

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY MAY 14th. 2019 at 7.00pm.

In Attendance:

Councillor Mr. A. G. Foster (Chairman).

Councillors Ms. S. McIntosh; Mr. D. Roberts; Mr. P. Sharp; Mr. A. Brown; Mr. C. Kirkup; Mrs. J. Herbert; Mr. R. Pinches; Mr. B. Lyon and Mrs. J. Manley.

Group Captain C. Mullen and Sqn. Ldr. K. Leach (RAF Shawbury).

The Parish Clerk.

Mr R. Bailey (United Charities Treasurer).

Nine members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. J. Kennedy and Mr. J. Vernon and Flt.Lt. M. McArdle (RAF Shawbury).

2. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself and the Clerk.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on May 22nd. 2018:

The Chairman pointed out that the minutes had been approved by the Parish Council at the Council Meeting held in June 2018 and that a copy was included in the information leaflets which had been issued on arrival.

4. Matters Arising from those Minutes:

There were no issues arising from the minutes.

5. Chairman's Report:

At the start of the meeting a detailed written report on the Council's activities during the past year had been handed out and the Chairman outlined certain aspects of the report including updates on planning, police crime reports, the Council burial ground; footpath and bridleway maintenance, future projects and problems related to dog fouling and litter.

He extending thanks to his fellow Councillors, the Parish Clerk, Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and Flt.Lt. Martin McArdle for the help and advice they give throughout the year.

In conclusion he invited questions or comments from those attending but none were raised

A copy of the report is attached.

6. Community Service Award:

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Group Captain Chris Mullen, Station Commander of RAF Shawbury, who presented this year's base sponsored Community Service Award. This year the award was given to Mr. Eric Cooper in recognition of the outstanding way in which he has managed the Council's only allotment for many years and for the regular voluntary work he undertakes, which includes collecting litter and dog waste on his daily walks.

Group Captain Mullen went on to give a brief and interesting up-date on developments at the base, stating that he was delighted to be back in Shawbury where he did his initial training. He welcomed the continued support and the excellent relationship which exists with the local community.

The Chairman thanked him for attending and for his and the base's continued support of the Community Award.

7. Shropshire Council:

The Chairman welcomed Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones to the meeting and he gave an update on Shropshire Council activity in the Parish, stating that the year had seen further Central Government cutbacks that continue to an effect on the services provided by Shropshire Council. Last year's new Highways Maintenance Contract had not provided the anticipated benefits and there were issues in the Parish that he was seeking to get resolved, including the lack of road markings; improved traffic control at the school and problems related to Poynton Road culvert and flooding issues.

He responded to questions raised by a member of the public regarding new spending issues related to identified cuts.

A full copy of the report is attached.

8. United Charities:

Mr Richard Bailey 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.

He was keen to ensure that all residents were aware of the charity and how to apply for a grant.

The Revd Rich Cresswell had taken over as Chairman of the trust and could be approached for advice and information.

9. Open Forum:

Issues of concern were raised by members of the public regarding:

- (a) Parking outside the Co-op shop.
- (b) Inappropriate use of the crossing by the shops.
- (c) Future use of the dis-used primary school.

Responses were made by the Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and the Chairman who gave an assurance that all the concerns would be considered at the Council Meeting in June.

10. Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged them to raise issues or concerns with the Council.

Minutes approved as a true record of the meeting.

Signed: _____ **Chairman.**

Date: _____

REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN:

Good evening and welcome to you all with a special welcome to Group Captain Chris Mullen from RAF Shawbury; Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and Mr. Richard Bailey all of whom will be speaking to you later in the meeting. I do not wish to take up too much of your time but will highlight the major activities that the Parish Council has been involved with this past year.

Membership:

Last year I reported that there was still a vacancy on the Council but am pleased to say that we were able to fill this quite quickly and Councillor Jan Herbert was selected from the three applications we received. Jan soon settled in and has been a valuable addition to the team. Unlike much of the Country there are no elections in Shropshire this year and the next elections for the Parish Council will be in May 2021.

Planning:

I am sure that you all know that there is a National demand for more housing and as a result targets have been set for Councils throughout the Country and Shropshire is no exception to this. As a result the planning team at Shirehall has been assessing how this can be delivered fairly and detailed proposals have been published in a consultation document. Because Shawbury is well served by its infrastructure - it has shops, public houses; a school; a village hall and good access to local Market towns, it has been identified as a major hub. As such it is suggested that between now and 2036 it should accommodate a further ninety houses in addition to the ones which are already being built. Local land owners have been asked to nominate areas of land they would be prepared to make available for housing.

The Parish Council has spent a good deal of time considering these proposals and appreciated the comments from the many people who attended an extra-ordinary Council meeting. The Council has accepted that Shawbury is a hub and that the suggested number of new houses is acceptable, providing the development is spread over the over the period up to 2036, giving time for the current developments to be assimilated. It has been clearly pointed out to the planners that detailed consideration must be given to the needs of the school, the doctor's surgery; the inadequate sewerage system and that a range of suitable sites should be considered.

Shropshire Council now has to take note of the hundreds of comments received during the consultation period and produce a further detailed County plan for consultation. This will need the approval of Shropshire Council before being sent to the planning inspectorate for their comment and approval.

It is pleasing to see that the two major developments in Shawbury are nearing completion and we welcome the new residents and hope they will find Shawbury a welcoming and pleasant place to live and bring up their families. The new Co-op shop is welcome too and when complete it is hoped it will alleviate some of the local traffic problems.

