



## 7 April 2022 Full Council meeting minutes

Minutes from 7 April 2022 meeting held at **The Carpenter Centre, Overdale, Telford TF3 5BT.**

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### In attendance

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#### Members

- Cllr Jayne Greenaway (Central Ward)
- Cllr Amrik Jhawar (Central Ward)
- Cllr Raj Mehta (Lawley Ward)
- Cllr Rob Parker (West Ward)
- Cllr Cathy Salter (Lawley Ward)
- Cllr Lee Vidor (Central Ward)
- Cllr John Yorke (Dawley Bank Ward) - Chairman

#### Clerk

- Sharon George

#### Staff

- Simon Bailey (Project, Events & Engagements Officer)
- Jill Holland (Deputy Clerk)
- Matt Lever (Administration Assistant)

#### Public

- Mr D Webb

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### 2021/151 – Chair's welcome

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting at 18:00.

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### 2021/152 - Apologies and absences

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*It was noted that apologies should be given in advance to the Clerk where possible, and that any apologies are formally agreed by a vote taken at the meeting.*

#### Apologies received and accepted from:

- Cllr Shaun Davies (Central Ward) – Borough commitments.
- Cllr Raj Mehta (Lawley Ward) – Indicated that he would have to leave the meeting at 19:15.

#### Departures:

- Cllr Raj Mehta (Lawley Ward) – Departed the meeting at 19:15.



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## 2021/153 – Declarations of interest

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Cllr Jayne Greenaway

**Interest:** Planning

**Declaration:** Planning

**Minute no:** 2021/153

Cllr Raj Mehta

**Interest:** Planning

**Declaration:** Planning

**Minute no:** 2021/153

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## 2021/154 – Public participation

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Mr D Webb, who had attended the previous meeting, explained that he had returned for a follow-up about the fencing issue he had raised last month. He wished to know what was going to be done about it. There had been two weeks of work down there and a new path, but they had taken the old fencing down and left it open for “bikers and stuff” to get onto the path. He reiterated his desire for proper fencing to be installed.

The Clerk asked Mr Webb if he had received her email, sent shortly after the March meeting; he had not. She explained that she had followed it up with an officer and showed him the map; it was definitely not developer fencing, but Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC) fencing. The fencing was there originally to stop bikers and quadbikes. It had been knocked down, and therefore removed. The Clerk said that the officer told her he had received an email to say there were no reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) or use by bikes, so the fencing would not be replaced.

Mr Webb asked what would happen if such activity started again. The Clerk said that he should report it to herself, the police, and TWC. She added that there was imminent work scheduled for that site, so it would become a construction site and end up fenced-off anyway. Mr Webb asked what would happen to the field, to which the Clerk replied that it would be a football pitches site. There would be an announcement from TWC to say as much in the future.

Cllr John Yorke restated that if there was any further trouble, to inform the Clerk. The Clerk reaffirmed that she had followed it up and sent Mr Webb an email accordingly. Jill Holland said that she would resend the email.

The member of the public departed the meeting at 18:06.

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## 2021/155 – Minutes of the last meeting

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Cllr Yorke pointed out that two sets of minutes from the extraordinary meetings held earlier would need to be approved as well. Cllr Parker suggested that those would need to be approved in the confidential section.

The Clerk asked Cllr Raj Mehta about the action regarding Lawley Bank Court. Cllr Mehta said that he had tried to go back to them, but they had entered a lockdown the day he was due to visit. He said he would continue to try reaching them.

The minutes from the **Full Council Meeting** held on **17 March 2022** were **APPROVED**. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record. This was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Amrik Jhawar and **SECONDED** by Cllr Cathy Salter.



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## 2021/156 – Finance

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### 2021/156/A – Invoices for payment

Cllr Jayne Greenaway pointed out that there was an invoice for 'wildflower planting' and asked if that was the only invoice for wildflowers. The Clerk said that they were not expecting any more. Cllr Greenaway said that she was wondering about the amount; the Clerk said that there were issues with the Community Action Team (CAT) and Parish Environmental Team (PET) which would be discussed later in the meeting.

The Clerk reminded councillors that this Full Council meeting was taking place very early in the month, and that they had changed over to Tax Assist for payroll as agreed previously, so there would be wages and other invoices between this meeting and 19 April that would be sent out for authorisation.

Cllr Rob Parker asked what happened about the door at the Lawley Community Centre, for £600. The Clerk said that it was the original fire door, which when the Community Centre refurbishment was undertaken was never changed. It had been sticking for a while, she said, explaining that it was not just a fire door but also the side-access to the hall, and had become damaged over time. During the health and safety check it had been found to be non-compliant, so under H&S it needed replacing.

### 2021/156/B – Bank reconciliations

The Clerk said that Jill Holland, Deputy Clerk, had sent a note, explaining that with it being early in the month, and the tax year only finishing yesterday, the bank statements hadn't been sent out yet. As part of the year-end process, she said, bank reconciliations would be done as soon as they received the statements. Ms Holland said that they should be received by the following week.

