

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHAWBURY PARISH
COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 8TH. 2011 at 7.00pm.**

Public Session:

No members of the public were in attendance and no issues were raised.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Clerk advised Members that the Chairman had invited Mr. Currie to the meeting, as a representative of the Moat Committee and had asked him to speak on Item 15 of the agenda, which was to discuss the replacement drainage system on the A53.

Present:

Mrs. J. Manley (Chairman)

Mrs. S. Dove

Mr. D. Baldwin

Mrs. F. Medley

Mr. R. Bailey

Mr. R. Pinches

Mr. S. Dodd

Mr. A. Brown

Mr. D. Roberts

Mr. J. Kennedy

Mrs. T. Howells

In Attendance:

The Parish Clerk

Mr. I. Walshaw (Shropshire Council)

Ms. J. Coomb (Mouchel Contractors)

Mr R. Currie (Moat Committee)

Ms. M. Turner (Youth Officer) + two volunteer youth workers

10/188 Apologies:

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. S. Jones (Shropshire Councillor) and MACR G. Longmuir (RAF Shropshire).

10/189 Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests:

The following interests in items on the agenda were declared -. Mr. A. Brown Item 15; Mr. S. Dodd – Items 4(g) and 8; Mr. Baldwin and Mrs. Howells – Item 8.

Change of Agenda Order:

The Chairman proposed that in the interests of the representatives attending, Item 15 should be moved to the start of the meeting.

This was approved.

The report of this Item is included at 10/202 in these minutes.

10/190 Minutes of Meeting held on January 11th. 2011:

The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

10/191 Matters Arising:(a) Highways. (10/179)

Mr. Limb had informed the Clerk that efforts were being made to address the pothole problems as quickly as possible.

(b) Application for grant aid for Cycle Track (10/170(b))

Clerk reported that the grant had been approved but to date the money had not been paid into the Council's bank account.

(c) Land between Recreation Ground and the River (10/170(c))

There had been no further response from Mr. Watney. Mr. Bailey asked if the Clerk could contact Mr. Watney and stress the need to finalise details of the lease, to enable the Council to start making development plans for projects on the site. This was agreed.

(d) CCTV (10/170(f))

(a) The library service had still not received permission to for the broadband connection to be made and had been informed by Shropshire's I.C.T. department that it would be 6-8 weeks before a decision could be made, as they were installing a new broadband connection.

(b) For security reasons it was agreed that there needed to be two Councillors checking that the equipment was functioning correctly. Mr. Baldwin agreed to join Mrs. Medley in carrying out the checks.

(e) Toilet Facilities (10/174)

It was noted that the licensee of the Elephant and Castle Public House had withdrawn from the agreement to provide toilet facilities and Mr. Bailey reported that the signs advertising the facility had been removed as requested.

(f) Simon's Garage (10/170(h))

Mr. Pinches reported that he had carried out a detailed survey of the garage site and moving the sign would have little impact on pedestrian's visibility as there would still be a problem with parked cars. He suggested that a solution could be found by erecting a stainless steel mirror on a post in the pavement at the side of the entrance to the public house car park.

It was decided to contact the Highways Department for their comments and if they agreed to the solution, to determine if planning approval was required.

(g) Sparrow Cottage (10/170(i))

It was noted that the owner of the property had appealed to the Planning Inspector, stating that he had been given insufficient time to prepare his case against an enforcement notice and the inspector had approved the appeal. As a result no action could be taken at this point by Shropshire Council. Mr. Bailey suggested that the Clerk should write to the local MP to see if the Parish Council had, or would have any rights under the new Localism Bill.

(h) Youth Pod (10/170(l))

A quotation of £2,750 had been received from Monster Play for replacing the damaged panels on the Pod. This was not accepted and it was decided that the panels should not be replaced

Mr. Bailey offered to give the back panel of the Pod a coat of black paint and the only cost would be for the materials. Members accepted his kind offer.

(j) Post Box at junction of A53 and Wytheford Road (10/170(n))

Clerk reported that he had lodged a complaint on the Royal Mail's web site, as this seemed to be the only way of contacting them. As there had been no response, Members agreed to Mr. Bailey's proposal that the local M P should be contacted to see if he could help.

(k) Possible sale of Shawbury Wood (10/171(6))

It was noted that the wood was included on the list for possible sale but at present the Government had made no decisions on whether or not the sale of woodland should take place.

(l) Bus Strategy for Shropshire (10/171(8))

Mr. Baldwin gave a report on a consultation meeting he had attended. The current proposals included the withdrawal of the subsidy for the Sunday bus service from Hanwood to Shrewsbury, which would result in the service being lost, unless Arriva were prepared to subsidise it.

