



**Minutes for the Full Council meeting of The Gorge Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm.**

**FC/2018/114: Public Session:** No members of the public attended.

**FC/2018/115: Attendance and Apologies:** Cllrs Oldershaw, Bragg, Healy, Hobson, Bennett, and Barrett were present. Clerk's apologies accepted. Cllr Rhoden's apologies accepted. Cllr Horden absent. Borough Cllrs Lowery, Greenaway and Mehta apologies accepted.

**FC/2018/116: Dispensations** Cllr Bragg declared an interest in an element of item FC/2018/107a. The Council accepted this and thanked Cllr Bragg for responding so quickly to the request made by our landlords. Cllr Healy requested a dispensation for item FC/2018/121b(i) and this was granted.

**FC/2018/117: Borough Councillors:**

The Council noted the written reports that were submitted by Borough Councillors in advance of the meeting and these are appended at the foot of these minutes.

**FC/2018/118: Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and Planning meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018:**

The Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of each meeting.

**FC/2018/119: Items outstanding:** The Council reviewed and noted the report provided in advance of the meeting and reviewed the items outstanding list and noted the progress made. Council resolved to remove items that had concluded

**FC/2018/120: Planning:**

Application #	Site Address	Description of proposal	Comment
TWC/2018/0557	38 Church Hill, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7PZ	Felling of 1no. Maple tree	No Comment
<u>TWC/2018/0539</u>	Lowfields House, Lloyds Head, Jackfield, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7LZ	Felling of 3no. Birch trees, 1no. Conifer tree and 1no. Sycamore tree	No Comment
<u>TWC/2018/0524</u>	Site of Croppings Farm, Stoney Hill, Lightmoor, Telford, Shropshire	Outline application for the demolition of existing farm buildings and the erection of 8no. dwellings with access and amenity provision with all other matters reserved	No Comment

**Pre-applications:** None received

**TWC Planning decisions noted:**

Application #	Site address	Description of proposal	Decision	Date
<u>TWC/2018/0437</u>	Land South of Reynolds Wharf, Coalport	Crown thinning by 20% to 1no. Ash (1) and 2no. Sycamore (2), crown thinning by 20% and pruning to 1no. Ash (3), Felling of 1no. Sycamore (4). Crown lift and pruning to 2no. Ash trees (5 & 6)	Trees in Conservation Area Granted	29/06/18

Noting that our next meeting is in September, the Council resolved to delegate commenting on planning matters during the summer recess to the Councillors operating under the Contingency Plan.

**FC/2018/121: Financials:**

a) The Council resolved to approve the following payments:

Maws Craft Centre – Rent July (DD)	01/07/18	£213.75
Colette McCabe – Jul Salary	01/07/18	£936.34
Inland Revenue – PAYE Jul	01/07/18	£81.92
Shropshire Council – Pension Jul	01/07/18	£266.53
TaxAssist Accountants – Payroll	29/06/18	£18.00
Plusnet – Broadband (DD)	29/06/18	£42.72
Emporium Steps – Cleaning	26/06/18	£12.00
SALC – Training: Fundamentals for Councillors	13/06/18	£25.00
SALC – Training: CiLCA Session 4	13/06/18	£65.00
TFM – Green Gang goods (as per grant application)	30/06/18	
(£292.67+pay outstanding 4p =		£292.71
Impact – Gorge Gazette: Printing & Posting	27/06/18	£1424.69
Eon – Gas (DD)	12/06/18	£9.27
Maureen Bragg Expenses – purchase of office planting	04/07/18	£23.00

b) After considering the grant applications received, the Council resolved to grant:

(i) Ironbridge Gorge Coracle Trust	£300.00
(ii) Coalbrookdale Scout Group	£400.00
(iii) St Mary's Church, Jackfield	£275.00

Council suspended standing orders and re-considered the grant application from the Ironbridge Brass Band Festival.

In light of confirmation from IBBF that any grant will be put to the use of traffic management, The Council resolved to grant the Ironbridge Brass Band Festival £500.00

**FC/2018/122: PET Projects:** After hearing from Cllr Hobson and having discussed suggestions, the Council resolved to consider additional grit bins for Coalport later in the year.

Before doing so, Council resolved to chase a response from Telford & Wrekin to our request for additional grit bins across the Parish so that we can consider using PET if required and re-visit this in September so that we are winter ready.

Council noted that Jackfield Crossing may need some support, depending on some unknown outcomes. It was resolved to wait until further progress was made.

Council resolved to contact Telford & Wrekin and urge them to pursue BT to cleanse Coalport telephone box.

Council resolved to use some of the PET money to employ a tree contractor to help re-instate the views at Coalford / Free Bridge junctions and to improve that area generally. The PET Committee to investigate how to pursue this further.