Cllr Parker asked if they had online access to those accounts. The Clerk said they did with Unity Bank, but that Lloyds Bank was "a nightmare". She said they had contacted them a fortnight earlier to ask for an end-of-year statement. They had already got one for HSBC. With Unity they did have the option of going paperless, and she thought they might need to consider that, so they were "not in this position". Regarding HSBC, it would "depend on what the investment opportunities discussion throws up regarding the status of bank accounts", she added.

### 2021/156/C – Grant application and compilation table

Cllr Yorke informed members that they had received three applications: one from Age UK, one from Project Linus, and one from Lawley Scouts.

#### 2021/156/C/I – Age UK

Age UK had come back to the Parish Council for help "with the situation they're in" and were asking for the maximum amount, Cllr Yorke said. In 2021/22 the Parish Council awarded them £1,000, and he asked if members were happy to support Age UK this year, and if so what amount.

Cllr Parker highlighted that they could see their bank statements, and they "hadn't got anything else about what they needed their money for". The Clerk said that member should have a copy of the grant application which gave further details. Cllr Yorke said that the money was for "an afternoon of entertainment, and an opportunity for family and friends to reconnect with old people". Cllr Mehta asked where it would be held, to which the Clerk replied The Place, Oakengates.

Cllr Parker said that his "only observation would be, we've got lots of our own events planned for everybody in the parish, for very similar events", and added that he "wouldn't be inclined to offer £1,000 again".



Cllr Mehta said that Lawley Court and The Farmstead were always doing lots of events, and the Parish Council was also doing lots of events.

Cllr Salter pointed out that Age UK was “asking all councils and [the event] only costs £4,000” and suggested that the Parish Council could give them a smaller amount.

Cllr Rob Parker **PROPOSED** awarding Age UK a grant of £250. Cllr Raj Mehta **SECONDED**.

All in favour.

● **DECISION: Lawley and Overdale Parish Council to award a grant of £250 to Age UK.**

### **2021/156/C/ii – Project Linus**

Cllr Yorke said that they had supported Project Linus in 2020/21 and clarified that it was what he called “the quilting club”.

The Clerk said that this group had previously received annual support, and they had attended celebration evenings and brought their quilts. She said they had a very high profile on social media, the things they made were well-received by the sick children that received them, and that they received them for life. So, she added, they had “always supported this group”.

Cllr Yorke said that they had “passed all the tests” and asked members for comments on the requested £500.

Cllr Greenaway said she had been in contact with the group for 15 years or so. She said that the materials were costly, and they gave the products to children that are in care and to young carers. She said that she knew “this is for the meeting part”, and that she “would support that – they are a small group and made up of a lot of local residents”.

Cllr Jayne Greenaway **PROPOSED** awarding Project Linus a grant of £500. Cllr Raj Mehta **SECONDED**.

All in favour.

● **DECISION: Lawley and Overdale Parish Council to award a grant of £500 to Project Linus.**

### **2021/156/C/iii – Lawley Scouting Group**

Cllr Yorke said that a number of people were “happy to see them revitalise themselves”. He explained that they had come with a request for £500.

Cllr Rob Parker **PROPOSED** awarding the Lawley Scouting Group a grant of £500. Cllr Raj Mehta **SECONDED**.

All in favour.

● **DECISION: Lawley and Overdale Parish Council to award a grant of £500 to Lawley Scouting Group.**

Cllr Parker asked for the grants compilation table to show the total funds available for the year.

● **ACTION 059 – The grants compilation table to include the total funds available for the year moving forward.**



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## 2021/157 – Councillors' session

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Cllr Cathy Salter reported that:

- A resident had reported to her a grate along Cheshires Way that was a trip hazard. She had emailed the Clerk about it. The Clerk said she had emailed BVT, but they told her that as it was in a courtyard it came under the responsibility of the resident. "So, two different BVT officers, one said 'thank you we will get Highways engineer to inspect', the other said 'nothing to do with us'", the Clerk said. The Clerk added that she had informed them it had been reported to a councillor and was a health and safety issue, "so please get it sorted and keep us informed".

Cllr Amrik Jhawar reported that:

- The drop curb in Overdale had been completed for wheelchair users. The Clerk said that regarding the drop curbs and uneven paving, they had asked the PET operative to go out and take some photos, so they would be doing a 'good news article' on social media.
- He had a meeting last week about the fire situation at the old Pink Skips site, but at the moment they couldn't do anything because the investigation had not completed. There was no more information than in the last update, he said. "It is being done, but these things take time, got to do investigation into how the fire started", he added.

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## 2021/158 – Investment opportunities

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Cllr Yorke informed members that there was paperwork for them to view and reminded members that this was something he personally took on in December and had been assisting the Clerk "in trying to get through the problems and hoops you have to jump through". He added that government gilts had also been suggested to them for consideration. He asked members for comments.

Cllr Parker said they had a meeting and talked about it, and the documents presented to the meeting were the result. There were various options available, from property to gilts to interest routes via Insignis, and he added that there was a recent paper about a Nutmeg general investment account. He said it was up to members to decide what to do. He said they had "around £400,000", and it had been suggested by the Finance Committee that they ensure they always have an amount of cash available, though he couldn't remember the figure. Ms Holland said the figure was the equivalent of six months' working budget; Cllr Parker clarified that this was "half our precept, so £150,000". Ms Holland said the figure was determined to be £135,000 in the last meeting.

