



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 6:30pm at the Sambrook Centre, Stirchley**

Present: Cllrs C Lloyd (Chair), T Wood, A England, C Turley, S Vaughan-Hodkinson, A Watkin,  
C Addison, T Skidmore

In Attendance: C Maclean (Locum Clerk/RFO)

Members of Public: 2

**FC/23/072 WELCOME**

Cllr C Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**FC/23/073 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs C Furnival, J Loveridge, G Sinclair.

**FC/23/074 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson declared an interest in agenda item FC/23/094b.

**FC/23/075 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No points or issues raised.

**FC/23/076 POLICE REPORT**

Cllrs noted the written report provided by the SNT Nedge team. It was noted that joint effort was being undertaken with the SNT Brookside team to address the off-road bikes issue. Cllrs also noted the actions being taken to identify and deal with two men acting suspiciously in part of the Stirchley parish.

The Police request that any suspicious behaviour be reported to them and provision of any footage be available was noted.

Cllr T Wood noted that the statistics relating to violence and sexual offences were far higher than the other reported categories. The Clerk advised that he would contact the SNT teams to seek more detail on these.

**FC/23/077 ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

Cllrs welcomed Ms C Mason-Morris to the meeting who explained the purpose behind the Armed Forces Covenant and the challenges being addressed to assist veterans in securing employment. Ms C Mason-Morris advised that further effort was required to address the challenges and the main areas of concern relating to (i) housing; (ii) education; and (iii) healthcare.

Cllrs noted that Cllr C Turley is a champion of the Armed Forces Covenant and the groups and activities that took place across the borough.

It was noted that the Parish Council had signed up to the Pledge and efforts being undertaken to secure the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Bronze award. Consideration would be given at future meetings to what support could be available and provided within the parish.

Cllr T Skidmore enquired whether veterans experienced specific mental health issues but Ms C Mason-Morris advised experiences were similar to non-veterans.

Cllrs expressed appreciation to Ms C Mason-Morris for her presentation and feedback who left the meeting at 6:55pm.

**FC/23/078 MINUTES**

The Locum Clerk expressed apologies and advised that the minutes of previous meetings were still being drafted. These would be presented at a future meeting.

**FC/23/079 MATTERS ARISING**

Cllrs discussed whether there were any outstanding matters. The Locum Clerk advised that a tracker would be compiled and presented at meetings for review.

**FC/23/080 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

**a. Councillor Resignation**

Cllrs noted the resignation Cllr T Bate from the Council.

**b. Consider and agree co-option of new member**

Cllrs noted interest from Mr S Cook in joining as a Councillor for the Brookside ward. It was noted that Mr S Cook was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr A England proposed that Council does not wait any further period of time and that Mr S Cook be co-opted as a Councillor.

Cllrs considered this proposal and there was discussion on the preference for a candidate to attend a meeting of Council in person to present their case for joining and take questions.

**Proposed by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson, seconded by Cllr T Wood and it was unanimously resolved that candidates attend a meeting of Council to present their case for joining.**

**FC/23/081 KEY COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION: STANDING ORDERS**

Cllrs noted the revised Standing Orders presented to Council. Cllr T Wood considered whether a symbol be added to assist differentiation between the coloured bullet points.

**Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was unanimously resolved that Council adopt these revised Standing Orders.**

**FC/23/082 KEY COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION: FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Cllrs noted the revised Financial Regulations presented to Council.

**Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr C Lloyd and it was unanimously resolved that Council adopt these revised Financial Regulations.**

**FC/23/083 TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL: LIBRARY BOOK FUND**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs of an approach from Telford & Wrekin Council Library Services team seeking assistance in funding. This is as a result of the reduction of the book budget for the library service. Cllrs noted the request for a contribution of £5,300 for the next financial year and annually thereafter.

Cllrs considered the merits of a contribution against the current levels of service being provided. Cllrs agreed to defer any decision until a better understanding of the overall financial position and purpose of the funding was achieved.

**FC/23/084 TELFORD & WREKIN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2023/24**

Cllrs noted the consultation being undertaken within the borough. It was noted that this was being undertaken on the back of the Local Government Boundary Review.

It was agreed that the consultation be discussed in full at the next meeting of Council. Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson noted the importance of considering the properties and households that would be contained within the Hem development.

Cllr T Wood suggested to Cllrs that individual feedback be given to the Locum Clerk by 1<sup>st</sup> November and that the consolidated comments be distributed to Cllrs by 7<sup>th</sup> November in advance of the next meeting of Council.

**FC/23/085 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that the proposals were still being considered and that the item would be deferred to a future meeting.

**FC/23/086 SYA DELIVERY AT BROOKSIDE**

**a. Review of Report on SYA Delivery**

Cllrs noted the report received. Cllr T Wood expressed concern over the apparent lack of reporting to the Council.

