



Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2023 at Dawley Baptist Church starting at 6:00pm

PRESENT

Cllr Erin Aston	Cllr Mark Boylan	Cllr Zona Hannington
Cllr Luke Lewis	Cllr Raj Mehta	Cllr Cathy Salter

IN ATTENDANCE

Jill Holland, Clerk to the Council

PC David Worrall (West Mercia Police)

2023/026	WELCOME Cllr Luke Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented Cllr Raj Mehta with a voucher as a sign of appreciation for being Chair for the previous year. Cllr Mehta thanked all Members and staff for their support.
2023/027	APOLOGIES Cllr Shaun Davies – Borough commitments
2023/028	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Cllr Erin Aston – Great Dawley Town Council Cllr Zona Hannington – Great Dawley Town Council and Dawley Hamlets Parish Council Cllr Mehta – Great Dawley Town Council and Dawley Hamlets Parish Council
2023/029	PUBLIC SESSION The Chair welcomed Mr and Mrs Yorke to the meeting. Mr Yorke advised that he had a number of issues he would like to raise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 11 development at Lawley Common/impact on PROW • New Community Centre (A copy of the statements is attached to these minutes)
2023/030	PCDAVID WORRALL IN ATTENDANCE PC Worrall provided an update on recent issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal damage to the War Memorial • Hate related crime reported on the Kings Coronation Bench • Speed Camera's on West Centre Way had the wires removed • Hate related graffiti on Smallhill Park (border of Parish) • SNT continue to undertake regular patrols • Some vehicle crime in Overdale and a few incidents in Lawley • SNT have approached the developer group to work together on a Smart Water initiative for phase 11 builds • Working with BVT to address the issue of parking/dispute with neighbours • Attempting to increase Neighbourhood Watch groups • Aware of off-road vehicles around Newdale Park – part of Operation Op Spree
2023/031	MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING Cllr Aston advised of a spelling mistake regarding her name. The minutes from the ANNUAL/ Full Council Meeting held on TUESDAY 16TH 2023 were <u>APPROVED</u> following an amendment to include the correct surname.

	It was <u>RESOLVED</u> that the minutes be amended, signed and <u>ADOPTED</u> as a true record. This was <u>PROPOSED</u> by Cllr Mehta and <u>SECONDED</u> by Cllr Salter. <u>ALL IN FAVOUR</u>
2023/032	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) Internal Audit Report (APPENDIX B) Cllr Salter queried the need for a grievance and appeals panel following the previous year's report, which had been highlighted again in the 2022/2023 version. The Clerk advised that whilst not a legal requirement, it would be good practice and had been included in the report. The composition of the panels will be submitted to the next Full Council meeting. Cllr Mehta PROPOSED accepting the 2022/2023 Internal Audit Report. Cllr Slater SECONDED. All Members In FAVOUR.</p> <p>b) AGAR 2022-2023 (APPENDIX C) The Chair read out the questions on page 4 of 6 of the document and Members agreed "yes" to all questions except that of question 9, which did not apply to the Parish Council. Cllr Aston PROPOSED approval of the document. Cllr Salter SECONDED. All Members In FAVOUR. The Chair and Clerk signed the document, with the latter advising she would insert the relevant minute number after the meeting.</p> <p>c) Bank reconciliations – May 2023 (APPENDIX D) – Noted</p> <p>d) List of expenditure for June 2023 (APPENDIX E) Cllr Mehta PROPOSED the payments be authorised. Cllr Hannington SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR</p> <p>e) Financial Position Report (APPENDIX F) – Noted</p> <p>f) Approval of transfer between accounts (APPENDIX G) Cllr Salter PROPOSED the transfer was made to ensure sufficient funds are available to make payments. Cllr Mehta SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR.</p> <p>g) Grant application (APPENDIX H) The Clerk referred to the application from Project Linus, whom the Parish had supported over a number of years. The voluntary group make quilts and blankets for children in hospital and were seeking £500 to continue their work. Cllr Lewis PROPOSED £500 be awarded to Project Linus Cllr Hannington SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR. The second application was from a new group, Telford Ajax, who were a football club in the Parish, seeking support to train their volunteers, to the cost of £210. Cllr Lewis PROPOSED £210 be awarded to Telford Ajax. Cllr Hannington SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR.</p>
2023/033	<p>Risk Assessment & Risk Management 2023/2024 (APPENDIX I) The Clerk presented the report, which was designed to identify, assess and mitigate the various risks. This would be an item agenda for every Annual Meeting of the Council and would be reviewed annually.</p>