Grant:

In my report last year I mentioned that the Parish Council had received a considerable grant as part of the development which has taken place in Poynton Road. This money has enabled the paths round the Glebe and the Moat to be re-dressed and for the fencing posts to be replaced round the car park. It will also pay for an agreed scheme to improve the parking situation by the school, which we are waiting for Shropshire Council to undertake. We are planning to use some of the grant to provide junior football facilities if and when the Football Club are able to secure a lease to develop land behind the Farm Shop.

Burial Ground:

During the year we were faced with taking over full responsibility for the extended burial ground, which over the years has been managed by the Church and the local Vicar. It was pointed out that the system in operation was not legal and that the burial ground had to be treated as an independent cemetery.

Councillor Sam McIntosh and the Clerk have taken up the challenge and with help and advice from the Rev Rich Cresswell things seem to be moving ahead quite smoothly.

Tree Inspections:

A full inspection by a qualified arborist was carried out, which identified a minimal amount of work needed to maintain the trees in a healthy and safe state and this has been completed. Unfortunately one of the many gales we now seem to have, brought down a large alder tree across the Moat pathway which resulted in a major clearance operation and an additional cost. Fortunately we have an excellent contractor who responded quickly to our needs.

Play Areas:

All the play areas are inspected regularly and the areas maintained but the equipment on the sites is ageing and this year we have been faced with some considerable repairs, which has meant bringing in outside contractors to carry out the work. Sometimes the parts are difficult to obtain which leads to delays in completing the work and unfortunately this is likely to be an on-going problem.

New Seat:

For the past three years RAF Shawbury have made a donation to the Parish as a thank you for the support the base receives from local residents. This year we have purchased a new seat which has been placed by the fitness area where it is already being well used. Our thanks are extended for the kind gesture.

Footpaths, Bridleways, etc.:

There are a range of these around the Parish and they need to be maintained to a good standard, allowing easy access for the many people who use them. Shropshire Council makes a minimal grant towards the up-keep but the bulk of the work falls on volunteers who are prepared to roll up their sleeves at various times of the year. For the past several years Mr. Richard Bailey has led this team but has now decided to step aside. The Council thanks him for his dedication to this task and are delighted that Councillor Paul Sharp has agreed to take over this role. If you care about the countryside and wish to see these paths continued to be maintained, then Paul would love to hear from you. I'm afraid there is no payment just the satisfaction of seeing a job well done.

Street Signs:

Many of the signs round the village are in a poor state, which reflects badly on our community. Some need repair, other re-painting and some need to be replaced with new signs. We have approached Shropshire Council who have offered very limited support so we are seeking quotations for the work and hopefully this will be carried out in the near future.

Dog Fouling and Litter:

Without a doubt this causes more complaints to the Council than any other issue but then we are not alone as it appears to be a problem throughout the Country, with all manner of methods undertaken to control it. We are fortunate to have some volunteers who regularly undertake the task of picking up and we have just been advised that there may be some grant money available. If anyone has any suggestions on how we can deal with this problem, please get in touch.

Like this problem and a range of other issues which have been brought to the Council's attention it is becoming clear that, faced with the increasing cost of providing social care, Shropshire Council has needed to cut back on many services that it should deal with. It seems that frequently now it is a case that we want to have resolved we will have to identify ways in which we can do it ourselves.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the Council meets at 7.00pm here in the Village Hall.

Normally on the second Tuesday in the month and every meeting is open to the public, where there is an opportunity to raise issues.

Agendas for meetings and Minutes are displayed on the Parish Council notice board and can also be found on the Council's web site www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk.

Concerns can also be raised or details of Council activity obtained from **Jack Wilson, our Parish Clerk** – he can be contacted by post at **6. Primrose Drive, Shrewsbury SY3 7TP**.

Finally I should again like to thank my fellow Councillors, the Parish Clerk, Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and the many individuals, companies and volunteers for the dedicated help and support they give to the Council throughout the year.

Anthony G Foster

Chairman Shawbury Parish Council

14 May 2019

REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR SIMON JONES

The 2018-19 year has been another period of Central Government cutbacks that are having a knock on effect on the services provided by Shropshire Council.

Last years new Highways Maintenance Contract has not provided the benefits anticipated and there have been several issues within the ward that I have been seeking solutions to – I know there are concerns about the road markings in the village, or should I say lack of them, in particular the Yellow Box and the Pedestrian Crossing markings – these Safety Issues were scheduled to be carried out in the last packet of works carried out, they clearly were not. I have spoken with the Highways Manager and have been personally assured these are in the current programming stage to be completed in the near future – I am continuing to press for their completion along with the Traffic Control works to be carried out at the school – these should have been carried out by now and I am pressing the Traffic Engineer for their implementation

Along with the Parish Council I am working hard to get the Council to address the Poynton Road culvert and water course flooding issues, I share everyone's frustration with the apparent lack of action over this.

Having previously held the position of Highways & Transport Portfolio Holder I fully understand the pressures on budgets and the need to make savings but I am not able to support the proposed reductions in public transport in particular the 64 and 511 bus routes and I am fighting to maintain the current services.

I continue to assist residents with issues in the Ward and am always contactable either by email at: simon.p.jones@shropshire.gov.uk or by telephone on: 01939 250067.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Jack Wilson your Parish Clerk for all the excellent support he has provided over the year.