It was also being proposed to stop retired people using their free bus passes on the Park and Ride service. The frequency of this service was also being reduced.

If approved by Shropshire Council, the changes would take place on April 1st.

(m) Shropshire Council – Draft Supplementary Planning Document (10/178)

Members approved a response document prepared by the Clerk and he was asked to forward it to Shropshire Council.

(n) Street lights – power supply (10/171(1))

Clerk reported that Scottish Power had acknowledged that there had been no response to documents sent to them asking for various areas of street lighting to be passed to Shropshire Council. As a result they had calculated that they owed the Parish Council £475.00 and that they would be reviewing the future charges.

The Clerk reported that he had written to three other companies seeking a quotation for providing power for the street lights but that none of them had replied. It was therefore agreed to keep Scottish Power as the contractor.

(o) Vacancy for Councillor

As there had been no call for an election, a vacancy for a co-opted Member had been advertised and details sent to the press.

(p) Royal Wedding

Members decided that the Council would not be arranging any special functions for the event

(q) Moat Developments (19/184)

Mr. Bailey thanked Mr. Brown for forwarding further details and a map of the proposed development, which had clarified the situation.

(r) Drop in Centre (19/170(g))

Mrs Medley reported that twenty two people has attended the first session and had stayed for most of the morning. It had been agreed that the charge would have to set at £1.00. Members thanked those involved in running the sessions and felt that this had been a very promising start.

10/192 Correspondence:

The following correspondence was considered:

(a) Fields in Trust.

It was noted that applications for development grant aid for this National project could only be made for land owned by the Council.

(b) Localism Bill:

A copy of this Government Bill had been circulated to Members, the details of which included proposals for areas of work, currently the responsibility of Shropshire Council, to be transferred to Parishes. Members raised concerns about some of the proposals, pointing out that Parish Council Members were not paid allowances or expenses and all the work they presently carried out was on a volunteer basis. Most Parish Councillors had full time employment. In most Parishes the only employee was the Parish Clerk, who also acted as the Responsible Finance Officer and worked on a part time contract. It was unlikely that they would have skills in the areas of work suggested for transfer. There was only vague reference to increased finance being made available and the suggestion seemed to be that volunteers could be recruited to oversee the activities.

Clerk was asked to write to the Minister concerned, pointing out the situation and asking for clarification of the financial aspects.

(c) Shropshire Council – Emergency Planning Briefing.

Mr. Kennedy agreed to represent the Parish Council

(d) Shropshire Council - Road Closures during the resurfacing of the A53 and Wytheford Road

Details had been advertised by Shropshire Council.

(e) Gail Matthews – nominations for Community Award.(f) Olive Turner – nominations for Community Award.(g) Mrs P. Kynaston – nominations for Community Award.(h) Shropshire Council – ICT and future provision.

A paper had been received from the Council suggesting that from April 1st. the offer of free printing paper was to be withdrawn. This would have a minimal effect on the Parish Council.

(i) Shropshire Council – Community Infrastructure Levy Charging et al.

This document had been sent out for consultation and Members supported Mr. Pinches proposal that objections should be raised to the suggestion that building houses in rural areas should be subject to a levy three times greater than for building in urban areas. This would increase the overall cost of rural properties.

Clerk to respond.

(j) P.C. Lesley Mitchell and Katy Jenkins (West Mercia Police).

Members welcomed the news that Speed Control Vehicles were to operate on the Wem Road, following a survey that had indicated that a large percentage of the traffic was exceeding the stated speed limit.

(k) Mrs. F. Medley – confirming details of ‘Drop in Centre’ arrangements (10/170(g))

(l) North East Shropshire Flood Forum - invitation for Council to nominate a committee member. Mrs. Manley agreed to represent the Parish Council.

10/193 Accounts for Payment:

It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Mr .J. Wilson	Salary (February)	£428.51
Mr. J. Wilson	Expenses (Jan.)	£78.14
Inland Revenue	Income Tax (February) `	£107.51
Mr. T. Creber	Village work (February)	£437.00
NWP Electrical	Streetlight maintenance	£232.42
Mr. A. Brown	Moat expenses	£76.98
Meres and Mosses	Allotment Rent	£25.00

10/194 Financial Statement:

A financial statement was tabled and approved.

10/195 Applications for Grant Aid:

It was resolved to make a grant of £75.00 to each of the following organisations:

Severn Hospice; Macmillan Nursing Care; Marie Curie Cancer Care; West Shropshire Talking Newspaper; Hope House; North Shropshire Safety Scene; Citizens Advice Bureau; Shawbury Scouts and Guides; Shawbury Junior School PTA; Shawbury Junior Football Club.

