Minutes of theMeeting of **Kinnerley Parish Council** held on **26th June 2023 at** **Kinnerley Parish** **Hall**.

**Present:** Cllrs Nick Barclay (Chairman), Mark Cuthbert-Brown, Charles Green, Desmond Hudson, Lorraine Jones, Maurice Jones, Alan Lewis, James Peto.

**In attendance:** 2 members of the public; Ian Cruise-Taylor, Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence –** Apologies were noted from CllrsMandy Chapman**,** Richard Greening, Sharon Quayle. Cllr Vince Hunt
2. **Declarations of interest and dispensations –** There were no declarations of interest to note or requests for dispensation.
3. **Minutes of Council –** Council unanimously approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd May 2023, for signature by the Chairman.
4. **Public participation session**

Members of the public raised concerns over speeding traffic in Knockin Heath. Council confirmed its commitment to working to improve road safety and was working with appropriate authorities.

1. **Parish matters**
2. **To receive a report from Unitary Councillor –** Cllr Vince Hunt (Shropshire Council) - none
3. **To receive a report from Clerk, to include action log – and agree any next steps.** Report noted. Council agreed to await the MOU with Kinnerley Parish Hall, before confirming changes to the grounds maintenance contract. The existing contractor has agreed to continue to carry out the work as currently set out and undertake additional tasks as agreed and required.
4. **To receive a report back on any developments regarding flooding and agree any next steps.** Council noted Cllr Green’s report and to write to the leader of Shropshire Council regarding the National Flood Forum
5. **To receive a Police report –** none – John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner to be invited to the next meeting
6. **To report any Highways or other parish matters**
   1. Knockin Heath crossroads – noted – VAS policy from Shropshire Council still awaited
   2. Parochial Charities report – Cllr Lorraine Jones reported that the Board had met four times in the last 12 months and had invited parishioners to bid for grant aid, arranged first aid training for community groups and explored the possibility of a defibrillator for the local school
   3. Councillors noted with thanks the work of residents to repair the silent soldier and considered a more suitable location or temporarily removing after the remembrance event in November
   4. The broken bollard in Maesbrook still not repaired
   5. A deep pothole on Pentre to be reported
   6. Cllr Green reported on a meeting of the SALC Executive which had discussed the boundary review, place plans and the Joint Working Group with Shropshire and Telford Councils, an update on SVWMS, Ash tree dieback, the forthcoming VAS policy and voter ID issues.
7. **Planning – see appendix A**
8. **Planning decisions for information -** noted
9. **Planning applications/appeals for decision** - To consider and determine response(s) – see appendix A for decision
10. **Financial Matters**
    1. Council noted Receipts to end of May 23: £5857.81 NF
    2. Council approved Payments – see appendix B.
    3. Council noted the error in the Bank Reconciliation, see appendix B.
    4. Council deferred a decision on the grant application from Maesbrook Village Hall – £1356 to the July meeting
    5. Council deferred a decision on the grant application from Crucial Crew - £100 until the July meeting
    6. Council deferred a decision on the grant application from St John’s Church Maesbrook - £100 until July meeting
    7. Annual Governance and Accountability Return
       1. Council reviewed the annual bank reconciliation
       2. Council received the Annual Internal Audit Report and noted the recommendations and actions
       3. Council approved The Annual Governance Statement for signing
       4. Council approved the amended Accounting Statement for signing
       5. Council approved the commencement date for the exercise of public rights
       6. Council noted the annual accounts information – as circulated
11. **Items for consideration at the July meeting –** not for discussion or debate at this meeting:

Grants – proposal to consider grant applications twice a year (June and November)

Asset Register

1. **Date and time of next meeting –** 24th July 2023, 7 p.m., Kinnerley Parish Hall

I.F. Cruise-Taylor

Parish Clerk

Kinnerley Parish Council

**5c: Flooding matters report**

1. **Flood boat:** update given in Clerk’s Report
2. **Liaison with Environment Agency/Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (1)**

I responded on 23 June to the disappointing response of 16 May from Mike Adams of EA to my Freedom of Information request about the catchments above Llyn Clywedog and Lake Vyrnwy. It completely ducked the pertinent question. I have shared both responses with colleagues in our Flood Protection Working Group. I said, amongst other things, that the EA answer (1) reinforces the view that the EA does not live up to its public image and (2) that the degree of co-operation between EA and NRW also falls far short of expectation.

