

## Madeley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Madeley Parish Council held on  
Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 2008, at Jubilee House, High, Street Madeley,  
commencing at 7.00pm

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**PRESENT:** Councillors: **D Davies (Chair), B Duce, D Edwards, G Green, S Harrington, J Jones, S Law, E Swift, M Swift, S Taylor, DP Taylor**  
Clerk, Deputy Parish Clerk

**07/62. Apologies**

Councillor R Coldicutt	-	Family commitment	-	Accepted
Councillor E Evans	-	Ill health	-	Accepted
Councillor D Harrison	-	Family commitment	-	Accepted
Councillor A MacKenzie	-	Work commitment	-	Accepted

**Absent:**

Councillor J Handley

**07/63. Declarations of Interest**

There were none

**07/64. Remarks from the Chair**

The Chair commented on the success of the Christmas Events sponsored and organised by Madeley Parish Council – Christmas Fayres at Sutton Hill and Woodside (Park Lane) Community Centres, Christmas Lunches for 16 local community groups representing the elderly, Christmas Children’s Show in Madeley, and the Celebration of multi-culturalism (World on a Plate) together with the ‘Thanks for Helping’ award ceremony at Jubilee House. Good public feedback had been received. Generous and deserved thanks were voted to Officers for preparation and management and Councillors for their support and attendance. Councillors were wished a Happy New Year

**07/65. Public Discussion**

There were no members of the public present

**07/66. Minutes**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the Meeting of Madeley Parish Council held on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2007 be confirmed and approved for signature

**07/67. Committee Reports**

**67.1 Leisure & Community Committee**

Councillor D Edwards presented the reports of the Leisure and Community meetings held on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2007 and November 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 (Budget only)  
Noted

**67.2 Personnel Committee**

Councillor D Davies presented the report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2007

Noted.

- **Meeting Attendance**

Liaison with Telford & Wrekin Council could assist with concerns about Councillor attendance

- **Pensions & Retirement Policy**

Recommendation for the adoption of the draft Pensions & Retirement Policy would be referred to the next meeting of Council scheduled for February 2008

**67.3 Environment Committee**

Councillor E Swift presented the report of the Environment Committee meeting held on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Noted.

- **Street/Path Cleansing**

Draft project proposal is not financially viable at present. Scheme will be reviewed prior to 2009 when contract renewal negotiations for similar projects in Dawley and Wellington commence

- **Boundary Signing**

Referred report and recommendations will be presented to the next meeting of Council scheduled for February 2008

**67.4 Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Councillor DP Taylor presented the report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Noted.

- **Groundwork UK**

Background and information documents for the work and scope of Groundwork UK are available for reference. The partnership proposal is based on a dedicated regional programme for urban renewal (economic and social; business enterprise and community and environmental development) and the possibility to leverage external financial investment

**07/68. Budget & Finance**

**68.1 Expenditure Transactions Approval**

*to approve expenditure transactions*

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Expenditure Transactions Approval List report for period to December 2007

Noted

**Resolved:**

that the expenditure transactions recorded be confirmed and approved for payment

**68.2 Financial Budget Comparison Report**

*to receive comparison report of actual and budgeted income and expenditure*

The Responsible Finance Officer presented the Financial Comparison Report for the period to December 2007.

Noted.

### **68.3 Budget/Precept 2008/09**

Finance & General Purposes Committee recommendation of draft proposals for Budget and Precept 2008/09 were submitted for consideration.

The Finance Officer presented a report (Appendix A) that requested consideration of minor accounting adjustments within the recommended figures.

The recommended budget, estimated financial carry forward and use of reserves, would realise a precept for 2008/08 of £311,650 – an increase of 11.74% for Band D equivalent properties. It was considered that a large increase of this nature (albeit less than the announced increase in price of the Shropshire Star newspaper) was justified by the inclusion of Regeneration Funding and the opportunity to multiply value for money by a high factor.

**Resolved:** (unanimously)

that, subject to the Finance Officer recommendation for minor accounting adjustments, the net Budget for 2008/09 in the amount of £358,705 be agreed and a precept demand for 2008/09 in the amount of £311,650 be issued to Telford & Wrekin Council

**07/69.**

### **Strategic Direction**

*to steer and co-ordinate the work of the committees and to ensure the strategic aims are being addressed. To develop policies that will enable the organisation to function effectively as an employer, service provider and community representative.*

### **Business Plan**

Noted

- The Clerk noted the inclusion of strategic projects for information. Progress would be administered through the responsible Committee business plan.

### **69.1 Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

The amended formula subscription to SALC for 2008/09 would increase the cost of membership to £1,590 (+12%). Concern was expressed that the funding requirement of larger local councils was disproportionate for the service received. Officers advised that this employer's service was poor and focussed primarily on the rural, majority, membership in Shropshire. Support information was received from alternative sources (Society of Local Council Clerks, Telford & Wrekin Council). Councillor and officer training programmes remained available to non-members.

SALC collects subscription on behalf of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC); there is a supplement of £40 charged for administrative support for Wrekin Area Committee. Larger Local Councils have additional voting rights at General Meetings.