Mr. Dodd felt that in the future the availability of grant aid should be given more publicity.

Clerk stated that it was reasonably well publicised but he would put together a policy document for consideration by the Council

10/196 Application for grant:

It was unanimously agreed to make a grant of £500 to Shawbury Bowls Club towards the cost of installing an irrigation system

Members hoped that this would enable the club to run a second team and involve some young people in club activities.

10/197 Car Park (10/180)

Members approved the Option 2b plan which Mr. Brown had produced and the Clerk was asked to seek quotations from Allmark, Enterprise, G. Millington and Dorringtons.

10/198 Church Street Lighting (10/175)

Members accepted a quotation from NWP Electrical for the replacement of the four lights in Church Street with 42w LED lanterns, at a cost of £540.00 (+VAT) per light

10/199 Burial Ground

Mr. Bailey reported that he had met with Mr. Dodd and they had assessed the requirements for the burial ground. He outlined where the paths should be placed and suggested a tarmac surface and that a hornbeam hedge should be planted inside the metal perimeter fence. He pointed out that the hedge needed to be planted first. This meant that the work could not get underway until the autumn, as it was now too late to order and plant bare rooted hedging.

Members agreed to the proposals and that quotations would be sought later in the year.

10/200 Exchange of Information:

(a)Issues for inclusion on the next agenda:

The BMX Track; The Youth Pod and paths; Councillors' allowances; School re-organisation and the Glebe area development

(b) Issues needing urgent attention:(i) Highways:

It was reported that:

- (a) No action had been taken over the conifer tree which was encroaching over the road at Merlwood Farm.
- (b) The barrier at the traffic lights had been hit by a vehicle and was obstructing part of the footpath.
- (c) There was a steel post lying on the grass verge alongside the A53 between the Mytton Estate and Edgbolton
- (d) There was a need for directional signs at the entry to Shawbury, indicating that there were car parking facilities available in the village.

Clerk to report the issues to the Highways Department.

It was also suggested that to ease the parking problems, there was a need for cones to be placed outside the Co-op shop when deliveries were expected.

Mrs Howells offered to speak to the manager of the shop

ii. Streetlights:

No problems reported.

iii Other:

1. Concern had been raised that the stable development on land between Merlwood Farm and Parry's Yard was not conforming to the approved plans.

Clerk to ask the Planning Enforcement Officer to monitor the development.

10/201 Other Information:

1. Shropshire Cat Rescue was given permission to use the Recreation Ground for a Car Boot sale on April 2nd. from 8.00am to 2.00pm.
2. Annual Parish Meeting to be held on May 25th.
3. Fun Day would be held in July – date to be confirmed.
4. Offer of help from RAF personnel. Details passed to interested Members.
5. Shawbury Junior Football club would be using the Recreation Ground on June 18th. for the Annual Awards.

10/202 Site Meeting:

The Chairman reported that she had attended a site meeting with representatives of Shropshire Council and Mouchel. As a result of the information she had received, she had asked for detailed plans to be sent to all Members and for representatives to attend the Council meeting to discuss various concerns.

Mr. Walshaw and Ms. Coomb explained the proposals being put forward, which were designed to alleviate the flooding by the Bridge and connect up the surface drains by the Elephant and Castle. There was a protected Black Poplar tree which prevented the drain being directed into the river and as a result they were planning to drain into the Mill Race at the entrance to the Moat. The Environment Agency and the County Ecologist had been involved in the planning and had raised no objections to the plan.

Members and Mr. Currie raised a number of objections to the plan and questioned the validity of the system. Finally, Mr. Walshaw indicated that there was little alternative to the plan and that Shropshire Council had the legal right to proceed.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Currie and the representatives for their attendance.

Members then decided that they had no option other than to support the outlined plan B and to ask for a post and rail fence without barbed wire to be erected at the entrance to the Moat, after the completion of the work.

10/203 Reports from:

(a)Police:

A written report had been received which indicated that in the period between January 11th. and February 7th.the following crimes had been reported:

Criminal Damage -1; Burglary of non-dwelling -1; Burglary of dwelling -1; Breach of an ASBO -1; Assault -1.

(b)Youth:

Miriam Turner reported that:

- (a) Regular meetings were taking place in the Scout Hut on Tuesday evenings when about twenty 12 -15 year olds were attending and undertaking a range of activities. She was being helped by two volunteer youth workers.
- (b) Shropshire Council was proposing substantial cuts in the Youth Service, which would leave only eleven full time youth workers supported by part time workers and volunteers. From April she would be responsible for all the northern part of the county.
- (c) Various initiatives and activities were being organised for the summer which would be available for some young people from Shawbury.
- (d) Joe Mansfield has successfully completed a Youth Leaders Course sponsored by the Rotary Organisation.

