

BONINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting

Thursday 13th March 2025

Present:

Councillors: D Slatcher (Chairman), C Keeton (Vice Chairman), S Burgess, A Gilson-Caldwell, K Vilton.

Clerk to Boningale Parish Council: M Ward.

Prospective Clerk to Boningale Parish Council; K Eshelby

Prospective County Councillor for Shifnal Rural; L Sharratt.

1. Apologies.

To receive and approve apologies for absence. Members are asked to make their apologies direct to the clerk.

County Councillor: N Lumby.

2. Declarations of interest.

To consider declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Where a member indicates that they have a prejudicial interest but wish to make representation regarding the item before leaving the meeting, they must do so under item 4 (D) of Public Participation.

None.

3. Public Participation.

Members of the public are invited to ask questions, make representations, or submit comments on any item on the agenda. This is **LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER PERSON** – at the sole discretion of the Chairman.

No questions, representations or comments were made.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting (enclosure).

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2024.

Two corrections were made to Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell's name in agenda items 14 and 16. With these two amendments, Cllr. Keeton proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record which was seconded by Cllr. Burgess and unanimously agreed by council.

5. Matters arising.

To consider any issues arising from the minutes that are not included on the agenda.

There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence.

To review any outstanding correspondence that has been received since the last meeting.

The clerk made contact details available for the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Mark Pritchard, which members agreed should be made available on the council noticeboard.

7. To approve accounts for payment:

- Staffing - £300.00;
- Room hire for council meetings - £20.00.

The accounts for payment were approved by the council.

8. Financial statement – December 2024 onwards (enclosure)

The clerk went through the enclosed accounts which showed a balance of £3,160.61 once unrepresented cheques were included. Transactions had been few, and it was not anticipated that further cheques would be issued in the remaining days of the 2024/25 financial year. A note to councillors stated that once the 2025/26 precept had been received a total balance of £6,270.71 would be available.

9. To consider the appointment of a new clerk to the council for the 2025/26 financial year onwards.

The Chairman introduced Ms Katie Eshelby who had expressed interest in becoming the new clerk for Boningale Parish Council. She confirmed that she would like to take on the role and the Chairman welcomed her to the council and agreed that she should meet with himself, the vice chairman of the council and the current clerk to discuss handover arrangements. Those concerned agreed to meet in Shifnal on 7th May at 3.30 pm.

10. Arrangements for the audits of the 2024/25 accounts and end of year financial statement.

Discussions were held regarding arrangements for the forthcoming internal and external audits, and it was agreed that the clerk and Ms Eshelby should liaise over the end of year accounts and their presentations to the two sets of auditors.

11. Advice on requirements regarding a quorum for council meetings.

The clerk confirmed in a written enclosure that for a parish council to be quorate a minimum of one third of councillors must be present which cannot be fewer than three as stated in the 1972 Local Government Act. Cllr. Keeton suggested that while the council's Standing Orders were accurate they needed a formal review.

12. Election procedures regarding potential new council members.

The clerk distributed the statement of election packs produced by Shropshire Council regarding the forthcoming elections to be held in May 2025. Interested members took a pack and the chairman retained unclaimed items for new prospective members.

13. Update on the development of the Pepperhill Solar Farm and any further actions that may be required by the parish council.

The chairman outlined the history of the Low Carbon solar farm development at the Pepperhill site which originated five years ago. The council had opposed the development but planning permission had been granted by Shropshire

Council despite being sited on grade 1 and 2 green belt land. Meetings had been arranged with residents and the council had consulted with Low Carbon over the years, but communication had been poor and there had been concerns over noise, footpath and bridleway issues, and the visibility of the panels. The installation of the facility was now complete, but no date had been agreed for the complex to go live and there was no agreement regarding the cash payment to the council.

14.Any outstanding grant applications.

There were no outstanding grant applications.

15.IT update and development of a new council website.

The use of a new device had caused some difficulties regarding the council's website, but all the issues had been resolved, and the website was functioning smoothly.

16.The development of any local footpaths and any road traffic problems requiring council action.

Discussions on this item had been covered under agenda item 13 but Cllr. Gilson-Caldwell informed members that the development of a refurbished footpath had been delayed because of wet ground. Stones will be laid shortly once the ground has dried, which would provide wheelchair access.

Potholes in local roads were still a major cause for concern with some members fearing an accident could result if repairs were not made.

17.Any outstanding planning applications.

There were no outstanding planning applications.

18.Items for inclusion on the next agenda.

Councillors agreed to a repeat of the present agenda minus items 11 and 12.

19.Date of the next council meeting – to be arranged.

Members agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on 13th May 2025 and the next council meeting, which would include the Annual General Meeting, would be held on 4th June 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of Boningale Parish Council