Cllr Parker said that they had £200,000 "to invest somewhere". The Clerk said that both the HSBC and Lloyds accounts had £150,000 in them and had "sat static for a year". They had managed a full year's business needs from the Unity accounts, she said, "so theoretically £300,000 could be invested".

Cllr Parker's view was that "if [they] had got that sort of money [they] should spread it out – perhaps some on property, some interest, some investment". If it were not all in one place but spread around, he said, "if one goes down, the other goes up". He added that this would mean "mean tying-up cash, but with working capital it should be OK".

Cllr Lee Vidor asked if they had got information on commercial properties. The Clerk told him that Cllr Shaun Davies had said any such investments would have to be in the parish. She had spoken to Dixons and nothing commercial was available in the parish unless they looked at the town centre.



The Clerk told members that she had “gleaned” from Fodens that property demand far exceeded supply at that time. Properties would “come on the market, and sometimes be sold within hours”. If that was an option the Parish Council decided to pursue, she said they would have to “move quite quickly”. She told members to bear in mind that, while longer-term investment properties were good assets to have, it would depend on the state of the new community centre and borrowings. “Would the asset outweigh the cost of additional borrowings”, she said. “There are all the things to consider rather than deciding to buy a house, but it’s whatever Council decides”, she added.

Cllr Vidor said that there would be good returns if they decided to go with a property. The Clerk said that the person she had spoken to at Fodens did stress to her that it was “not a simple job”, and they “highly recommended using a managing agent”.

Cllr Greenaway suggested that they “go across the options and split it as much as [we] can”. She said that property had good turnover, provided management was in place for landlord, but it was “not guaranteed as depends on tenants, but very good turnover”. Cllr Vidor added that Lawley rates were “very high”.

Cllr Jhavar said, “we’re dealing with public funds, we shouldn’t take many risks with that”. He thought that investment would be secure so they wouldn’t lose money, as it had fixed-term interest so they would know what they were getting. He said that he “wouldn’t go with high-risk investments”, and while “property is ok, relatively high-earning”, he thought that they wouldn’t be able to anticipate future changes in the market. “Whatever we do we need to be careful that public funds are safe,” he said.

Cllr Yorke replied to Cllr Jhavar that if they went with Insignis, it would be “no more than £85,000, and 100% safe.” He said that he was “one of these blokes who can sit at home and watch a lot of TV”, including shows such as “Slumland”, and he said that “there are people who lose 10s of thousands from rogue tenants”, adding that he had watched too many and it scared him. He thought that “all of a sudden you could be ‘mister nasty landlord’ by chucking someone out and expecting them to pay their rent”. He said that he was “not happy with the residential element”; while the “rate of return is fantastic” he was “fearful of it”, but ultimately it was “Council’s decision.” He was aware that it had been “hanging around for over a year” and they “did say [they] would do something by May, so [they] do really need a decision”.

Cllr Mehta said that he was pleased to hear that Cllr Yorke “watch[ed] a lot of TV” and pointed out that the “property market is booming”. He said they had “sat on the revenue for a year; investment would be good, and the property market isn’t going anywhere”. He thought they should “look at investment”.

Cllr Vidor said that they had got the Insignis solution, so he thought they should “put £85,000 in there and get some interest”, then “look at “a two- or three-bed house with the rest”. Cllr Yorke suggested that Cllr Vidor proposed the idea and “see how he gets on”. Cllr Vidor said that they needed to know the total; Cllrs Parker and Yorke both said “£300,000”.

Cllr Vidor **PROPOSED** at least 50% of the £300,000 went into property. Cllr Parker suggested a two- or three-bed house for between £180k - £200k and perhaps “£100,000, £85,000 in Insignis, and anything left we could put into general investment, at higher risk. Then it’s all spread out, one might win, one might lose, but at least we’re trying something”.

Cllr Yorke pointed out that the less money put into Insignis, the less interest they would get.

Cllr Parker said that just the house option “would bring in £7,500 a year, including charges”.



Cllr Yorke said that “stamp duty on something like that is £10,000”. The Clerk said that was correct. Fodens wouldn’t give figures as it was a “very fluid situation”, but she’d been told that the Parish Council was “a corporate body, and a second property it would be a business transaction”. Cllr Yorke asked if there would be Capital Gains tax to pay on that. Cllr Parker said yes, but they would “get tax relief, as the value of the property goes up its indexed and you don’t pay the full amount”.

The Clerk said that Stamp Duty goes in tiers, and it would depend on the property they bought. She said that “as the Proper Finance Officer” she would like to point out, “if we are to go ahead with the community facility and potential borrowing, if you put money into a property, is the assumption that the property will be kept as an asset and [the Council] increases borrowing”. She asked if that what was something the “Council wants to do, just so [she’s] clear in case [they’ve] had it for a year and want to sell it and find out [they] can’t or is it a long-term asset”.