**FC/2018/123: ShropFest:** Council discussed some of the feedback given after the event. Majority of people had a good time, with some minor issues. Traffic management was good. Noise control was also good. The clean up was good, but some small issues about fag butts, little bits of glass and tiny metal shards remaining. Local Businesses seems to benefit. Council resolved to ask Telford & Wrekin Council for the notes of any post event review meeting held and to ask them to prohibit glass at such events. Council noted that it was not consulted by Telford & Wrekin about this licensed event in Dale End Park. Council resolved to ask TWC to consult with it at an early stage regarding any future licensed events in the parish. There was some discussion around the significant contribution made by tax payers towards resource consuming commercial events taking place at public realm locations, and Council resolved to urge Telford & Wrekin to benchmark charging structures with similar events and look at it commercially and seek to operate in a way that substantially recovers costs borne by the tax payer from promoters. The Council is concerned about such events going beyond one day and encourage ShropFest to take on board lessons learned and gain experience and hold a successful one day event again before thinking of moving on to camping and overnight weekenders.

**FC/2018/124: Clerk, Maternity Leave:** Council resolved that Chair will be the Proper Officer and Vice Chair will be Responsible Financial Officer in Clerk's absence. Council then resolved to discuss this personnel item in camera.

**FC/2018/125: Reports from Groups TGPC is represented:**

Council noted the following:

Woodside Allotments: Cllr Hobson provided an update on who is on the WA Committee and advised their AGM is planned for October.

Traffic Meeting with TWC: A TWC Officer provided information regarding the numbers and income from car parking in The Gorge. After much discussion regarding traffic management reviews that had taken place, The Gorge Parish Council asked TWC to consider re-naming the Station Car Park to Ironbridge Car Park and to put in repeater signage to point more visitors toward using the long term Station Car Park. TWC advised that this would cost circa £6k. TGPC may be able to contribute toward this. It was left that TWC will send us some maps to mark up with our suggestions for where signage could help.

Ironbridge Business Consortium: The incoming chair of the World Heritage Site Steering Group introduced herself and presented on the Ironbridge Coracle Trust. Heritage Festival taking place this year is uncertain. Re-Create in the Park is the same day. Christmas Lights Switch On is the 1<sup>st</sup> December and plans are being developed. IBC heard concerns regarding speeding and traffic generally and there were some specific issues that could be worked on and progressed month by month. Council noted that the minutes of these meetings were now available for people to read on The Gorge Community Facebook Group.

**FC/2018/126: Chapel Rd/Calcutts Rd ROW application:** Council noted that an application had been submitted to Telford & Wrekin regarding their considering this path be made a right of way. User statements in support are being submitted to TWC. There may also be associated planning matters regarding the location. Council noted that this is a civil matter and a matter for Telford & Wrekin Council to determine. Cllr Lowery has agreed to keep Council updated with regard to these matters.

**FC/2018/127: Items for next agenda and for information:**

Correspondence referred to in the Report for the meeting was noted.

Cllr Healy wanted to see if anything could be done regarding the children's play areas in the Parish now that Council are in receipt of Telford & Wrekin's Play Area Safety Inspection Report and will look into this further and report back.

**FC/2018/128: Dates of next meetings.** Planning 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6pm. Full Council 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 7pm.

Meeting closed: 20:30

Borough Councillor Reports:

Cllr Raj Mehta:

I have had residents from Stocking Park road and near by pop in to my monthly surgery in Lightmoor with concerns of trees been planted in application TWC/2018/0518, even though I am happy to support the application but would not with the way it is as this will be affecting residents and I have sent in a objection and advised officers if they are to support it then I would be green carding this.

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Cllr Jayne Greenaway:

Lightmoor Village

TWC/2018/0518, Stocking Park Reserved Matters Application.

I was concerned over the suggested species of avenue trees, and contacted planning officers to get further details of scale, which was not clear in the plan. The nearest property was 10.5 m away from the tree line, the suggested spacing was 8m apart. Tree growth for this species was 12m height, 8+m width so effectively this would form a 12m high hedge, very close to properties. Following this I contacted Kevin Webb, Steven Drury and Matthew Seabrook setting out reasons for my objection.

A number of residents contacted me regarding the application, their main concern was the Western boundary tree line which they felt had not been part of the local consultation for the park. They were not convinced that the management and maintenance would be addressed.

My submission included this and also that not all access points had litter bins. Two pieces of play equipment were amongst long grass areas, while I understand the need for the play experience, I felt the maintenance may affect access to this equipment.