**Agreed:**

that the Clerk present a report to the next meeting of Council scheduled for February 2008 detailing advantages/disadvantages of membership of NALC and the representation and services provided for Larger Local Councils

*Councillor G Green joined the meeting*

**07/70.**

### **Representation**

*to ensure that the council has high quality representation on the outside bodies as appropriate to its legal responsibilities, position within the community and areas of focus.*

### **Business Plan**

Noted

## **70.1 Reports from MPC Representatives**

### **70.1.1 Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC) Training**

(November 8<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillors B Duce, S Harrington & S Law noted attendance at the New Councillor Training Workshop as both informative and useful

### **70.1.2 Telford & Wrekin Community Volunteer Service (CVS)**

(November 10<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillor D Edwards reported on T&WC CVS Annual General Meeting during which he was appointed to the Board of Directors.

The Council supports the 'third sector', community groups and voluntary organisations, in funding, training, legal advice and information.

### **70.1.3 Telford & Wrekin Council, Community Services**

(November 14<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillors D Davies, G Green and S Law attended an information evening for the Community Services portfolio. An interactive event.

### **70.1.4 Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

(November 17<sup>th</sup> 2007)

The Chair attended the Annual General Meeting of SALC held, for the first time, in the Telford & Wrekin area. Presentations were received from the Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, Transforming Telford, the Chief Executive of Shropshire County Council, and West Mercia Police.

A motion from Lawley & Overdale PC about minimum electoral mandate for Quality Council was withdrawn following notice of imminent changes

### **70.1.5 Telford Crime Prevention Panel (TCPP)**

(December 10<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillor S Law attended the TCPP meeting and presented a brief overview of the Tripping Out proposal being developed by Madeley Parish Council.

TCPP projects initiatives to be undertaken in 2008 were discussed – use of mobile CCTV, TCAT promotional video, publicity relating to Domestic Violence for distribution via Public Houses in January 2008, and key-ring campaign raising awareness of criminal damage.

### **70.1.6 Madeley Partnership**

(November 20<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillors D Davies and G Green attended the Madeley Partnership meeting to discuss and agree primary Regeneration proposals – for consultancy services to co-ordinate the project, and streetscene improvements.

A positive meeting with good, diverse, attendance and debate.

### **70.1.7 Telford & Wrekin Council – Code of Conduct**

(November 21<sup>st</sup> 2007)

Councillors D Davies and G Green attended the Code of Conduct training hosted by Telford & Wrekin Council. A recommended topic, raising awareness of the issues involved in representation.

**70.1.8 Woodside Forum**

(November 28<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillor M Swift advised that residents had received a presentation on the next stage of development. Woodside Phase II is progressing despite some concerns on design but with less opposition because of the consultation and information process. An exemplar for subsequent regeneration projects to be developed in South Telford.

The Forum structure is changing – street meetings will continue with monthly open consultation and advice/information sessions

**70.1.9 Telford & Wrekin Parishes Forum**

(November 28<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillor D Davies reported on the Telford & Wrekin Parishes Forum. Although poorly attended, the revamped and regularly scheduled meeting should regain an important role in local government interaction. Parishes have the opportunity to influence the Agenda and receive strategic information.

**70.1.10 Telford & Wrekin CVS Forum**

(December 11<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillor D Edwards advised that the CVS Development Team were examining terms of reference for establishment of a consortium for sharing of information and resources and disbursement of funding. A written report will be submitted.

**70.1.11 Chilcott Gardens Concert**

(December 12<sup>th</sup> 2007)

Councillors D Davies and S Taylor were part of the audience entertained at the concert organised and performed by residents of Chilcott Gardens.

**70.1.12 Regeneration Forum**

(December 12<sup>th</sup> 2007)

The Clerk is the nominated representative for Madeley to the Regeneration Forum that encompasses the (7) District Centres (Borough Towns?) designated for Regeneration Funding from Telford & Wrekin Council.

Noted that the funding criteria had been revised and restricted to capital projects in the area of the Borough Town as defined in the Wrekin Local Plan (and/or, exceptionally, the area that it serves)

**70.1.13 South Telford Partnership**

(December 17<sup>th</sup> 2007)

The South Telford Partnership was formerly known as Neighbourhood Management covering Madeley and The Gorge civic parishes – a co-ordinated grouping of agencies working to improve communication and the efficacy of service delivery locally.

Four thematic groups deal with issues of Health and Wellbeing, Safe and Strong Communities, Economic Development Training & Skills, and Children & Young People.

A briefing for Council would be arranged.

**70.1.14 Partners and Communities Together (PACT)**

Councillor D Davies noted the circularised meeting schedule for PACT meeting in Madeley in 2008 which Councillors were encouraged to attend.

Woodside Forum and Sutton Hill Surgery covered similar issues in the estate wards.

**70.1.15 Telford & Wrekin Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)**

Councillor G Green advised that a meeting had been arranged with CAB Outreach Development Worker for January 17<sup>th</sup> 2008 amidst concerns over the accessibility of services.