Cllr Yorke said that they could “get a rubbish tenant, increased Stamp Duty, but it’s high yield, the joy of being a landlord”. The Clerk pointed out that after the abolition of S21 notices it “could be much harder to get tenants out”. She said that something to consider was they “may be tying-up the money and can’t release it when we need it, leading to increased borrowing and so an increased precept”.

Cllr Salter said that if they did a six-month tenancy, they’d only have to wait six months, so they wouldn’t be tying it up. She added that one thing councillors were worried about regarding Insignis was the fees paid on it. If they spent £170,000, they couldn’t get any other bank account to spread the other two out at as high an interest rate as they could. No risk, no more than £85,000 in each bank account. The Clerk said that she didn’t think there was any risk with Insignis.

Cllr Yorke said that depending how much they put in Insignis, they would get a better return for six months fixed than 12 months fixed, and they had 90 days’ notice, which he thought was manageable, “but your money’s stuck there,” he added, “and you can’t touch it without huge penalties”. At the moment, if it’s sitting in an account, he said, interest rates were low, and Insignis has access to banks the Parish Council didn’t.

Cllr Vidor said Insignis were easier to open banks with, and while they would have to pay a little commission, they could choose solution from whatever’s left.

Cllr Mehta said that he knew “a lady every six months with different tenants in her house, she’s now selling it”, adding that he “would propose [the Parish Council] find a few properties and move with this”.

Cllr Parker agreed with Cllr Mehta and thought they should split out the proposals.

Cllr Parker **PROPOSED** that Lawley and Overdale Parish Council purchases a house priced between £160,000 – £180,000, letting it out on a short-term lease.

Cllr Yorke asked if six-month tenancies were still allowed. Cllr Parker said that he thought six-months “is what you can do”.

Cllr Lee Vidor **SECONDED** Cllr Parker’s proposal.

Cllrs Jayne Greenaway, Raj Mehta, Cathy Salter, and Lee Vidor Voted **IN FAVOUR**.

Cllrs Amrik Jhawar and John Yorke voted **AGAINST**.

**DECISION: Lawley and Overdale Parish Council to purchase a house priced between £160,000 - £180,000, letting it out on a short-term lease.**



Cllr Yorke asked for a separate proposal about how much to invest with Insignis.

Cllr Jhawar wished it to be noted that he was sceptical about buying a house. "If the tenant couldn't pay the rent, etc, you end up stuck with that," he said. "It's risky doing that; we are public body, dealing with the public, it can cause problems. You could put a family there, they can't pay the rent, you can't get them out."

Cllrs Jhawar and Yorke wished for the minutes to reiterate their opposition to the proposal.

The Clerk asked for it to be minuted that "as the Responsible Finance Officer, this is not something I would advise this Council to do, given the commitment we're looking to make re. the provision of a community centre and the need to keep the precept as low as possible. The impact of that on the electorate, by purchasing a property and keeping it as an asset - we're going to have to borrow more. I completely understand that it's a sound investment, but it's not something I would recommend the Council does".

Cllr Yorke said they'd taken a vote and were now looking for a proposal for the rest of the money.

Cllr Vidor **PROPOSED** £100,000 spread across two or three accounts with a fixed term of one year. Cllr Raj Mehta **SECONDED**. seconds. The Clerk asked if Cllr Vidor meant Insignis by this, and Cllr Vidor said yes.

All in favour.

- **DECISION: Lawley and Overdale to spread £100,000 of money across two or three accounts with a fixed term of one year, via Insignis.**

Cllr Jhawar asked if, as a local authority, the Parish Council was legally allowed to buy a property and rent it out. The Clerk said yes, as they had "general powers of competence".

Cllr Yorke asked who would be delegated from the Parish Council to look at properties, as it could be a time-consuming task. Cllr Vidor suggested that they ask for a list to be brought back to the Finance Committee, who were "capable of dealing with it". The Clerk said that there were two upcoming finance meetings, so in that interim period she would get some details together. She pointed out that any properties on the list could be sold before a decision was reached.

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## 2021/159 – Ward members' session

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Cllr Jacqui Seymour reported (via email, read by Jill Holland and reproduced below) that:

- *"The only thing to report on is the Steeraway Solar Farm application which was heard at Plans Board last night and I am sure you know the outcome of that. As I couldn't attend, Cllr Andrew Eade read out my statement of support for the refusal.*

*We now have to wait to see if REPD appeal, but I am sure they will first wait to see the outcome of the Public Enquiry that is going to start on the 21st June in respect of the New Works application."*

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## 2021/160 – Community affairs

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2021/160/A – LOPC and Community Action Team (CAT) / CAT and Pet

[n.b. These items were covered together]

Cllr Yorke asked members if they had any questions about the documents.



Cllr Greenaway asked about the life float that kept disappearing and whose responsibility it is. The Clerk said it was the responsibility of Homes England; it did take them 10 days to replace it but they did, and it had disappeared twice since then. All she could do, she said, was to keep reporting it and they can keep replacing it.

