

DAWLEY HAMLETS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 28th March 2001 at Aqueduct Community Centre

PRESENT: Cllr. S. Woodvine - Chairman
Cllrs. A. Hickie, D. Gibson, A. M. Jeffs, G. Onions,
R. Pritchard and T. Swain.
Clerk: Mr. M. Goldstraw

In attendance Four members of the public
WPC's Fiona McWilliams and Amanda Cooper
Mr. Mark Binnersley (Shropshire Star)

The Chairman opened the meeting and informed Members that the formal resignation of Cllr. Roberts had been received and was to take effect immediately.

The Clerk outlined the procedures to be undertaken and informed Members that notices advertising the vacancy would be placed throughout the parish and that T&WC Chief Executive in his capacity as Electoral Officer would be notified.

1. PUBLIC - Mr Gobby asked the parish council if anything could be done to provide a sign at Rednal Fields. Mr Gobby stated that he had asked Cllr Roberts in his capacity as T&WC Ward Member but nothing had been done. The Chairman stated that as this was a matter for T&WC, we could request that action be taken, but we were not in a position to action the matter as parish council.

Mr. Gobby further requested that something be done about dog fouling in the parish. Cllr. Jeffs responded by informing Mr Gobby that the council were investigating the provision of signs.

Mr Gobby asked the Clerk why no posters had recently been placed on the Post Office notice board.

The Clerk responded and stated that it was hoped that the problem would be rectified soon.

Mr Gobby requested that the old 15 mph sign at South View Road be reinstated. The Clerk informed Mr Gobby that the 15 mph restriction had been rescinded by Shropshire County Council some years ago and it was unlikely that a request for reinstatement would be successful. Such a move would have to have the support of not only the whole parish, but also motorists and the Unitary authority. Any request would then have to go to the Ministry of Transport and it would be highly unlikely that it would be granted.

The footpath at the back of the Trinity Road bungalows was reported as being in a filthy state. The Clerk was asked to report the matter to T&WC footpaths and rodent control dept.

Overgrown hedges at the pathway between Rednal fields and Holly Road were reported. Clerk to contact STROWP Officer.

2. POLICE SESSION- The two police officers were introduced to the council as deputising for Pc Evans.

Pc McWilliams asked, on behalf of Pc Evans, if the council had any news on the proposed Pelican Crossing.

The Clerk replied that the parish council were to be updated on the matter later in the meeting but as the question had been asked, the reply was that T&WC had in fact split the traffic calming works, of which the crossing was part, into two financial years. The crossing was to be in the second year, that commencing 1st April 2001. The Parish Council was shortly to be invoiced for £10'000 and work would commence soonest after 1st April.

Cllr. Pritchard reported a problem with a vehicle being illegally parked on the pavement making it impossible for pedestrians to pass.

There being no more police matters, the two officers left the meeting.

01/25 APOLOGIES -

No apologies were received.

01/26 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February were confirmed and signed as a true record.

01/27 Matters arising

Cllr Gibson apologised retrospectively for not attending the last meeting of the council.

01/28 Aqueduct Community Centre

The Chairman gave a report of the meeting held at T&WC Civic Offices on Monday 26th March where herself, Cllr Jeffs and the Clerk met with officers of T&WC to ascertain details of Aqueduct Community Centre with the possible objective of taking it over. It was stated that T&WC would be more than willing to allow the Parish Council to take on the Centre and a number of lease options were discussed. The Chairman gave Members those details of income and expenditure which had been supplied by T&WC.

Members held a full discussion on the possible community benefits and pitfalls associated with the centre.

Although it was agreed that the matter should be investigated fully prior to any action, members were unsure of what questions should be asked.

The Clerk gave details of the parish population and council tax payers by area and guidance as to the powers of parish councils to provide enhanced services under the provisions of the spirit of Best Value. The Clerk went on to state that the council, as part of its investigations, could commission a survey of the needs within the parish - indeed this would, in any case, be good practice.

Members agreed to give the matter more thought and place the matter on the agenda for the next meeting for further consideration. The Chairman asked Members to contact the Clerk if they had questions which needed investigation so that answers could be available for the next meeting.

It was resolved to take no action at this stage but to investigate the matter further and place the topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

01/29 To receive the minutes of the PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE held on 12th February 2001, previously circulated. The minutes were received.

01/30 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman outlined the difficulties of past years to gain an acceptable level of public attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting where it had been held on a "stand alone" basis, even when special presentations had been arranged. Members heard that it was increasingly becoming the custom and practice of many Parish Councils to hold the APM prior to the April Parish Council meeting. This, the Chairman stated, would comply with the letter of the regulations without the need for especially arranged date and venue.

Following discussion, it was resolved to hold the annual Parish Meeting prior to the April Parish Council Meeting.

01/31 Best Value/ Charter Mark

The Clerk reported that he had, along with Cllrs Onions and Pritchard, attended a meeting of the WAC, SAPTC where a presentation on Best Value was given by the Clerk to Bridgnorth Town Council.

Members were given an outline of the meeting.

01/32 Grants

The Clerk presented the grant expenditure to date and balances available. Members discussed each application in turn and it was resolved that the following grants be awarded:

Telford & Horsehay Steam Trust £200.00

Horsehay Village Hall £200.00 (Cllrs. Swain and Onions declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or decision on the Village Hall)

Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice £200.00

T.C.A.T. £50.00

Telford Sea Cadets £50.00

Aqueduct Learning Centre £40.00

It was further resolved that the other applicants, who were outside the parish, should be referred to the T&W Community Trust.

01/33 Countryside Officers Report

Cllr. Jeffs stated that there was nothing to report.

01/34 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS- It was RESOLVED: that these be approved and paid as tabled.

STATEMENT 107 was tabled along with the reconciliation and was approved.

01/35 CORRESPONDENCE

T&WC	a) Changes to services at former council shops - noted. b) Mins and agenda - noted. c) Wrekin Insight magazine - noted. d) Bus user group meeting 4/4/01 - Cllr. Gibson to attend. e) Letter re countryside wardens and how they are limited in their response to motorcycles using Springwell Mount. Suggest the police are better equipped to respond. f) Foot and Mouth update - noted.
S.C.C.	Bus News - Cllr. Gibson
Com Cl of Shropshire Mr. G. Evans	Buzz Magazine - noted. Request for help and information. Mr Evans intends to produce another local booklet.
PRH	Letter of thanks to Chairman for donation of Chairman's Allowance.

01/36 ANY OTHER ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Cllr. Swain reported local concerns that a farm on the outskirts of the parish at the border with Little Wenlock, had acquired stone crushing plant. The concern was that if there was an intention to use the plant, no public consultation had taken place and no planning consent obtained.

The Clerk was asked to investigate and report back to the Planning & environmental Committee as the matter had direct relevance to those parishioners on the border and along the traffic routes to this site.

01/37 Date of next meeting Wednesday 25th April 2001 at Aqueduct Community Centre immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which is to commence at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed

Date