



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council of Stirchley and Brookside Parish Council
held on Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 6:30pm at the Sambrook Centre, Stirchley**

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

In Attendance: C Maclean (Locum Clerk/RFO)

Members of Public: 3

FC/23/139 WELCOME

Cllr C Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

FC/23/140 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr J Loveridge.

FC/23/141 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared at this point of the meeting.

FC/23/142 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No comments or points raised.

FC/23/143 POLICE REPORT

Councillors noted the absence of members from both the Nedge and Brookside SNT teams from the meeting. Cllr T Wood expressed concern over the infrequency of attendance.

FC/23/144 MINUTES

- a. Cllrs noted the Locum Clerk was still working on the minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2023 and 13 June 2023.
- b. To note the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 11 July 2023.**
Cllrs noted the contents of the Minutes of the meeting which would be signed by the Chairman and filed on record.
- b. To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 10 October 2023.**
Proposed by Cllr S Vaughan-Hodkinson, seconded by Cllr C Lloyd and it was resolved unanimously that the Minutes be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.
- c. To Approve the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 12 December 2023.**

Proposed by Cllr G Sinclair, seconded by Cllr S Cook and it was resolved unanimously that the Minutes be adopted and that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

FC/23/145 MATTERS ARISING

Cllrs noted concerns raised by the SYA representatives who attended a previous meeting of Council. Cllrs agreed that the concerns would be noted and addressed.

FC/23/146 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Cllrs welcomed Mr K Jolly to the meeting who had expressed interest in joining the Council. Mr Jolly detailed his experience and relevance to being a Councillor for the Stirchley ward, especially in relation to youth work.

When asked about his ability to commit to being a Councillor Mr Jolly confirmed that he would be able to attend meetings as required and work with parishioners to help address concerns and matters raised.

A ballot was subsequently undertaken and on advice of the result Mr Jolly was invited to join the Council.

On signing and reading out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Cllr Jolly took his seat at Council.

A member of the public joined the meeting at 6:53pm. Cllrs agreed that as the member of the public wished to raise a parish matter with the Council the meeting would be opened back up to public session.

The member of the public expressed concerns over the community centre in Brookside and questioned why the Council was not more engaged within the centre. Cllrs explained that the centre at Brookside was now being run by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and that the Council had no oversight or responsibility for its undertakings.

Cllr C Lloyd advised the member of the public that Cllrs did run Cllr surgeries within the centre and that she was available on a Thursday between 10:00am and 12:00pm for matters relevant to parishioners. Cllr C Lloyd advised the member of the public that she was happy to meet with her on Thursday and that the Locum Clerk would also be in attendance as required.

FC/23/147 2024/2025 BUDGETARY AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENTS

a. 2024/2025 Budgetary Requirements

Cllrs noted the papers presented to Council detailing the requirements for the coming year. Cllrs also noted that there was an element of room in seeking an increase in the Precept without impacting households due to increased number of households contributing to the parish.

Cllrs noted the 50% reduction in the Council Tax Support grant being provided by Telford & Wrekin Council which was being phased out but that this would be offset by the increase noted in the earlier discussion.

On consideration of the financial requirements Cllrs expressed a desire to restrict any increase to below 10%. Cllrs noted that an increase of 9.75%

would result in an increase of £13.60 per annum, based on Band D property principles.

Proposed by Cllr T Wood, seconded by Cllr A England and it was resolved with 10 in favour and 2 abstentions that an increase of 9.75% be requested to Telford & Wrekin Council resulting in the sum of £352,682.00 for the Precept itself and the sum of £7,073.33 in relation to the Council Tax Support grant resulting in a total of £359,755.33 for 2024/2025.

b. Amendments to Fees and Charges for Use of The Sambrook Centre

Cllrs noted that proposals in relation to fees and charges for 2024/2025 would be presented at the next meeting of Council.

c. Amendments to Fees and Charges for Allotment Tenancies

Cllrs noted that proposals in relation to fees and charges for allotment tenancies would be presented at the next meeting of Council.

d. Relaunch of Gardening Service and Introduction of Fee to Receive the Service

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that consideration was being given to a change in the gardening service model currently implemented by the Council. However, as it was still to be fully thought through it was proposed that the Council remain with its current scheme for a further year.

e. Agree 2024/2025 Precept Requirements

Following discussion on the budgetary requirements for 2024/2025 Cllrs noted the split in the Precept request between the overall sum required less the Council Tax Support grant still available from Telford & Wrekin Council.

Following resolution on the requirements for 2024/2025 it was agreed that the relevant requests to Telford & Wrekin Council be signed on behalf of the Council and submitted.

FC/23/148 ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENTS

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that consideration was still being given to the terms of the revised agreement and that these would be presented at a future meeting of Council.

FC/23/149 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a. Planning Applications

Cllrs noted there were no applications for consideration at the meeting.

b. Planning Decisions

Cllrs noted there were no decisions from Telford & Wrekin Council to be noted.

FC/23/150 PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL BY COUNCIL

Cllrs noted there were no payments requiring approval by Council at the meeting.

FC/23/151 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Locum Clerk advised Cllrs that proposals for future signatories on the Council's bank and investments account would be submitted to a future meeting of Council.

Cllr A England advised that he wished to be excluded from any future authorisation arrangements.

FC/23/152 WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr A England advised of concerns relating to off road bikes being used in Holmer Lake area at unsocial hours. It was noted that the gates that were previously in position had been replaced by alternative gates which appeared less substantial and allowed the bikes to get through. The area contained a bridleway and it was noted that a resident had sought to have this removed. Cllrs expressed some concerns in relation to this as it was noted that horse riders did at time use this path.

Cllr K Jolly suggested that the off road riders may be using the area as a short cut to their work premises in Halesfield.

Cllrs noted that any actions required may be subject to scrutiny by the Police. Cllrs considered the proposal that the matter be referred to Telford & Wrekin Council with the request that the alternative gates be removed and replaced by something more substantial.

Proposed by Cllr A England, seconded by Cllr T Skidmore and it was resolved with 8 in favour and 3 against that Telford & Wrekin Council be approached to discuss alternative arrangements relating to the gate.

FC/23/153 PARISH MATTERS

Cllrs noted the recent educational event at St James Church, Stirchley where concerns were raised over the lack of knowledge of such a community building.

Cllr A Watkin noted some concerns were being raised in relation to the level of parking at Grangemere.

Cllrs noted the attendance of Cllrs Turley and Watkin at a recent Wrekin Housing Group residents meeting. No issues were raised for the Council to be aware of.

Cllr T Skidmore noted concerns over litter continuing to pile up in back gardens of properties within Brookside. Cllr A England advised that some of these had been reported and dealt with.

FC/23/154 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 1972.

Cllrs noted that as there were no items requiring consideration no proposal to enter closed session was required.

FC/23/155 HUMAN RESOURCE MATTERS

Cllrs noted there were no items for consideration.

The Chair noted the next meeting of Council scheduled for 13 February and thanked everyone, declaring the meeting closed at 8:07pm.

Signed

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Chair

Date: 10 September 2024