**70.1.16 Severn Gorge Countryside Trust (SGCT)**

Councillor E Swift reported on the Annual General Meeting of SGCT held on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The newly elected Chair is Cllr Carol Cooper (Bridgnorth DC) and Vice-Chair is Cllr Louise Lomax (T&WC).

A presentation was received on stewardship and this highlighted the potential financial problem posed by landslip at Jiggers Bank and its ramifications on forward expenditure plans, in particular relocation of premises. External sources of funding were being sought.

**70.1.17 Telford & Wrekin Senior Citizens Forum**

Councillor D Edwards noted the continued community involvement of the Senior Citizens Forum.

Its campaign to raise awareness of access to benefits entitlement was to be launched at Telford Town Centre on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2008.

**07/71. Parish Profile**

*to promote and publicise the work of the council, and the area it serves and so raise the profile of the parish. To consult with and be accountable to the community through open communication and to advocate on behalf of Madeley Parish and its residents*

**Business Plan**

Noted

- The website has been re-published as part of a process of continuous improvement

**07/72. Correspondence**

There was none

**07/73. Information**

There was none.

**07/74. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Madeley Parish Council is scheduled for Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 2008

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed..... (Chair)

Dated.....

**BUDGET & PRECEPT 2008/09**

Finance & General Purposes Committee has considered the draft budget proposals for 2008/09 for Council, Personnel and Income, and the approved and recommended budgets for Leisure & Community Committee, Environment Committee, and Finance & General Purposes Committee (see F&GP draft Minutes F07/32.6)

The revised Budget and Precept proposals for 2008/09 have been circulated together with Supporting Notes. The revised draft precept proposal would levy a Parish rate of £63.98pa for Band D Equivalent properties – an increase of 11.74%.

Members noted that without special measures for Regeneration included in the Budgetary provision the Parish rate would be £59.86pa – an increase of 4.56%.

Finance Officer was asked to provide report and recommendation for consideration of approval.

The difference between proposed Budget £358,705 and Precept £311,650 = £47,055  
This would be met by carry forward budget £7,710 and use of Reserves £39,345

1. Whilst it is appropriate to allocate Reserves against exceptional expenditure outside budgetary provision, it is considered inappropriate to use Reserves to compensate for budget overspend rather than ensure proper budgetary management

**Recommended:**

that Reserves allocated to IT Support (F&GP – Administration) be increased to £2,660 (+£660)

that Reserves allocated to Green Day (Environment) be excluded (-£1,450)

that Reserves allocated to Christmas Lights (Leisure & Community) be excluded (-£210)

2. Highways budget (Environment) accounts for projected year end expenditure of £6,000 for boundary signing. Subject to agreement and phasing of installation, expenditure may be met from earmarked reserves only.

**Recommended:**

that the Highways budget account be amended to record projected expenditure amounting to £5,000.

**These recommended adjustments would not alter the overall level of Precept demand**

The difference between proposed Budget £358,705 and Precept £311,650 = £47,055  
This would be met by carry forward budget £8,710 and use of Reserves £38,345

3. Finance & General Purposes Committee budget for Regeneration is based on Telford & Wrekin Council allocation of Regeneration funding for District Centres for the period 2007 to 2011. Per annum, this provides for £20,000 each to seven District Centres and a Community Chest of £110,000 against which bids will be invited. Any allocation will be subject to match funding.
4. A budget reduction of £4,000 for Youth Provision (Leisure & Community) is recommended. It is noted that £1,000 has previously been allocated to Reserves (MUGA) and should not have been included in original proposal. Reduced budgetary provision would be allocated to Sports Day £2,000, Connexions4youth £2,000, Tripping Out £3,000 (subject to Leisure & Community Committee approval)

## Historic Information

Reserves:	2006/07	Exceptional expenditure	£23,685	
	2007/08	Planned use of reserves	£16,630	£40,315
	2007/08	Exceptional expenditure	£14,345	
	2008/09	Planned use of reserves	£24,000	£38,345

Estimated level of Reserves for 2008/09, subject to recommended adjustments = £181,206  
(General Fund £29,366; Earmarked Reserves £151,840)

## Precept

Madeley Parish Council

Precept increases:	2006/07	4.53%
	2007/08	3.38%
	2008/09	4.56% + special measures fund (as recommended)

## Comparison

Parish & Town Council with expenditure exceeding £100,000 (12)

Larger Council Table 2007/08 – Band D rate

	Parish/Town Council	2007/08
		£
1	Newport	98.62
2	Hollinswood & Randlay	89.81
3	Stirchley & Brookside	88.60
4	Oakengates	76.66
5	Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	67.12
6	Great Dawley	65.81
7	Lawley & Overdale	63.11
8	Madeley	57.26
9	Hadley & Leegomery	55.79
10	Lilleshall & Donnington	42.45
11	Wellington	39.23
12	St Georges & Priorslee	37.07

Precept 2007/08	St Georges & Priorslee	+ 46%
	Newport	+ 21%
	Wellington	+ 17%
	Lawley & Overdale	+ 10%

(source: Telford & Wrekin Council)

JMM

03.01.2008