Cllr Yorke asked, as an aside, whether the defibrillators were ever vandalised. Cllr Salter pointed out that you couldn't access the defibrillators without a code from emergency services.

Ms Holland added that because it was so early in the month, they hadn't had the meeting with the CAT liaison, which would take place on the following Monday, so any reports and further information would be supplied at the meeting in May.

Cllr Vidor asked for update about the bus stop outside Lawley Primary School. He said he saw a "very angry driver" get a ticket that morning; the driver was "only dropping off at the bus stop", he said, and while he knew it was enforceable, he thought there had "to be give and take". Ms Holland said that while she couldn't comment on that particular case, Cllr Davies had explained at the last meeting that the photographs were taken 10 minutes apart; if the car was still there on the second photograph, it would get a ticket.

Cllr Vidor said that the bus stop on Dawley Road hadn't "been touched yet". The Clerk indicated that she was unsurprised by this news. Ms Holland said that they were trying to arrange a meeting with Highways; they were meant to meet in April and were just trying to find a date.

Cllr Greenaway said she wanted to offer a reminder on the problems with the bus stop on Small Hill Road. Ms Holland said that was "on the list". The Clerk expressed her disappointment, as she had spoken to an officer at the last Highways meeting and shown them pictures. The officer had said it "was easily sorted", and yet it still had not been done. Cllr Greenaway said that one option was to "take the bus stop away and use the other one". The Clerk said that option would "surely be mentioned".

The Clerk told members that, as part of the CAT, the Parish Council had two CCTV cameras – one deployed at the community garden, the other at the multi-use games area (MUGA) – and the Parish Council was asked by police if they could borrow one to do some monitoring at Wooding Drive, where a reported increase in crime seemed to be taking place. She said that with lighter nights and the Easter holidays approaching, the Parish Council would rather not move its cameras. She had suggested the police move the camera in Lawley Square about which "they'd forgotten".

The Clerk asked how members would feel if she put together a business case for the Lawley Partnership Board (LPB), with support of Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC) enforcement, to have another camera that could be deployed around the area, when necessary, without taking existing cameras away. She had already spoken to Paul Fenn (TWC), and he was happy to go forward.

Cllr Greenaway said that if there was an issue for the police normally, they would approach the team or Paul Fenn at TWC. The Clerk said that they hadn't got enough, but with an extra camera, if the Borough hadn't got any and they wanted to borrow the Parish Council's, there would be a spare camera that could be used. Cllr Greenaway said the police could move a camera from anywhere. The Clerk said that the Parish Council lent the police a camera during protests in Wellington, and "we had to chase to get it back".

Cllr Mehta said that there was "crime everywhere", and "if the camera goes it's hard to get it back". He added that if the Parish Council "put a camera in and it gets borrowed, residents will know the camera has gone in, and then something happens... fine line".

*Cllr Raj Mehta departed the meeting at 19:15.*



Cllr Vidor said it wouldn't "hurt to put together how much it will cost". The Clerk said it would cost £6,600. Cllr Vidor said to put the file in with the LPB "and get it done". The Clerk said that although the Council had been told the LPB had "got their own projects, they are open to business cases being put forward to benefit the community". She added that the "£6,600 [camera] is the top notch, gold-standard camera, it can be utilised wherever". Cllr Vidor commented that it wouldn't "make a dent in that £500,000".

Councillors indicated that they were all happy to support the business case.

Ms Holland said that they only had the meeting on Wednesday, so there were "no notes or anything", but there were just a few points. She said that fly tipping issue was becoming "persistent at hot spots across mainly Arlestone Lane", though the Community Environment Liaison Officer was working with Enforcement "using tech to try and tackle the problem".

Ms Holland said that the tree had been planted on the Village Green, and a metal guard and plaque had been added.

Regarding rights of way, Ms Holland continued, the Ironbridge Way footpath where it meets Marlborough Way had "been a mud bath for yonks", but the Community Environment Liaison Officer had "worked with Andrew Careless [TWC] and the whole pathway has been tarmacked, not at a cost to the parish but through partnership working". She said this had been completed early in the week and they had already "had a resident thank us".

Cllr Vidor said there had been "a huge fly-tip last week" on the field next to St Johns Church, which was private land. The Clerk said that had been reported. Ms Holland said that the Community Environment Liaison Officer, in March alone, had undertaken a total of 75 formal inspections at hotspots. That was where he picked up that there was a persistent fly-tipper, she said. The Enforcement Officer had been given details of previous fly-tip areas.

Cllr Greenaway said that in the finance papers members saw £200 for wildflower planting and rewilding. The Clerk said no – that £200 was for replanting in the community garden. The invoice for the rewilding on the Village Green, for which Cllrs Greenaway and Cllr Jacqui Seymore provided ward funding, all the Parish had was order confirmation and the work had been done, the Clerk said, "but we have complained".

Cllr Greenaway asked, "where are they", adding that it was "slightly pathetic, to put it nicely". Her concern was "whether they would survive or not", as it was "quite a lot of funding".