Coincidentally and fortuitously, since submitting the FoI request, I was party to information from NRW, which did give a form of the answer. Based on river flows at the time of the 20th-21st February 2022 flood their evidence is that 20% - 28% of water arriving at the confluence may have come from the overspilling dams. That is a wildly different figure from the 5% or so held out by EA to be the normal case.

I have asked for further comments.

1. **Liaison with Environment Agency/Severn Valley Water Management Scheme (2)**

The SVWMS’s April 2023 website update stated that its project team would be attending the next Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) meeting and would be able to update Parish Councils through SALC on the long-term strategy development for the Upper Severn catchment and how support can be provided in the meantime to build community resilience.

In the end, that next SALC meeting was not until its Joint Working Group MS Teams meeting on 22 June, which I attended. The update was given by . . . Mike Adams. We have been waiting well over two years (since the abortive idea for a dam under the North West Relief Road) for an inkling of what might be in this long-term strategy. While some of the technical detail may have been worked up, we will have to continue to wait for its publication while the ducks are got in a row over liaison with the Welsh side, and over funding issues.

But the moment when SVWMS publicly engages with us does seem to be closer.

1. **Flood & Coast Conference in Telford on Tuesday 6 June 2023**

I attended the first day of this 3-day conference as a free visitor and a representative of Kinnerley Parish Council, with George Whitworth, who is ex Powysland IDB and an amateur flood-modeller. As a visitor I was not entitled to attend the conference talks, which were not free. There were around 80 stands in the main exhibition hall, with EA being in the centre. It was an opportunity to talk to the people who actually do the work, rather than receiving 2nd or 3rd hand updates from others and I spoke to various organisations:

**EA**

We had an appointment to see Clare Dinnis, the EA Area Director for the West Midlands (and also the joint chair of the River Severn Partnership with Mark Barrow) but in the end we saw only Marc Lidderth (the Place Manager for Shropshire and Worcestershire) and . . . Mike Adams.

Marc Lidderth said he was also the Project Sponsor for the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme. He said that with Gavin Bown (NRW’s equivalent of CD) they were trying to operate as best as possible between the Welsh and English Governments, but the challenge is the political considerations, not the environmental ones. Some of the benefits put to WG were flood risk management, managing water, carbon capture, health & wellbeing (and the Future Generations Act), and more money from external funders.

I expressed my disappointment to Mike Adams about his FoI reply. Although dodging the main question, his answer did cast light on their modelling methods although it seems these are largely outsourced to Arup.

The Vyrnwy/Clywedog liaison group is to be being “reinvigorated”.

Doubt was expressed about the ability of ELMS in England and the Sustainable Farming Scheme in Wales to do much for flood mitigation.

There had been a further Forestry Commission event at the Royal Hill on Monday 5 June with Kate Mayne and others.

**NFF**

I spoke to Katia Sanhuezo-Pino. She said that NFF were not first responders. They gave advice on a helpline about insurance, drying out etc. They could not themselves give advice about domestic argaes or contractors, but could put people in touch. She said that Mike Morris’s County wide group for the flood-affected (as mentioned on the SVWMS website) would not itself be visiting Town & Parish Councils, but SVWMS would. Again, no help was offered in helping the Maesbrook residents to access the NFF.

**Arup**

I spoke to Matthew Fennel-Fox, one of the small team responsible for the EA modelling. I happen to know him quite well from the Local Plan Review process. He gave some further insight into the models used, but I am not left with unbounded confidence in the ability of the models. He claimed that their models could include fine detail (e.g. the old “Collins” argae just west of the Morda near its confluence with the Vyrnwy).

