

COUND PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Simon James

Clerk: Lisa Harris

Email: clerk@cound.org.uk

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at 7.30pm on 26 September 2024 at Cound Guildhall

Present: Parish Councillors S James (Chair), R Davies, J Hall, S Green, T Roberts, M Smith, S Scott, K Symonds and County Councillor C Wild

Clerk: Lisa Harris

40.24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor R Sartain

41.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a) No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.
- b) There were no applications for a dispensation regarding disclosable pecuniary interests

42.24 Public Participation Session - *a period of 15 minutes will be set aside for the public to speak, with a strict 5-minute limit per speaker. Members of the public may speak on matters appearing on the agenda. However, if a matter does not appear on the agenda, a written request should be submitted to the Clerk no later than 2 working days before the meeting.*

No members of the public were present.

[The next item was moved up the agenda at the discretion of the Chairman to allow Councillor Wild to deliver her report before departing to attend another meeting.]

45.24 To receive report from Shropshire Councillor

Councillor Wild presented a brief report which covered:

- The Future Options survey had recently been emailed to all town and parish councils. As Shropshire Council is facing serious budgetary challenges, it is having to review the level of every service it offers and is therefore exploring every possible opportunity to minimise the impact of any proposed changes on communities. The survey therefore asked if there are any local services that could be taken on by town/parish councils for the benefit of their communities. The Clerk had responded to the survey confirming that the Parish does not have a library nor any leisure facilities so the only service Cound Parish Council could possibly take on in the future would be the environmental maintenance for which a 25% grant had been received from Shropshire Council in the 2024/25 financial year.
- As a result of financial pressures, there has been a significant reduction in staff numbers at Shropshire Council with further redundancies expected. Many departments are operating on a skeleton staff and are fully stretched. Therefore, councillors are requested not to email/telephone staff (such as Highways or Lighting) directly but for all communications to be via clerks. Hopefully this will avoid the clogging up of inboxes and result in requests being actioned efficiently.
- Questions had been raised regarding food waste and the subscription garden waste bin service. A council does not have to collect garden waste, but it is a service it can choose to provide. It is allowed to make a charge and most councils do. Shropshire Council is charging for this service from 1 October 2024 but as it is forbidden by law from charging for food

waste, this cannot go in the garden waste bin. Residents are advised to either put food waste in their general waste bins or to home compost it.

[Councillor Wild left the meeting]

43.24 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 July 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Symonds and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 July 2024 be accepted as a true record.

The minutes were signed accordingly.

44.24 Clerk's report on matters arising since the Parish Council Meeting on 18 July 2024

- Updated website with any upcoming temporary road closures notified of and information on the garden waste collection subscription service.
- Environmental Maintenance Grant (£258.75) received from Shropshire Council in August. It was only 50% of the grant requested which means that Shropshire Council's contribution to the environmental maintenance work this year has been reduced to just 25%. Unlikely that any grant will be awarded in the next financial year, so this must be taken into account with the 2025/26 budget.

46.24 To receive any relevant updates from parish councillors

- Councillor Roberts had performed the audit checks for the period up to 22 September and confirmed that both defibrillators were ready to use as and when required.
- In Councillor Sartain's absence, Councillor Roberts gave an update on The Guildhall
 - The Craft & Produce Show had taken place on 7 September 2024 and had been a success.
 - The winter programme for Flicks in the Sticks commenced on 13 September with a screening of Wicked Little Letters. The event was well received. Scrapper will be shown on 18 October and Thelma on 22 November.

47.24 Current financial matters

a) Payments

Payee	Description	Amount
Miss L Harris	Clerk's expenses August/September	£ 60.10
Miss L Harris	Clerk's salary August/September	£ 571.16
HMRC	PAYE on Clerk's salary August/September	£ 142.80
Mr D Burn	Environmental Maintenance – July/August	£ 320.00
	TOTAL	£ 1094.06

It was proposed by Councillor Symonds and seconded by Councillor James and **resolved (without opposition)**

that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b) Bank reconciliation to 17 September 2024

The bank was reconciled at £10,328.55, being the online banking balance on the date the meeting agenda was prepared. The bank reconciliation was agreed and signed accordingly.

48.24 Planning

1. Decisions to note

a. Ref: 24/02364/PAAFC

Address: Lower Cound Farm Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AJ

Description: Prior approval application for the change of use of an agricultural shed to indoor pickleball courts

Validated: 19 Jun 2024

Status: Prior Approval Required and Refused

2. Planning applications for consideration

a. Ref: 24/03223/FUL

Address: Birchmoor 5 The Heighways Upper Cound Shrewsbury Shropshire SY5 6AR

Description: Front extension, replace existing garage flat roof with pitched roof. Ground floor bay window and first floor bedroom window to front elevation. Replace cladding to front elevation. Single storey rear extension. First floor rear extension above existing extension.

Validated: 27 Aug 2024

Status: Pending Consideration

No objections nor comments were recorded on the above planning applications.

49.24 To consider potential start time change for future meetings

A brief discussion took place on whether meetings should start 30 minutes earlier moving forwards.

It was proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Scott and **resolved** by a unanimous vote

that future meetings of Cound Parish Council will commence at 7.00pm.

50.24 Correspondence

None.

51.24 Future agenda items

- Environmental maintenance – to consider what, if any, further elements could be taken over from Shropshire Council.

Cound Parish Council resolves that by the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1992, the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item 52.24 of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Acts. [The Clerk left the meeting.]

52.24 Clerk's salary

A salary increase was proposed and agreed without opposition.

53.24 Date of next meeting

Thursday 21 November 2024 at 7.00pm at Cound Moor Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: 21 November 2024