

LEEBOTWOOD AND LONGNOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the regular Meeting of Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council
held at Leebotwood Village Hall on Monday 25th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT

Cllr. P. Pardoe
Cllr. R. Lawrence
Cllr. R. Reynolds
Cllr. C. Baker

APOLOGIES

Cllr. S. Willocks

Cllr. Dan Morris

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Gwilym Rippon (clerk)

There were two members of the public

Agenda item

Actions

106-24 1. **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – The chair welcomed all members

107-24 2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Name	Item	Personal	Prejudicial

108-24 3. **DISPENSATION** – None required.

109-24 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION** – There were two members of the public present

110-24 5. **MINUTES** - *To approve and sign the minutes dated 26th September 2024*
RESOLVED
The minutes of the meetings held on 23rd September 2024 were signed and approved following a minor amendment.

111-24 6. **INFORMATION FROM THE MINUTES**
Cllr. Reynold questioned the clerk as to the replacement pads for the defibrillator. The clerk assured Cllr. Rynolds that they had been ordered and he was awaiting delivery.

There was a general discussion in relation to replacing the boards of the Leebotwood bus shelter £1800 it was also agreed for the Painting agreed It was agreed to £3k carry forward for maintenance of the bus shelters

REPORTS*a) Shropshire Councillor Dan Morris*

Cllr. Morris circulated his report for information:

Shropshire Council has published its second quarterly report for the year, detailing its financial position as of 30 September 2024, as part of the agenda for a Cabinet meeting on 20 November. The report shows a projected overspend of £35.1 million, marking a slight improvement on the projected position at the end of August. Whilst this could be covered by the council's £38.8m general fund reserves balance, this would leave funds for unforeseen emergencies as low as £3.7m. The council has published monthly finance reports since the start of the financial year, as it overcomes a challenge from increased demand and cost for services, especially in social care, like councils all over the country. Shropshire's position is made even more challenging by its rural geography, it costs more to deliver services when communities are spread across a large area. The council has carried out a number of its savings plans since the start of the financial year. This includes introducing a new charge for collecting garden waste, a booking system for household recycling centres, and moving out of its Shirehall headquarters in Shrewsbury.

A reminder that Shropshire householders need to subscribe to Shropshire Council's garden waste service if they want to continue having their garden bin emptied. More than 62,000 households in the Shropshire Council area have now signed up to the service, which came into effect Monday 4 November. Subscriptions cost £56 per bin and cover the period 4 November 2024 to 31 October 2025. A payment window is open until 31 March 2025 and people must sign up by this date if they want to have their bin emptied in the spring and summer months.

A new booking system for people wishing to visit any of Shropshire Council's five household recycling centres came into effect on Monday 4 November 2024. From 4th Nov those visiting the centres will need to book a slot in advance – and bookings can be made up to six days in advance. All residents living in the Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council areas will be able to book to visit one of the centres – located in Craven Arms, Bridgnorth, Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Whitchurch. Bookings will be able to be made online via the Shropshire Council website – or by phone by calling the council's customer services team. Bookings can be made for cars, and for vans/trailers. Fifteen-minute slots will be available for cars, with 30-minutes slots (or 60 minutes at weekends) available for vans/trailers. The booking system will save Shropshire Council money by reducing the cost of disposing of trade waste, non-recyclable waste and waste from outside Shropshire.

It will help to reduce congestion and queuing times, increase recycling as centre staff will be able to better engage with visitors, and reduce the amount of trade waste taken to the centres.

Shropshire Council and Age UK Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin have urged people over the state pension age to check if they are eligible for pension credit, winter fuel payments and other benefits they may be entitled to. The call out follows the announcement of the closing date for applications on 21 December 2024. The payments from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs. Those over State Pension age, may be eligible to claim Pension Credit, even if they own their home or have savings. They could be eligible for Pension Credit if their weekly income is below £218.15 or, if they have a partner who lives with them, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances. People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get:

The Winter Fuel Payment*and other help with heating costs

Help with rent and Council Tax

A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over

Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses, and transport costs for hospital appointments.

It is estimated that up to a third of pensioners (880,000) could be missing out on Pension Credit worth on average up to £3,900 per year.

Shropshire Council and its highways contractor Multevo have won a second national highways award in a week, after scooping the prestigious Collaborative Partnership Award at the Department for Transport (DfT) Special Recognition Awards 2024. The Collaborative Partnership Award recognises the different ways that public and private sector are working together to improve the highways and transportation sector. Shropshire Council and Mutevo beat 22 other entries involving 123 organisations. The previous week the two organisations won the Highways Award for Team of the Year 2024.

On the potential pedestrian crossing in Leebotwood, National Highways did undertake a traffic survey to look at the number of people crossing the A49 within Leebotwood, but also to ascertain traffic volumes and speeds etc. They are in the process of producing a technical report looking at potential options for improving the crossing facilities in the village and extending to footway. The study should hopefully be completed by the end of the year, and once completed we will be updated on the findings. Regarding the speed limit currently there are no plans to reduce the 40mph speed limit as under current guidance this limit is considered appropriate. The speed limit guidance standard is currently being revised though and should be issued next

year. Once this is released National Highways may consider reviewing the speed limits on the A49 to see if they are still appropriate.

113-24 8. HIGHWAY MATTERS
There was a discussion in relation to the blocked drains

114-24 9. PLANNING MATTERS –
No planning to date

115-24 10. FINANCE –

- a) To approve and sign the Bank Reconciliation*
The Bank Reconciliation was noted.
- b) To discuss the Budget arrangements*
There was a general discussion in relation to maintenance it was agreed to place £5k under maintenance
The Budget was discussed and it was agreed to place £5k under the maintenance heading the budget would therefore be £16k with a precept demand of £9.5k
- c) To agree that National Pay rise of 2.5%*
This was agreed
- d) To approve and sign the Receipts and Payments.*

	Payments to be approved and signed		
23.09.2024	Company	Description	amount
	Mr. G. Rippon	Aug - Sep Salary	587.18
	HMRC	PAYE	391.46
	Mr. G. Rippon	Expenses	84.40
	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	11.40
		Total	1074.44

116-24 11. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE TASKS
The clerk was requested to approach Church Stretton with a view to approaching their ground staff to enquire if they would like extra work.

117-24 12. INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS
The clerk to email prospective councillors with details

118-24 13. CORRESPONDENCE: EMAILS
The Clerk reported that he had received one email in relation to planning enforcement.

119-24 14. NEXT MEETING – 29th January 2025 at Longnor