**Jacobs**

I also spoke to Richard Crowder, the director responsible for flood products at Jacobs. He claimed that their models were the ones used as industry standards by Arup and EA. He said the question to ask them was how do they develop the flows to go into their models, and what is the level of uncertainty?

1. **Melverley Internal Drainage Board meeting on Wednesday 21 June 2023**

I attended as the KPC representative. There was again no representative from Melverley PC. This was the meeting at which the annual accounts and AGAR were approved. There was also the usual update on work done and work planned, and on particular issues e.g. liaising with EA about maintenance of the R Morda, and obstruction of MIDB ditches for maintenance purposes at Ashlands, Edgerley.

MIDB has also arranged a meeting of the Association of Drainage Boards (ADA) Marches Branch at the Royal Hill on Tuesday 27 June, for board members of four or five other local IDBs. The morning session will include presentations, amongst others, from SVWMS (by . . . Mike Adams) and by Water Resources West. The afternoon will include site visits.

1. **Upper Severn flow and storage**

George Whitworth has managed to secure a visit on the morning of Monday 26 June from Severn Trent personnel. It will involve a briefing at his house near Pool Quay, then site visits including to Maesbrook, the Weir Brook outfall and Montford Bridge. Severn Trent are involved in reservoir management and water transfers.

**Appendix A**

* 1. **Planning Decisions for information:**

23/01177/FUL: Address: Darwin House, Dovaston, SY10 8DS

Proposal: Replacement 2 storey dwelling with detached double garage and associated landscaping works

**Decision: Granted**

23/01437/ADV: St Johns Church, Maesbrook, Shropshire

Proposal: Replacement of dilapidated name sign and notice board

**Decision: Grant Permission**

23/01102/VAR: Bramble Down, Chapel Lane, Knockin Heath, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8ED. Proposal: Variation of condition no.2 (approved drawings) attached to planning permission ref 22/03837/FUL Date of Decision: 17/10/2022 to allow amendments to the design, including 1No additional rooflight added to both front and rear roof slopes, bi-fold doors omitted at rear (replaced with smaller window and French doors), brick plinth omitted at sides and rear. Existing garage with flat roof to be demolished and rebuilt on a slightly smaller footprint with a pitched roof to create a plant room for MVHR and ASHP equipment and allow for solar panel placement at rear.

**Decision: Grant Permission**

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **b) Planning applications for decision:**  23/02248/FUL: Post Office and Stores, Kinnerley, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 8DF  Proposal: Conversion of barns to three dwellings, alterations to a previous access, and ancillary works.  **Decision:** Council agreed by majority to support the application in principle, but with concerns over access/egress arrangements, and reiterated its views that 20 mph speed limit should be implemented in the area, along with double yellow lines |
|  |
|  |

**Appendix B**

* 1. **Known payments for approval: June 2023**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KPH | BACS | room hire 628 | 37.50 |
| KPH | BACS | room hire 648 | 25.00 |
| KPH | BACS | Room hire 665 | 50.00 |
| Pritchard | BACS | grounds maintenance | 924.00 |
| JDH | BACS | audit | 297.00 |
| HMRC | BACS | tax | 153.40 |
| Clerk | BACS | salary | 613.60 |
| Unity Trust | BACS | fee | 18.00 |

* 1. **Bank Reconciliation to 31st May 2023**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kinnerley Parish Council - Bank Reconciliation** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Financial year ending 31st March 2024 | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | Date: | 22/06/2023 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **£** | **£** |
| **CASH BOOK** |  |  |  |
| Opening balance 1 April 2023 |  |  | 58,382.54 |
| Add: Receipts to 31st May |  |  | 30,457.81 |
| Less: Payments to 31st May |  |  | -7,633.73 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Closing balance per accounts to date |  |  | **81,206.62** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Balance per Unity Trust bank statement as at 31st May 23 |  |  | 81,531.62 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Less: any unpresented cheques |  |  |  |
| Donations yet to be paid out |  |  |  |
| Peels Plantation Trust |  | 250.00 |  |
| Locum Clerk |  | 75.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Add: any un-banked cheques/payments |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | 325.00 |
| Total reconciled balances |  |  | **81,206.62** |