My objection stated that if LPA officers were minded to grant permission on the current plan which included this particular tree species I would Green Card the application as mature growth would affect residents amenity and property, due to density and size.

Arriva

More detailed information has now been published on the changes to bus services, I met with transport officers when news started to come through. The No 19 service will be improved with an hourly service to TTC and every two hours this service will divert to Dale End Park then onto Shrewsbury. Some other local services will be removed or affected.

Up Coming Events

Community Bath Spout Tidy Up 9th August.

Cllr Jayne Greenaway

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Cllr Nicola Lowery

**Borough Councillor update – Cllr Nicola Lowery 17.07.18**

**No.9 Bus Coalbrookdale**

We understand that Arriva has made changes to the bus timetable that would see no commercial buses run through Coalbrookdale. The nearest bus stop will be Dale End which is too far for our elderly residents. I have written to the Council's Head of Highways and the Cabinet Member Cllr Rhodes to express my objections to this proposal and the short notice given. From discussing this further today with officers they have confirmed that this is a commercial decision by Arriva, and as such the Council have no involvement or influence in this process. Under the 1980 Transport Act a commercial bus company can run a bus service down any route that they wish and equally they can remove the service without any consultation or community impact assessment, they only have to register this with the Traffic Commissioner. It's not something the Council agree with but they have no powers as a Council to prevent this

and have subsequently raised concerns with them on the dissemination of this information on the changes being too short notice both on the website and in hard copy on the buses themselves.

I subsequently will be contacting Arriva to raise my concerns with them, but the Council have also agreed to also raise concerns directly with them as well. Conversations are ongoing and I will keep you updated on my discussions both with Arriva and the Council.

**Calcutts Lights**

I recently arranged a meeting between Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council to include both respective Members, both cabinet Members, respective Group Managers at TWC to SCC to discuss the options for the traffic lights on Calcutts/Ironbridge Road. Both authorities agreed to conduct a trial on this to temporarily remove the traffic lights and insert a stop junction following a recommendation from a recent safety audit conducted by TWC. This will be launched with a wider educational piece and will be reviewed by both authorities at the end of the year to assess the impact of removing the traffic lights.

**Shropfest**

I shall be submitting the feedback I have received from local residents and business on the event as concerns have been raised on the condition of Dale End Park following on from the event. I have already raised my concerns regarding the hire cost of Dale End Park for commercial events as I do feel that for commercial events the Council need to recover the costs of officer time to ensure that Council funds are not being used to support commercial events. There has already been an indication that the event will be held next year over two days, but I would be looking to see an event plan and to be consulted on granting this licence along with TGPC before this is agreed by the Council, given that permission for this year's event was granted without consulting I as the Ward Member nor the Parish Council.

**Jackfield Memorial Bridge**

The Council recently carried out a principal inspection on the structure a couple of weeks ago and found some critical safety defects. An immediate make safe job was carried out from the deck at the end of June and this week contractors have been on the river on a pontoon making repairs from below. This involves new lateral support to failing structural beams. Added to this some of the most damaged deck planks have been replaced with a temporary material. This is an intermediate make safe solution so that the bridge does not need to be closed. This provides the Council with some time to carry out the necessary design work and to source funding. It is likely that they will need to replace all of the timber on the bridge in the near future. I am attending a site visit with the responsible officer this week and local residents to update on the project.

**Blocked Path on the old land between Calcutts Road and Chapel Lane.**

As you are aware a DMMO has been submitted and I have contacted the Council's ROW Officer to see if this application can be prioritised given its location and the recent action taken by the landowner. I will be meeting the ROW Officer and a member of the Legal Team shortly to discuss this further.

**River safety**

I appreciate I updated on this previously and I can confirm that briefings have been sent to all schools and further education settings within T&W about the dangers of open water swimming and some guidance from the Royal Life Saving Society. The Police did identify one of the groups but sadly ASB continues from some groups. I am working with the Police and Council on raising awareness and patrols from both the Police and volunteer groups have increased to apply an intervention model where appropriate where children do continue to access the river.

**Unsafe Wall adjacent to the White Hart**

As you will have seen the boundary wall adjacent to the White Hart is in a dangerous condition due to the lean towards the footpath and the risk this presents to users. The Council have written to the respective landowners to agree on a route forward and the options available in terms of repair. The Council is working productively with local residents on this and both I and the officer have a meeting with local residents in August to agree on next steps and an agreed on a way forward.

**Private car park by adjacent to the White Hart.**

I have spoken to a local resident regarding the condition of the car park having received a complaint on this and he has confirmed that they have formed an informal management group as the car park is owned by several local residents. They group spent last weekend tidying the car park in an effort to make it more presentable and some great improvements have been made. I have expressed my thanks on the action taken.

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