

ADDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Adderley Parish Council on 23rd December 2024
held at Adderley Village Hall and starting at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillors M Coulon, P Nash, I Wilson and N Evans, also J Evans (Clerk)

Apologises: Councillors A Swindale, P Shepley and L Dowley

- 1. Welcome / Present / Apologies** – Councillors present as listed above.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None
- 3. Public Session** – There were six members of the public present who expressed their views on the proposed 10T maximum weight restriction over the Rectory Lane canal bridge, from the perspective of the owner of White Gates Farm and the owner/manager of Hawksmoor Farm respectively.
- 4. Consultation: Proposed 10T weight restriction on Rectory Lane, Adderley** – The Council discussed this Shropshire Council Consultation and agreed to submit the following *comments*:

The Parish Council is very concerned that this consultation is being undertaken without any up to date, detailed, professional structural surveys, or inspection reports for this bridge and therefore objects to this proposal as there is no information to support the weight restriction being suggested.

If, when a detailed professional survey is available, it shows that the structural integrity of the bridge and its weight bearing capacities are compromised then the Parish Council acknowledges that:

- 1. this would cause serious health and safety issues for users of the bridge and those travelling under it.*
- 2. that any reduced weight restriction, which is practical terms this consultation is proposing, would cause serious issues, including animal welfare issues, to the dairy farm which uses this bridge as its only means of access.*

The Parish Council, however, cannot understand how these matters can be consulted on, and informed decisions made, when the necessary detailed structural reports have not been provided.

The Parish Council is also concerned regarding the timing, length, and manner of this consultation. If all the necessary structural information regarding the bridge had been available, then a 21-day consultation period during a time of year when there are more public holidays than any other, and when it is widely appreciated that people increase their holidays taken, would not be enough time for responses to be sought. This Council would also have expected the people most effected by the outcome of the consultation to be personally advised of it being undertaken, as it is with planning applications. Attaching a notice to the bridge after the winds that we have recently been experiencing across the county does not seem adequate notification.

Finally, the Parish Council would like to point out that bridge 69 which carries Norton Lane over the Shropshire Union Canal, is also Grade 2 listed, was built at the same time as the Hawksmoor Bridge, by the same person and (it is understood) to the same structural specifications. Being the lane between the villages of Adderley and Norton in Hales this bridge will have the same type of traffic as the Hawksmoor Bridge and it could be argued that, being a through road, this traffic would be in increased volume. As and when a detailed structural survey is undertaken on Hawksmoor Bridge the Parish Council would suggest that a similar study be made of the Norton Lane bridge for the same health and safety reasons.

There being no other business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.55 pm

Approval of the Minutes held on 23rd December 2024

Minutes accepted and approved by Adderley Parish Council at a meeting held on 15th January 2025

Signed by the Chairman

