historical England for the Washwell, Aston Munslow:

Historical England will not become involved unless the Washwell is at risk. The Clerk will write to The Land Registry to check on progress with the application made in October 2023.

16. Consider Supporting the Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Campaign:

RESOLVED: to write in support of the campaign.

17. Items for the Next Meeting at 7.30pm Wednesday 5th March 2025 at Munslow Village Hall:

a. Agenda 2030 b. Update on Resurfacing the Community Car Park at Munslow and Land Registry Notification c. Update on Tree Assessment at Burial Ground d. Consider Appointing a Tree Officer e. Progress of Application to the Land Registry re Washwell. f. Consider Opening a Savings Account.

Signed by the Chair

Date: