

FORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday 16th November

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: S Tomkinson (Chair), D Toon (Vice Chair) D Carver (RFO), P Hammond, S Spencer, Dr Ed de Quincey, M Smith, K Williamson.

Clerk: Carol Little

1. Apologies for Absence: John Perks

Mark Winnington did not attend.

2. Declaration of Councillors personal interests relating to items on the Agenda: No personal interests declared.

3. Welcome Bernie Jones and John Heather of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust: Work has progressed well. A question had been raised about boundary but Councillors were assured that this had been addressed and the boundary has been clearly defined by the erection of a new fence. The next stage in proceedings will be arranging to use nearby electricity supply to pump water, this has been identified and a request made. It is anticipated that water will be pumped over several days.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10th August 2016 and matters arising: Minutes were approved as a true record by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

The Chairman advised that the 'Elephant House' appeal had been successful, however stringent clauses and conditions had been imposed. Cllr Toon advised that the appeal decision has been posted in Sutton. It was also reported that work on the Crow's Nest is in progress.

5. A519 Resume Campaign: Unfortunately due to his busy schedule Cllr Winnington was unable to attend the meeting. It was decided by Councillors that they should write to Cllr Winnington to seek assistance with this safety initiative. They agreed that cutting back the hedgerow and clearing the tarmac to improve the path would be a good start and that we would ask Cllr Winnington about the possibility of working with the Safety Camera Partnership and using traffic counters on the roads. Cllr Smith explained how this had worked in Woodseaves and also drew our attention to the next meeting date at Gnosall Parish Council in January which he suggested would be useful for us to attend.

Action Clerk: Raise request for path clearance

Action Clerk: Distribute historic documents from the start of the campaign in 2012/13

6. Forton BT Payphone Kiosk: The proposal to adopt the Forton Phone Box was considered, as it was a modern box the proposal was unanimously declined.

7. Finance Report:

7.1 2016/2017 Quarter Three

The financial statement dated 07 November 2015 balanced to the latest bank statements received: -

Current Account @ 05 November 2016	110.00
Reserve Account @ 05 November 2016	1,148.26
Credit with HMRC	61.20
TOTAL	£1,319.46

7.2 Payments Approved

Precept Payments	Budget £ p	Agreed to Pay
Clerk's Salary – 3 rd quarter *(gross)	102.02	102.02
Clerk's Expenses – 3 rd quarter	16.02	nil
Parish Hall Rent 2016 (invoice expected)	121.44	Invoice awaited

*The gross salary paid will be £102.02. PAYE is determined by the payroll service. The council approved the above payments including the Parish Hall rent where the invoice has yet to be received thus allowing it to be paid as soon as it is received.

7.3 Budget 2017/2018

A draft budget for next year was presented to the meeting. It was based on the forecast to the year's end which shows a precept balance brought forward of £723.98 (last year £699.28). The proposed budget requires a precept of £894 (2 X £447), (last year £1,004). Note that the precept includes central government Council Tax Support Grant of £29.43.

Year	Annual Precept £
2014-2015	1036
2015-2016	1036
2016-2017	1004
2017-2018	894

Salaries and Insurance were increased in line with the Government's Consumer Price Index (CPI – All items) which in September 2016 stood at +1.0%. The general contingency is preserved at 15%.

Stafford Borough Council had not yet announced its concurrent grant level but the budget assumed the parish council would request the maximum and that it will remain the same as last year, £270 (2 X £135). The council authorised the RFO to ask SBC for the maximum concurrent grant.

Action: RFO

The council debated the draft budget, made no amendments and approved it unanimously.

7.4 Concurrent Grants

It was noted that any Concurrent Grants have to be made by 31 March 2017 or be forfeit back to Stafford Borough Council. The council agreed to encourage applications that can be considered at the meeting next March. It was suggested that applications might be encouraged to made earlier in the year in 2017/18.

8. **Planning Applications:** No new applications received for consideration.

9. Matters requiring attention in the Parish:

The clerk advised that she was waiting for a response from the Highways Department regarding the footpath from Newport to Forton, about improving visibility when crossing the A41 to visit the canal. Telford and Wrekin Council have allocated a reference number and have advised they will be in touch.

10. **Any Other business:** None.

11. **Correspondence:** The Council had received a letter regarding the recent accident on A519, the concerns raised were discussed and shared with Cllr Winnington.

12. Dates of next Meeting:

- Wednesday 15th March 2017.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at **20:22 p.m.**