

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS January 2023

Budget:

At the January Council meeting Members considered and adopted a budget prepared by the Clerk for 2023 -2024, which showed that because of careful control of spending it was not necessary to increase the precept. This means that the Parish Council element of your Council Tax will not be increased next year. Members felt that this was essential bearing in mind the high inflation affecting everyone. Every effort will continue to be made to keep expenditure under control and look for ways of increasing grants from other sources.

Full details of the budget can be found on the Council's website or obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Highways:

As always there was considerable discussion about problems on the highways, particularly about the ineffective roundabout and the dreadful state of the road close to the traffic lights and more complaints about both of these had been received since the last meeting. In the past, responses had been received from Shropshire Council stating that the roundabout had still to be 'adopted' by them which meant improvements were the responsibility of the company who had built it and the adjoining housing estate and that failing underground drains were causing the problems with the break-up of the road. The Clerk was tasked with contacting senior officers at Shropshire Council seeking urgent information about actions they were taking to resolve these issues.

Traffic Lights:

Council Members and the Clerk continue to receive complaints about drivers ignoring red lights at the crossing and at the main lights, with a number of near misses reported. These have been reported to the police who will try and carry out some observations but with the small team they have this will be minimal. Part of the problem is the lack of clear road markings including yellow boxing at the lights and warning signs, all of which have at times been promised by Shropshire Council's Highways staff. We will continue to put pressure on them to get these in place before there is a serious accident.

Streetlights:

This is another major issue the Council is trying to resolve in parts of Bridgeway and Millbrook. The supply of electricity to all the Council owned lights and the underground cabling is the responsibility of Scottish Power, whilst the provision and maintenance of the lights is contracted to E.ON. The Council has no problems with E.ON, who respond quickly to any reports of breakdowns and have always carried out contracts effectively. However the same cannot be said for Scottish Power and this is what is causing the problem. All that is needed is for a small team from their work force to meet up with Eon and connect the power to the new lights and the Eon can then remove the old posts and complete the work. Letters, emails and 'phone calls to Scottish Power have failed to get a response. We understand residents' frustration but can assure you that we are doing all we can to try and get a solution to the problem.

One application has been received from a resident to take up the seat vacated by John Kennedy and he has been invited to come to the next meeting and speak to Members. That

meeting is being held one week earlier than normal and will start at 7.00pm on Tuesday, February 7th.in the Village Hall.

The draft minutes of the January meeting are available on the Councils web site www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk and a reminder that any issues can always be raised with the Clerk at shawburypcclerk@talktalk.net or by 'phone on 01743236810.