The Clerk said that what the Parish Council "actually ordered was what they term 'jumbo plugs' – 3,000 jumbo plugs". She explained that they tasked the PET operative with preparing the area, and he created 3,000 holes ready to take them. "When he picked them up, they were straight from the nursery, instead of being in a 4cm x 4cm plug", adding that they were "tiny, little things". The Clerk thought that combined with a known deer presence in the area, she did not think they would survive. She'd had a conversation to explain that this was not what the Parish Council ordered, adding that on the order it said "7,000, but they sent 8,000, and they've been planted". She reiterated that they had a poor chance of survival.

Cllr Greenaway said that was ward funding money. The Clerk said she had told them to go back to the suppliers as they didn't get what the Parish Council ordered, "but planting went ahead as potential photo opportunities etc". But if they didn't survive, they wouldn't spend the money on it, she added.

Cllr Greenaway said that she was not happy for the ward funding money to be spent on that. The Clerk said that this was a fair comment, and she would keep the councillor informed.



### 2021/160/B – Safer Neighbourhood Team verbal update

Ms Holland said that they had met yesterday; councillors were already aware of fires, car crimes, and garage break-ins, and PC Worrell advised that police had been undertaking patrols at night. She said that there was a new sergeant – Ian Cole – who would be leaving in May despite only having “started a couple of weeks ago”. The Clerk pointed out that she had “raised the issue of the revolving door of personnel” in the past, along with “our disappointment, again”.

Ms Holland said that regarding offroad bikes, those had been picked up and they were hoping, once a bid for anti-social behaviour (ASB) barriers have been finalised with the LPB, that will deter that behaviour. She suggested to the Council that now they were back to face-to-face meetings, it would be a good idea if the local police constable attended Full Council meetings every quarter. She said he was “more than willing”, and it would provide an opportunity to ask questions. Cllr Vidor said, “the more the merrier”.

Cllr Greenaway thought the police were “doing a better job of mobile surgeries than they’ve ever done”. She added that they were “seeing whether they time it right, were open to suggestions on the best times to meet residents”, though thought that “obviously Overdale’s always a difficult one”.

Cllr Yorke suggested they “try it and see what happens”. He thought they could invite the PC to meetings for 6:30pm so they “don’t keep him hanging around”.

#### **ACTION 060 – Jill Holland to arrange for the local police constable to attend Full Council meetings roughly quarterly.**

Ms Holland said that regarding police surgeries, “they are good”, though they “could do with them being more often”. She added that the police were also working with CAT Enforcement, and when a surgery was on the Parish Council let them know and they would send people to attend. Cllr Greenaway said she had not seen them there. Simon Bailey said they were there at last week’s surgery at Wooding Drive.

The Clerk said that they were “more open to suggestions from us”.

### 2021/160/C – CAT/Parish Environmental Team

The Clerk said that it was all in the report, though highlighted to members that they did now have an apprentice, and it was all “working very well”.

### 2021/160/D – Safer Stronger Communities

The Clerk explained that it was bad news that the Carpenter Centre refurbishment had been delayed, but it was expected. She wanted to bring it to Full Council was that ward funding had been “kindly” provided by Cllrs Boylan, Callear, and Jhawar, who wanted it noted that the ward funding was used for the community element of the building, not general maintenance, and repairs. The Clerk was “quite upset to read they have done this”, continuing “it was left, they were going to go away and get costings and come back with bronze/silver/gold as to what we could manage within the budget and discuss it as a group”, but there “was no discussion, they just came back with this”.

Cllr Greenaway said it looked like they were going to be removing the kitchen but not fitting a replacement, which she said was “nonsense”.

The Clerk said they told her “You don’t need a cooker, how many people need one”, to which the Clerk replied to them with “lots of people say they need to cook things”. They said they would not spend £3000 on a cooker, the Clerk said, but she said she was “talking about one for £200”. She reiterated that she was “really, really



disappointed". She said that she had "drilled into them that we hold the ward funding at the parish, it's a substantial sum of money and want to make sure it's for the community element".

Cllr Greenaway said that it was hard to tell what the community was going to need. She said there could a community "let's cook" event, or things with children, and other things that would require a cooker. The Clerk said there was no provision for any equipment in the kitchen. Cllr Greenaway said that was "not good enough". Cllr Jhawar said that the kitchen was "supposed to have everything", and he thought they needed a meeting with them to discuss it.

The Clerk said that another point was that they were taking out the cupboards and putting in a 'stud wall' to accommodate tables and chairs, but she asked about the provision of resources for regular groups. They told her that groups 'would have to bring their stuff in', to which the Clerk replied, 'you can't always do that'. The Clerk said that her point of view was that "we're getting somewhere, but the emphasis is on the needs of the Linden Centre rather than that of the community".

Cllr Yorke asked members if they had any other comments besides being dissatisfied. The Clerk reminded him that community provision was on the development plan.

### **2021/160/E – Events update**

Simon Bailey informed members that he had provided them with an events schedule, which detailed the main events of the year. A second document was in relation to the first event – the Easter trail on Wednesday 13 and Wednesday 20 April, between 10am and 1pm. It would be taking place on the community garden and village greens. The second document was for any councillors to indicate whether they were able to provide support on either day. He asked for them to fill it in and informed them that any support would be appreciated.