	<p>Cllr Salter PROPOSED the adoption of the assessment. Cllr Mark Boylan SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR.</p>
2023/034	<p>COUNCILLOR UPDATE</p> <p>Cllr Erin Aston: Had been contacted by Rachel Bailey in relation to starting the Councillor surgeries. Cllr Salter felt this was much needed, especially following the comments made by Mr York. Councillors agreed to email their dates and times to the staff team.</p> <p>Cllr Mehta: Nothing to report.</p> <p>Cllr Salter: Had undertaken a Speedwatch check with PC Worrall last week on the Dawley Road, where 8 vehicles had been driving above the legal limit.</p> <p>Cllr Hannington: Had been contacted by a resident on Station Road who was concerned about the bushes blocking the line of sight on the highway. The Clerk advised that she too had been contacted and had requested the Community Environmental Liaison Officer to investigate. However, as it was still bird nesting session this may have an impact on pruning the overgrowth.</p> <p>Cllr Mark Boylan: Shall be meeting with Wrekin Housing Trust and the Clerk to discuss the new housing development at Old Park. Fruit trees have been stolen from Old Park green but understood the Police were looking into a community fund to have them replaced. The pool at Old Park has been dredged, which was welcomed by the residents. Problems with the building development continue along Grove Road, Overdale. Residents were dismayed to learn there was not any section 106 monies from the development.</p> <p>Cllr Lewis: Had been contacted by residents from Lawley Bank Court requesting a dropped kerb at the back of the building to allow for easier access to the GP surgery and pharmacy. The Clerk advised that a similar request had been made in the past but was not upheld by Highways as there was one in the vicinity. However, she would raise it again at the forthcoming Highways meeting.</p>
2023/035	<p>COMMUNITY AFFAIRS</p> <p>a) Community Action Team (CAT) Model The Clerk advised that the current contract was up for renewal in April 2024 and requested approval to investigate options for the service, to bring back to Full Council.</p> <p>Cllr Mehta PROPOSED the Clerk investigate the options and report back. Cllr Lewis SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR</p> <p>b) CCTV Unit – Lawley Square Council had previously agreed to contribute £1,000 towards units in Lawley Square and by the War Memorial. However, only one unit was to be stalled and this had taken place last week as advised by the SNT. Cllr Mehta – Declaration of Interest – Member of the Lawley Partnership Board</p> <p>Members discussed the need for a camera by the War Memorial, especially following the recent vandalism. It was understood that the current unit was old and defectives, hence needed relacing,</p>

	<p>Cllr Boylan requested the Clerk explore options for a replacement.</p> <p>Cllr Lewis PROPOSED the Parish Council contribute £500 towards the CCTV unit. Cllr Hannington SECONDED. Cllr Mehta ABSTAINED All Members in FAVOUR</p>
c)	<p>Lawley Partnership Board – update from the Chair Cllr Lewis advised that the grant funding application submitted by Simon Bailey for the Lawley 5K Fun Run had been approved.</p>
d)	<p>St Heliers Drive green space – update on resident survey The Clerk confirmed that 200 surveys had been distributed and the deadline for submission had closed the previous week. So far circa 34 responses had been received and the staff were collating the results.</p>
e)	<p>Plastic Free Pledge – Telford & Wrekin Council The Clerk advised that one objective of this year's Development Plan was to announce a Climate Emergency and the that the pledge would be a valuable contribution towards this.</p> <p>Cllr Mehta PROPOSED the Parish Council sign up to the pledge. Cllr Salter SECONDED. All Members in FAVOUR.</p>
2023/036	<p>CORRESPONDENCE None received</p>
2023/037	<p>CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS Items were noted.</p>
2023/038	<p>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING To be sent to the Clerk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Action Team (CAT) contract • Grievance and appeals panel • Parish rebranding • Staff mobile telephones
2023/039	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the next Parish Council meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 12th September 2023 Dawley Baptist Church Commencing at 6:00pm</p>

Meeting closed at 19:50pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair

2023/29 PUBLIC SESSION

Ladygrove Lane residents have asked that I place this request before the Parish Council relating to phase 11 development at Lawley Common.,

To quickly apprise old and new Councillors.

