

**The Minutes of Richards Castle (Shropshire) Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd July 2012
at the Village Hall Richards Castle commencing at 8.00pm**

12/11 Present:

Councillors:

Cllr N Hall (Chairman)	Cllr J Whittall
Cllr B Allwright	Cllr H Salwey
Cllr A Wright	Cllr A Cowell
Mr C E Williams (Clerk)	

12/12 Apologies:

Shropshire Councillor Martin Taylor Smith

12/13 Shropshire Councillor/Members of the Public:

Nil

12/14 Declaration of personal/prejudicial interest:

Nil

12/15 Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd May 2012 were approved by the Council and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

12/16 Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that the Jubilee Celebrations were well received and he would like to thank all the people who worked hard and opened their gardens, those who helped with the service and provision of the lunch and also the beacon builders and bell ringers. It is difficult to single out individuals but Rosemary Thomas and John Barnet did a sterling job chairing the organising committee and Mr and Mrs Salwey allowed us the use of the common.

An excellent example of a village working for everybody's enjoyment.

12/17 Adoption of the new Code of Conduct and Declaration of Registrable interests:

The Localism Act makes fundamental changes to the existing Standards Regime with new arrangements brought into force from the 1st July when the old statutory requirements for the code of conduct will cease to have effect.

Regulations have now been drafted which define what constitutes a "disclosable pecuniary interest". Town and Parish Councils are required to publicise the adoption revision or replacement of a code of conduct in order to bring it to the attention of persons who live within the area and this can be done in conjunction in a joint advert with Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Council has produced a Code of Conduct based on the requirements of legislation of the Localism Act and it is recommended by the Shropshire Association of Local Council's that this model is adopted by all Shropshire Councils.

Members of Town and Parish Councils are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests in a register held by the Monitoring Officer members need to declare not only interests that affect yourself but also their partners. The register will be available on Shropshire Council website and also each individual council websites. Members risk committing a criminal offence if they do not disclose their pecuniary interest before a meeting

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct produced by Shropshire Council from the 1st July 2012. Members were informed that they should return the form which was included with the agenda to the Clerk or Monitoring officer without delay.

12/18 Planning:

Nil

12/19 Highway /Footpath Items:

The Clerk reported that Streetscene Shropshire Council will shortly be undertaking the cleaning of the footpaths in the Parish Area.

The Clerk had reported the need to cut the grass verges between Hanway Common to Batchcott before the Soap Box Derby and Shropshire Council had agreed to undertake the work before the event and would shortly be repairing the potholes on that roadway.

The Clerk had reported concerns about the general condition of the Verges in the rural areas and had received the following response from Shropshire Council "Our policy on grass cutting has not changed this season has been particularly difficult with the very wet weather. Ringway (our new term contractor) have subcontracted the verge cutting to the same local farmers that Enterprise used previously Ringway have assured me that they will complete the verge cutting by the end of next week. The urban verges are cut approximately five times a year - minimum width 1.0 metres (if available), rural verges are cut at least once per year and visibility splays more frequently

12/20 Financial Items:

The following accounts for payment were approved:

C E Williams – Salary - £180

Inland Revenue – Tax - £45

The Council had balances of £7,493.95 at the 30th June 2012

12/21 Parish Plan:

The Working group were currently working through the analysis of the data obtained from the returned questionnaires.

12/22 Other Items:

Cllr A Cowell referred to the lack of road markings on the A49 showing the slip road to Wyson Lane Wofferton the Clerk would take up the matter with the Highway Agency

12/23 Next Meeting:

Tuesday 4th September 2012

Chairman