Joe was in attendance and gave a brief outline of the course and his future intentions. He also stated that he thought that the Council's decision not to spend money on the Pod was the correct one, as it was little used by the young people.

Members congratulated him on his achievement.

The Chairman thanked Miriam for her report, promised continued support from the Council and wished her success in her new role.

(c) RAF Shawbury:

No report tabled

(d) Shropshire Council:

No report tabled.

10/204 Planning Applications:

Members raised no objections to the following application:

2, Grove Cottages, Wytheford Road, Shawbury – erection of a first floor extension to the rear of the property.

It was noted that the following application had been approved by Shropshire Council:

The Croft, Muckleton – erection of a two storey extension to the rear and a single storey garage to the side of the property.

10//205 Committee Reports:(a) Moat Committee:

Mr. Brown gave a detailed report which included:

- Tidy up volunteer hours had nearly reached 1,500.
- Representatives from the RAF and Shawbury Cub Scouts had been giving help over the last month.
- Committee members had met with Shropshire's Bio-diversity Officer, who had been very complimentary as to how the site was being managed and maintained and had stated that he was interested in involving local people in recording/monitoring the ecology. He was prepared to give a talk to local residents and it was agreed to invite him to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.
- The group had considered options for signage and were seeking quotations.
- Looking to complete second draft application for grant aid by the end of February.
- Minutes from the Moat Group meeting would be sent to the Clerk.

Mr. Pinches stated that he had grave concerns about the planned project in the Moat area and felt that it was a waste of money. Mr. Brown confirmed that this was a project being developed by English Heritage, who owned the site and it would be funded by them and the Environment Agency. There would be no cost to the Parish Council. He reminded the meeting that details of the planned development had been brought to the attention of members at several meetings, although a map showing the location of the pools had only been forwarded after the previous Council meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that contract details had been drawn up and studied in detail and were awaiting Council confirmation. The Chairman agree that they should be confirmed,

(b) Local Joint Committee:

Mr Kennedy reported that the budget for the Committee had been cut by 50% and the proposals made at the Committee's Planning Committee and outlined in the previous months minutes under item 10/184 (c) had all been confirmed. Shawbury Bowling Club had been given part of the grant they had applied for and been advised to contact the Parish Council for the difference.

He pointed out that any changes to the constitution of the Committee could only be made at the Annual Meeting held later in the year.

10/206 Press Matters:

No issues suggested.

10/207 Date and Time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on March 8th. at 7.00pm in Shawbury Village Hall.

Approved as a true record of the Meeting.

Signed J. Manley (Chairman)

Date: March 8th. 2011

UNRESOLVED PROJECTS/ISSUES

PROJECT/ISSUE	BRIEF COMMENTS
CCTV Camera – access to broadband.	Awaiting response from Shropshire Council ICT Department.
Car Park Renovation	Plans approved. Quotations requested.
Poynton Road/Recreation Ground Hedge.	Agenda Item for Annual Parish Meeting.
Post Box A53/Wytheford Road.	Awaiting response from Royal Mail.
Fence by entrance to Moat	Highways Dpt. Have been asked to erect posts and rail with no barbed wire.
Vehicle Operated Speed Controls.	Cost of service being reviewed by Shropshire Council.
A53 Crossing Signs.	Installation promised by Shropshire Council in next financial year.
Local Joint Committee – substitute Councillors.	Mr. Kennedy to raise again at the Annual LJC Meeting.
Remedial work on trees in the Moat area.	Mr. Brown reviewing the situation.
Poynton Road warning signs.	Installation promised by Shropshire Council in the next financial year.
Youth Pod - graffiti on rear panel.	To be painted black.
Burial Ground paths and hedge.	Plans approved for work to be carried out in the autumn.
Signs to car park and RAF Shawbury	New signs promised by Shropshire Council in next financial year
Sparrow Cottage – planning issue.	Owner given more time to appeal against an enforcement order.
Car Park tree.	Safety aspects being monitored.
Church Street Lighting	Quotations accepted from NWP Electrical.
Erdington Close Play Area – fence treatment.	Work planned for Spring with help from RAF Volunteers.
Grit Bins in Poynton Road	Two bins promised by Highways Dept.
Crossing A53 by Simon’s Garage/Shops	Suggested use of a mirror, referred to Highways and Planning Dept.
Grass cutting 2011 – 2012	Meeting to take place with Nobridge – current contractors.
Cycle track	Awaiting payment of grant by Shropshire Council/