Cllrs noted the extra funding required by SYA from the Council and it was considered that any consideration of this would be for full Council and not the Clerk. Cllrs noted the previous request of this nature was declined.

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson expressed concern over the perceived lack of understanding of the set up at Brookside and it was agreed that Mr R Parkes, Chief Executive of SYA be invited to the next meeting of Council to clarify the situation for Cllrs.

Cllr C Addison expressed his apologies and left the meeting at 7:36pm to attend another commitment.

**b. Consider Invoices Received For First Six Months**

Cllrs noted the two invoices received from SYA each amounting to £7,751.00 + VAT. These amounts were in excess of the amount of £6,788.50 + VAT stated in the Partnership Agreement. Cllrs agreed that the invoices should state the amount shown in the Partnership Agreement.

**Proposed by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson, seconded by Cllr A England and it was unanimously resolved that invoices for the amount of £6,788.50 + VAT for each quarter be paid once received.**

**FC/23/087 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Cllrs noted receipt of advice of application TWC/2023/0706 and the proposed erection of a first-floor side extension and conversion of existing garage into a habitable space at 45 Beckbury Drive, Stirchley.

Following discussion Cllrs agreed that no comment be offered.

**FC/23/088 GRANT TO REPLACE LOSS OF INCOME AT BROOKSIDE CENTRE FROM RENTALS PAID BY RECHARGE AND PARK LANE CENTRE**

Cllr A England declared an interest in this item.

Cllrs noted the paper presented by the Locum Clerk relating to the agreement by Council at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and the provision of a grant to Brookside Central CIO for £3,700.00. The Locum Clerk noted that a payment of £925.00 was subsequently made but he could not see evidence of any further payments towards this grant.

Following discussion, Cllr T Wood recalled the situation that the purpose of the grant was negated by the fact that the monies due to be received from Recharge and Park Lane Centre were not subsequently received.

Cllrs agreed that the payment of £925.00 already made should not be reclaimed.

**FC/23/089 PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL BY COUNCIL**

Cllrs noted the previous discussion on the payments to SYA.

**FC/23/090 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/2023**

**a. Current Status of the 2022/2023 Submission**

Cllrs noted the submission of the AGAR documents to the external auditors minus the internal audit report which was awaited.

**b. Consider and agree co-option of new member**

Cllrs noted that the internal audit report would be forwarded by the Locum Clerk on receipt and this would contain both the AGAR internal audit document as well as the detailed report and findings.

It was noted that on submission of these documents to the external auditors, the process would be concluded on receipt of their report.

**FC/23/091 WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES**

Cllr A England advised Cllrs of recent walkabout of Brookside ward with the Police where it was observed that there were issues with (i) speeding; (ii) bad parking; (iii) fly tipping; and (iv) litter.

Cllr A England advised of one particular fly tipping incident which appeared to be on private property. Cllr A Watkin advised his understanding that this should not prevent Telford & Wrekin Council taking appropriate action.

Cllr A England advised that Mr S Cook was seeking to obtain a contribution of £500 from the Ward Councillor Pride Fund.

Cllr T Wood suggested that invitations be given to Ward Cllrs N England and L Powers to provide reports for future meetings.

**FC/23/092 PARISH MATTERS**

Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson advised of a recent walk re women's safety with Pippa Mills, Shropshire's Chief Constable.

Cllr A Watkin advised of continued monthly meetings with residents of Calverhall and Churchway. These included Cllr C Turley.

Cllr T Skidmore advised of concerns that the bins were filling and not being cleared sufficiently quickly.

Cllr A England noted the funding constraints for Telford & Wrekin Council and that the Parish Council may need to garner greater community spirit. Cllrs considered the reestablishment of the Community & Environment Committee.

The member of the public left the meeting at 8:00pm.

**FC/23/093 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC**

It is recommended that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information in relation to any individual, as defined in paragraph 1, and/or information relating to financial or business affairs, as defined in paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act '72.

**Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr A England and unanimously resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.**

**FC/23/094 HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS**

**a. Consider Proposal Relating to the LGPS Pension Position**

Cllrs considered the paper prepared by the Locum Clerk. Cllrs recalled the options available following the exit of the final LGPS team member and that the considerations allowed for the possibility of re-entering the scheme if the circumstances merited it. That included allowing flexibility for a future Clerk who may be an existing LGPS member to remain in the scheme.

Cllrs noted the passage of time and agreed that resolution of the issue was required. Cllrs noted that if the decision was made to settle the payment and remain with nest, interest at 8% would accrue on the outstanding amount, if not paid in full. Cllrs also considered the payback period by remaining with nest and settling the payment.

**Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson and it was resolved with one abstention that the Council remain with nest and settle the payment to LGPS in full.**

**b. Consider Proposal on Staffing for the Parish Council**

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that the proposal was still at draft stage and would be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

The Chair noted the next meeting of Council scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> November and thanked everyone, declaring the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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Chair

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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