Regarding future events, Mr Bailey continued, there were two Queen's Platinum Jubilee events coming up. One was on 14 June, which was a partnership event with the Lawley Partnership Board (LPB), Bournville Village Trust (BVT) and The Farmstead, taking place just outside the Farmstead, for which they had successfully obtained a Jubilee grant. The Parish Council had made a contribution to that event to provide "environmentally-friendly plates, cutlery and stuff".

The other Jubilee event was a Parish Council event on the following day in Overdale, between 11am and 3pm. He said that they had been successful in obtaining a grant for just under £2,000 to help with the planning of that event. Cllr Vidor asked if any local residents would be involved in planning it. Mr Bailey said that he had "tried but without success at the moment". He said he would contact Darren Lennon to see if he could get any involvement from the parents at the Linden School. Cllr Greenaway asked about the school; Mr Bailey said he had contacted John Griffiths at Newdale Primary, but not had any response from him. At that moment no residents were involved in planning the event, he said.

Cllr Greenaway suggested sending it to Rachel Cook, but the Clerk said that Ms Cook tried "to do everything through John".

Mr Bailey said that they could do more advertising on social media, including something about involving residents. He asked if there had any comments; Matt Lever said that there had been "a few likes". Cllr Vidor said, "normally it's 'you never do anything for Overdale'." The Clerk said that they had "got to be seen to be trying, it will be a cracking event, lots available, all free of charge".



Cllr Greenaway suggested speaking to “Gary at the shop”; Mr Bailey said that was “on his list”. Cllr Greenaway then asked about the residents who’d organised the Halloween events in Lawley in previous years; Mr Bailey said that one had moved out of the area, and the other hadn’t responded.

The Clerk thought that the resident who’d moved would have “got others on board” had she still been in the area. She added that she had even contacted the other resident directly. Cllr Greenaway said that she would ask her.

Mr Bailey said the next event after those would be Summer Fest, for which they were working with BVT in partnership. He said they there was “quite a bit booked for performances – including dancers and an exotic zoo. He added that they had 50 stall holders interested, and he was just going through those. He thought it was “moving quite well”.

Another event he had just started working on was the Fun Run on 10 September. But for that and Summer Fest, he said, they had had discussions about which charity to support. Their partners’ proposal to put forward was for Telford First Responders as the main charity. Another suggestion for Summer Fest was to support ‘Dulcie’, a local child with stage 4 neuroblastoma cancer, and they would also like to raise money to support that.

And finally, for the Lawley 5k Fun Run, another charity put forward was Telford Crisis Support. The idea was that people who attend that event would bring a tin of food to donate to that charity. Mr Bailey said he was just asking for approval from councillors.

Cllr Greenaway asked what proportion would go to Dulcie. Mr Bailey said they had planned traditional fun fair games, and they were looking to set up a charge of £1 for a turn on all seven, which would go towards Dulcie. The Clerk said that as it was also a BVT event, and BVT’s manager was a first responder, they “wouldn’t want to appear we’re just supporting that”, and normally the proceeds would be split “half and half”. The Clerk said that was a good point and was pointed out to BVT’s manager, who did declare an interest.

The Clerk told members that there was “a lot of feeling for Dulcie locally”, but while they could support the national charity that dealt with that type of cancer, they could not support the individual. She said that they could “raise money for the charity and do informal things for individual”. Mr Bailey thought they would raise more money from activities than by splitting.

Councillors indicated that they were happy with this.

Mr Bailey continued, and said they were doing Fun Science workshops over the Easter holidays, with 22 children attending next week’s event. He said this was the first time they had run the event; they had hoped to do it in the Carpenter Centre, but this was not possible.

Finally, Mr Bailey said he was in discussions about holding a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing event at Lawley Community Centre around June. They were currently having meetings, and he was hoping they would come back in a week or two.

Cllr Yorke highlighted how the last PSA testing event was “over-scribed”.

### **2021/160/F – Arriva bus service changes**

The Clerk said it was important to bring this issue to Full Council, and there had been no dialogue or discussion with anybody from the Parish Council or Lawley Developers Group. She said members had seen the response from Arriva, and TWC in agreement with it. The Clerk said that in her view, and in view of what the Parish Council was looking to do in its development plan – specifically, trying to get transport for children – this would mean any



children on Phases 2, 3, 4, and 8 would have to walk to an unassigned bus stop “on West Centre Way somewhere, as well as stop off at Telford Town Centre.

She said that the terms of the Section 106 money was to provide a bus service, and she disagreed with Jamie Crowsley about them only needing to provide an evening service, adding that “if you look, it doesn’t say that, it says a daily service from 7am”. She said that she had asked the Lawley Developers Group about it, and they “had no idea”. She said that under planning they were putting in the new bus stops on Phase 8 as per requirements, all along Birchfield way. The bus originally only came down Synders Way and past the Parish Council office, she said, then it was proposed to be two-directional, so additional stops and drop curbs had been put in. She said they had “gone from all that and remedial works to allow buses to go over ramps – all this effort – and now there’s no bus service”.