Ladygrove Lane runs through the development with new properties planned each side of it. The plans show 3 estate roads crossing the Lane, one being the major distributor link road between Concorde and White Church Roundabout, the other two being internal estate roads.

The residents of Ladygrove have for decades advised the Borough that they have rights, proven by documentation, over the Lane and Common thus crossing it with public highway proposals was questionable. For decades the Borough advised they were incorrect in their assumptions, that it was a civil matter and that residents seek legal advice.

That advice was sought and the residents assertions proven by Homes England, the land owner of the development, own legal advisers. So much so that the estate layout had to be completely revised otherwise residents could assert their right of access to walk through dwellings and gardens

Homes England and the developer insist they have the right to cross Ladygrove as they have traced the owner, they say, of the whole lane.

Land Registry, after intervention by residents solicitors, have advised no ownership registration exists and as such residents have a block put on the registration of the whole land parcel that makes up Ladygrove.

Yet the developer, aided by the Planning Departments approval of the planning application is looking for a Section 78 adoption process of the highways proposed

You may say-so what. Well, Ladygrove is a restricted byway, and registered on the Councils Definitive footpath document as such. This is the highest level of public footpath, protected by statute in the legal nature that its surface cannot be altered. In fact, the Boroughs own highway engineer, Mark, advised Planning Committee that no plots could be marked out until the reduction in status of Ladygrove to public footpath was achieved. Without it, adoption of highways could not be achieved. Homes England have offered pitiful amounts of compensation to residents, so surely an indication of the fragility of their position. Worryingly. It has been disclosed today that builds commence in 10

weeks time and plots 1-3 already sold, so little adherence by the Authorities appears evident.

The Borough do not wish to accord with planning law by advertising by public notice this legal downgrading.

The residents, buoyed by newsletter article to protect Lawley footpaths ask that Councillors and Council support them in their quest for planning law adherence and to meet with residents including a public meeting

Thank you chair.

The Borough planning portal recently advertised the planning application for the extension to Lawley Academy,

The election manifestos of councillor candidates at the May election, both those successful and unsuccessful, correctly highlighted the need for more primary school places to serve Lawley electorates children.

Equally , those manifestos gave a pledge to secure Lawleys long promised community centre and facilities that has also been conspicuous by its absence.

Previous councillors, and new ones hopefully, are aware that planning permission for what is now the Academy site and granted over 10 years ago had planning conditions imposed. Two of the conditions were for the building to provide a community area within it for general public use throughout the whole day and evening and that the developer group pay £300,000 towards the building that was to provide said facilities,

The financial contribution has been paid many years ago, the use of the building for open all day community use denied by the Academy despite it being a planning condition on the building and planning application,

Little interest has been shown by the Borough Planning Department to invoke their own imposed planning condition, all to the detriment of the Lawley precept payer in terms of facility availability, and from the recent newsletter an additional cost to the electorate of Lawley.

To my knowledge about a year or so ago, an officer did write to the Academy offering up that a payment of just £200,000 would free them from the outstanding planning condition.

Not a palatable way of dealing but did anything materialise from this?

On my surmise that this miserable sum, given cost of living index not being even considered, and a reduction on the original input, then our elected councillors need to be proactive.

Planning law appears succinct in that further applications for the same site should not be granted whilst previous conditions still exist unhonoured. Private individuals are not afforded such luxuries, neither should others-the only recourse apparently is for the outstanding condition to be added to the new planning approval.

Lets remember this parish council has questioned in their newsletter of electorates feelings over increased precept for a community centre.

Surely to acquire the said miserable sum of £200,000 combined with the Councils reserve fund of £200,000 if still there, and the sale of the council office for £150,000 would pay for a fair few loan instalments. Lottery funding or similar for the £4million building cost is not a foregone conclusion and this Council needs to be strong and represent its electorate by insisting upon the £200,000 payment as a planning condition before work commences.

This is the best opportunity this Parish will have to finalise this issue. It may hurt, but so does the 10 plus years wait, the Borough Councils inaction has catapulted onto its electorate.

So, approve and get this condition included