

CONDOVER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please find minutes of APM held at Ryton Village Hall on Tuesday 5th of August.

Meeting Minutes

P.1 Election of Chair:

Cllr E Marvin proposed Cllr R Wintle for Chair, seconded by Cllr L Baines agreed by all.

P.2 Welcome by the Chair:

Chair opened meeting.

In attendance, Chair Cllr R Wintle, Cllr L Baines, Cllr E Marvin, Cllr G Walker-Prior, Cllr R Nash, Cllr R Slee, Cllr S Gill, Cllr T Cobbe, Cllr J Strelitz, Cllr C Naylor, Deputy Leader Shropshire Council Cllr A Wagner.

Public attendees, A Lansdell, S Stringer (potential CoOp Cllr), R Ball, R Gough.

P.3 Alex Wagner - Deputy Leader Shropshire Council:

Cllr A Wagner gave an overview of a presentation he had recently give on how Parish Councils and SCC could work closer together going forward. There are number of Projects/Pilots being considered at present.

The main theme was for Parish Councils to work closer together to help strengthen the pull the have with negotiating services to get the best possible outcomes, this would also mean working closer with SCC to see if there any areas that be more beneficial dealt with by PC's creating a more active partnership.

With rising costs there is a recognition that in a number years services could be reduced due to lack of council funds, effected by paying consultants high fees for work provided, this is also impacted on private contractors charging high costs and providing a low service, could this be improved by local companies being instructed by PC's a better price to carry out works and backed by SCC (more funding for PC's). This could also mean that PC's look to employ a maintenance person to do some repairs, look after road signs, filling small potholes etc, there are currently some PC's piloting this, which may also help support SCC Street Scene department that tries to do this work but restrictions on time and people on the ground means things can take too long.

Cllr C Naylor mentioned that in Devon several parish councils now have county funding to help take care of some aspects of their roads, verges/signs/drains as well

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as minor potholes. County provides insurance, training, as well as funding for pilots. Cllr C Naylor said he would send round a link to the 'Devon Scheme'

A question was raised that if works were carried out locally could there then be issues from other departments for example the Environmental Agency etc, This was answered by Cllr A Wagner to say that liaising with said departments as part of planning such works should then stop an issue arising, again working closer and have easier access to relevant departments would be imperative.

Fixing relationships was another priority as it seems trying to deal with SCC isn't made easy with outdated processes and possible attitudes, a focus on customer service should also be a priority.

In essence the concept of collaboration between PC's and SCC to create a more affordable and personalised services in area could help to sustain overall services for longer.

The overall consensus from CPC was positive as working together could help up improve services and cost of services as well as giving PC's a stronger voice when dealing with SCC, this hopefully would make things about people in parishes.

CIL funds were also mentioned, there is apparently monies available for certain projects but again with out dated practices and procedures it take far to long to get any awards, this definitely in not the way it should be and Cllr A Wagner ids involved in a project to change this but will take a number of months to agree and to see improvements, CPC will look to put themselves for any CIL funding change pilot

P.4 Parish Council Financial Report for 2024-25:

Cllr L Baines gave overview of report positive feedback, still awaiting information from External auditors, details to be posted on website when received.

P.5 Confirmation of accuracy of previous meetings minutes:

Minutes of previous CPC meeting reviewed and agreed, signed off by Chair Cllr R Wintle.

P.6 Local Issues and Public Question Time:

Ryton Slurry Lagoon.

A Lansdell attended the meeting to put forward objection to the slurry pit that has been given approval from SCC Planning and local objections did not seem to be considered. There is a question on exactly which Parish the Slurry pit is situated as it is on the boundary of Ryton in Condover parish and Longnor Parish who had no consultation to the planning request. Although planning cannot be revoked as it has been passed there is opportunity for reconsideration due to inaccuracies in original application and the proximity to a dwelling, in addition there could be an environmental issue due to water courses. Cllr C Naylor has raised our concerns with the Cabinet Minister of Planning to see if we can get a reversal of the decision, it was made clear that once a decision has been made it is very difficult to get it changed. Cllr C Naylor to keep us updated where possible.

It was suggested that A Lansdell should try and build support from parishioners from other parishes that this decision will impact on see what they can do, there was a mention of press involvement which CPC stated that if this was to happen it should be based on factual information and not let emotions take over.

Overall, there was a frustration with everyone on how this planning could be passed without consideration of everyone's issues.

The Fox at Ryton

R Ball & R Gough members of The Fox committee gave an update on the renovations to The Fox which seem to be going well and should still be inline for opening in November. They confirmed that they now have a full committee elected for the running of the project going forward.

As request for funding support was made to CPC as there are additional works, they wish to carry out to make it more inclusive for all locally and further afield, this includes not just refurbishing the WC but creating a fully equipped disabled toilet with accessibility potentially from the outside as well as the inside of the property. They believe the additional works will total £40k and they asked for an amount of £25k from CPC. CPC stated on a few occasions during the conversation that before any funding contribution could be considered we would need a breakdown of the total project costs and various quotes for the works, details of any other funding sources you've explored or secured (for example CIL funding which can take time but the process is being looked at to try and speed up payments according to Deputy Leader Shropshire Council Cllr A Wagner), specific outcomes or benefits for parish residents to justify funding. It was made clear that there is no guarantee of the level of funding that the CPC could consider but, if possible, we would like to support the project if we can. It is hoped that at our next meeting a full proposal be put forward to CPC for consideration and everyone should be aware this process will not happen overnight.

P.7 Condover Parish Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr E Marvin

It was confirmed after discussions with SCC they will support our application and will look at providing services for the next steps, if all goes well we should be in a position to take the plan to consultancy stage hopefully by Christmas which should mean if all goes well it can then be passed down to London for national bodies to consider and hopefully move to regulation 15 in the first quarter of next year. A big thank you was given to Cllr E Marvin who has given a lot of time and effort for several years to get to this point. Updates will continue in future meetings.

It was mentioned about gaining new members to the steering group but it was felt that the current membership should be enough to see the project to it's conclusion presently.

With regards funding to take things further, CPC are happy to support this if needed, it will become clearer as we move forward.

P.8 AOB

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Chair Cllr R Wintle requested volunteer from CPC to be Deputy Chair in the event of absence, to be discussed at next meeting.

Cllr G Walker-Prior put forward CPC pay for the hedge at the bowling green to be cut on the border of the playing field, he will obtain 3 quotes to be reviewed at next meeting.

Cllr R Nash asked if CPC could look into the possibility of having a bin placed by the roadside in front of the sports ground that could be collected by SCC, Clerk to look into this and report back.

Chair Cllr R Wintle to a vote on S Stringer joining CPC as a Cllr for Stapleton, it was agreed by all of the Parish Council. Jason to get paperwork completed to make the appointment official.

Chair Cllr R Wintle put forward that we invite a member of the Parish liaison West Mercia Police to our next meeting to give overview of local policing. Clerk to arrange.

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