

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY MAY 17TH. 2016 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance:

Councillor Ms. S. McIntosh (Chairman).

Councillors: Mr. D. Roberts Mrs. J. Manley; Mrs. G. Mathews; Mrs. M. Clarke; Mrs. T. Howells;
Mrs. F. Medley; Mr. A. G. Foster and Mr. B. Lyon.

Mr. Garry Higgins (Smartwater Ltd.)

Wind Commander Nigel Ibbotson (RAF Shawbury).

The Parish Clerk.

Twenty five members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Mr. P. Sharp; Shropshire Councillor S. Jones, Group Captain J. Appleton (RAF Shawbury) and Lt. M. McArdle RN (RAF Shawbury).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on May 26th. 2015:

The Chairman pointed out that the minutes had been approved by the Parish Council at the Council Meeting held in June 2015 and that a copy was included in the information pack which had been issued on arrival.

3. Matters Arising from those Minutes:

The Chairman reported on:

(a) Bus Shelters.

Two issues had been raised at the meeting:

(a) A request for additional shelters to be provided.

(b) A complaint about the state of the current shelters.

Despite a good deal of publicity, only one person had made a request for additional shelters to be provided and it had been decided not to proceed with this project.

With regard to the state of the shelters, the Council had contracted for these to be cleaned and maintained twice a year.

(b)Outdoor Fitness Area.

The Council were pleased to announce that substantial grants had been obtained from Tesco and The Hilton-Jones Trust and that by using money from other Council activities it was possible to go ahead with the project without using Council Tax Revenue. It was planned to make a start within the next few weeks – copies of the planned lay-out were available.

(c)Fishing Stands.

The development of these had been delayed because of the adverse winter weather conditions and the need to carry out substantial work in the Glebe but it was hoped that progress would be made soon.

(d)Youth Club.

With the help of some dedicated volunteers, support of the Village Hall Committee and financial assistance from Shropshire Youth Association, a successful Youth Club had been set up in the Village and was meeting each Tuesday evening in the Village Hall. Organisers of the group would welcome

support from the community and she stated that the Council would be looking at ways in which they could help.

4. Visiting Speaker:

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Garry Higgins to the meeting and he gave an informative and interesting talk on how Smartwater had been developed and could be used to protect property and valuables and reduce crime in the area. If sufficient people were interested in participating in a Community Scheme generous discounts could be offered.

5. Police Report

No report was tabled.

6. News from Shropshire Council.

A written report from Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones was issued to all those attending the meeting. In it he highlighted the changes that had taken place at Shropshire Council, including the appointment of a new leader and the decision not to continue with the Ip&e trading company. He outlined the need for the Council having to make difficult decisions because of the reduced revenue grant received from the Government.

Other issues mentioned were the changes to the local Library Service; the introduction of speed calming measures in Wem Road; the success of the revised SAMDev and the re-introduction of a cardboard recycling service.

7. Chairman's Report

Councillor Ms S. McIntosh stated that she had just taken over the Chairmanship of the Council and wished to thank Mr. Dave Roberts for the excellent way he had led the Council over the past three years and for the continued support of all the Councillors. She had produced a detailed written report, which outlined the Council activity throughout the past year; covered major Council responsibilities and thanked the many contractors and volunteers who supported Council projects. She stated that he hoped those present had been able to read through the report, which had been issued at the start of the meeting and was willing to respond to questions or clarify any issues.

No questions were raised.

8. Community Service Awards – Sponsored by RAF Shawbury.

The Chairman welcomed Wing Commander Nigel Ibbotson from RAF Shawbury, who was going to present the Community Awards and stated that the support of the base in sponsoring them was greatly appreciated.

She was pleased to report that nine people had gained the award this year and were very worthy winners.

Wing Commander Ibbotson then presented Certificates and Plaques to the following people:

Mrs. D. Gregory; Mrs. P. Kynaston; Mrs. T. Howells; Mrs. J. Richards; Mrs. O. Turner; Mr. D. Turner; Mr. M. Giles; Mr. .H. Rothwell and Mrs. D. Rothwell

9. Shawbury Council Group Awards

The Chairman gave details of the new award which had been introduced this year in order to acknowledge groups within the community that had given outstanding service and presented plaques to representatives of RAF Shawbury; Coaches and Committee Members of Shawbury Youth Football and to the Scouts and Guides and their leaders.

10. Projects:

The Chairman outlined two projects where the Council were seeking solutions and would welcome comment and support:

1. The Annual Firework/Bonfire Event.

This had been organised for several years by Mr. Richard Bailey, supported by a willing team of volunteers. It was a massive project and had become very successful and was one of the community highlights. Unfortunately Richard had decided that he could no longer continue to organise it after this year's event and despite a great deal of publicity no one had come forward to take on the challenge of organising it. It was an urgent issue as whoever took over needed to work alongside Richard this year to see what was involved. Anyone interested was urged to contact either Richard or the Clerk.

2. VAS Speed Controls.

Following numerous complaints about speeding traffic on the A53, the Council had decided to finance suitable signs at the entrance to the Village from both directions. Agreement had been reached with the Highways Department and plans approved for the erection of a sign close to the Farm Shop but locating a suitable site travelling from the Market Drayton area was proving difficult. A request had been made for it to be at the start of the 40mph limit but there was no suitable lamp post to connect it to and speed checks had indicated that there was not a major problem. The other location suggested was just before the Mytton Estate and Members were still considering this and would appreciate comments.

Various suggestions were put forward and the Chairman agreed these would be considered at a Council meeting.

11. United Charities:

On behalf of Mrs Kath Mason, the acting Chairman, Councillor F. Medley gave a brief report on the work of the Committee, explained how money was generated and how grants could be allocated to various organisation or individuals in need. In the past year financial help had been given to the local Primary School, the Scouts, three residents seeking assistance with the payment of domestic bills and a number of food parcels had been distributed at Christmas.

The Charity currently had just over £3,000.00 in the bank account and the annual income was in the region of £2,500.00

12. Open Forum:

The following issues were raised:

(a) Unpleasant Smell:

Complaints about the smell in the Village which it was suggested emanated from the digester situated at Park House, Shawbury. The Chairman pointed out that this had been brought to the attention of the Council during the year and reported to the Environment Agency who had made various visits to the village to try and identify the source. They had not raised any concerns about the digester and she suggested that individuals who were concerned about any smell, should report it at the time to the Agency who would investigate it and try and locate the source.

(b) Road Hazard

Concerns were raised by several people about the road safety issues by the shops, at the crossing and with traffic leaving the Elephant and Castle car park.

The Chairman stated that this had been brought to the attention of the Council and asked Councillor Dave Roberts to give a report on the action taken by the Council. He gave a detailed account,

pointing out that a meeting had been held with the road safety officer to try and resolve some of the issues but it was difficult to carry out meaningful remedial action because land in the area was privately owned.

(c) Football Club:

Councillor Tracie Howells reported that the Senior Football team were the new Champions of the West Midland Regional League Premier Division, which was a remarkable achievement for a small community. Their success was greatly appreciated by everyone.

13. Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, stating that it was good to see a positive turnout of people and encouraged them to raise issues or concerns with the Council and if possible attend Council meetings. This was the only way that Councillors could determine what was needed in the Parish.

Minutes approved as a true record of the meeting.

Signed S. McIntosh Chairman.

Date June 14th. 2016