Cllr Greenaway said she would like the Clerk to go back to Jamie Crowsley and the Borough Council, saying that a “pot of money” had gone towards an early morning and evening service, but Arriva ran those services as a commercial service. She wanted to know where the rest of the money had gone. “If they put a full-time bus on, they may have spent it, they’ve used that elsewhere”. She said she would “like to see that and if not, a FOI [freedom of information] request”.

Cllr Salter said that the area was “like an urban island – no car, can’t get out”. She added that it was difficult for anyone disabled or who couldn’t drive. She also said she couldn’t understand the new timetable.

Cllr Greenaway asked for it to be minuted that “Arriva is a disgrace”.

Cllr Yorke said that they should pursue Cllr Greenaway’s idea “to find out what the hell has happened”, and “possibly put in an FOI request to find out where money has gone”.

- **ACTION 061: Clerk to find out where the S106 bus service money has gone, using an FOI request if necessary.**

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## 2021/161 – Correspondence

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### 2021/161/A – Street library

Ms Holland said they had been contacted by a resident asking them to consider a small community library. She had made preliminary investigations with other parish councils regarding costs, insurance, and any other pertinent information, and was waiting for responses. She said that the question was whether she pursued those investigations and bring them back to Full Council, bearing in mind, she added, that “if one was installed in one area, do we install elsewhere”.

The Clerk said to bear in mind that when BT were selling their red phone boxes, residents wanted one in Lawley Square and Council discussed the concept then. “On the face of it, it is a lovely idea”, she said, “but we don’t live in a utopia”, so they went against it because of the cost and concerns about who was going to look after and insure them.

Cllr Greenaway said, “it’s literally a box”. She clarified that the ones they were talking about were like those in Dawley Hamlets, “where three or four of them were situated”. She said they would just “put them on public land and it is up to residents to stock them”.

Cllr Vidor said that he thought they should look at it, but that it “should be led from the residents’ side, and maybe they could apply to the parish for a grant, rather than us taking responsibility of it”.



- **ACTION 062: Clerk to return to Full Council with further information about the provision of community library boxes.**

#### **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is requested that the public and press should not be present.

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### **2021/162 – Confidential items**

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Items were noted.

*Staff were asked to leave the meeting at 20:19.*

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### **2021/163 – Agenda items for the next meeting**

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- Councillors to email any agenda items for the next meeting to the Clerk.

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### **2021/164 – Date of next meeting**

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It was **noted** that the **Annual General Meeting** would take place on **Thursday 5 May 2022 at 6pm**, at **The Carpenter Centre, Overdale.**

The meeting closed at 8.52pm

**Signed by Chairman:**

**Date:**



## Action record

Ref #	Minute #	Open date	Description	Assigned to	Target date	Date closed	Comments
001	2020/158	15/04/2021	Councillors to approve invoices for payment before Cllr Parker/Vidor/Greenaway authorises them at the bank.	All councillors	Ongoing	N/A	
006	2020/160	15/04/2021	Councillors to respond in a timely manner to all emails marked as 'response required.'	All councillors	Ongoing	N/A	"Hopefully, we will become better boys and girls!" – Cllr John Yorke, 17/06/2021. Reiterated December 2021
034	2021/047	26/07/2021	Clerk to insist that TWC respond to their questions about PROW.	SG/JH	Ongoing	N/A	JH Ongoing dialogue with TWC
047	2021/085	11/11/2021	Clerk to chase up Highways regarding the promised works on Dawley Road.	SG	ONGOING		Highways chased on 2 sep. occasions
048	2021/086	11/11/2021	Clerk to contact Chris Pearson to find out Lawley and Overdale Parish Council's position on the TRO waiting list.	SG	ONGOING		Still awaiting answers
055	2021/125/A		The Clerk to cease the current BT contract, obtain the refund and seek an alternative supplier	SG	22.2.22		Obtain refund, complete VOIP and cancel 2 <sup>nd</sup> b/band contract
056	2021/126		The Clerk to check if Sanctuary is responsible for the block paving	SG	17.03.22		Contact to verify ownership
057	2021/128/C		The Clerk to issue a reminder regarding the wildflower project	SG	17.03.22		Organise meeting with JG/CH and verify funds
058	2021/145	17/03/2022	Clerk to raise the High Fields/Glendale congestion issue at the next Highways meeting.	SG	07/04/2022		
059	2021/156	07/04/2022	The grants compilation table to include the total funds available for the year moving forward	SG/RB	05/05/2022		



060	2021/160	07/04/2022	Jill Holland to arrange for the local police constable to attend Full Council meetings quarterly.	JH	Ongoing		PC to be invited once future dates known/agreed
061	2021/160	07/04/2022	Clerk to find out where the S106 bus service money has gone, using an FOI request if necessary.	SG			
062	2021/161	07/04/2022	Deputy Clerk to return to Full Council with further information about the provision of community library boxes.	JH	05/05/2022		

n.b. "Target date" defaults to the date of the next Full Council meeting when no specific timeframe is set, to enable progress to be reviewed.