

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH. AT 7.00pm IN
SHAWBURY VILLAGE HALL.

In Attendance:

Councillor J. Kennedy (Chairman); Councillors Mr. B. Lyon, Mrs. J. Herbert, Mr. C. Kirkup, Ms. S. McIntosh, Mr. K. Pickering, Mr. R. Pinches, Mr. P. Sharp, Mr. J. Vernon and Mr. M. Roberts.
Shropshire Councillor S. Jones.

Wing Commander S. Vamplew and Lt. M. Peters (RAF Shawbury).

Inspector C. Greenaway (West Mercia Police).

Mr. R. Bailey (United Charities).

Parish Clerk.

Six Members of the public.

1. Welcome & Introductions.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special mention of those who would be taking part later in the evening.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillor A. Brown.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on May 14th. 2019.

The Chairman pointed out that the minutes had already been approved by the Parish Council at the meeting held in June 2019 and that copies were available for information.

4. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising

5. Parish Council Chairman's Report.

The Chairman gave an interesting and informative report on Council activities, pointing out that because of the Covid restrictions his report covered two years although he had only been Chairman for one of them. During this period two long serving Members - Mrs. Jill Manley and Mr, David Roberts had left the Council and eventually had been replaced by two new Members – Mr. Kelvin Pickering and Mr. Merv Roberts.

Covid had made a big impact on the Council but every effort had been made to continue to meet and proceed with projects. Council meetings were held remotely by Zoom for fourteen months but this was the first opportunity to hold an Annual Parish Meeting.

He then outlined many of the projects within the Council's remit that had been undertaken. These included the installation of additional VAS units on the A53 and Poynton Road in an attempt to reduce speeding problems and measures to improve the parking problem by the school, which appeared to have been successful.

Pointing out that many of the streetlights in the Parish are the responsibility of the Council, efforts had been made to follow the Government's directive by replacing the old sodium lights with modern LED units and at the same time replacing decaying concrete posts with modern aluminium ones.

He stated that young people are at the forefront of the Council's priorities and during the year both play areas had been assessed and up-dated at considerable cost and substantial money has been ring fenced to provide grants for the development of junior football facilities on the planned sports ground alongside the A53.

The use of Mr John Tait, who had been contracted to carry out work for the Council following the retirement of Mr Richard Bailey, was mentioned. His work in constructing new benches and litter bins as well as renovation of street signs was highlighted as well as his duties under the Community Environmental Project.

He realised that planning can be a contentious issue and ultimately is the responsibility of Shropshire Council although the Council gets a chance to comment on all applications, most of which are quite straightforward.

He pointed out that Shropshire Council had recently approved detailed plans up to 2032 and that land south of the Brick Yard had been identified as a possible site for Shawbury, with access through the Oaklands.

Finally he mentioned the continuing problems with pot holes and deteriorating roads pointing out that the Parish Council had no responsibility and could only pass on complaints and concerns.

He concluded by thanking all the Councillors for their support throughout the year and the many contractors who carried out excellent work for the Council.

6. Presentation of Community Service Awards.

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Wing Commander Sarah Vamplew from RAF Shawbury who presented the awards, sponsored by RAF Shawbury, to Mrs. J. Manley, Mr. R. Bentley, Mr, D. Roberts and Miss F. Newby

7. Report from Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones gave an up-date on the changes that had taken place following the elections in May when Lezley Picton had taken over as Leader of the Council, with many changes in those serving in the Cabinet.

High emphasis was being placed on highways maintenance, particularly for getting pot holes repaired effectively.

He reported that plans were still going ahead for the development of the Shrewsbury NW Relief road in spite of many objections received during the consultation period but the plans for access into Shrewsbury via Wyle Cop and High Street had been withdrawn because of likely damage to Town Walls and the difficulties it had created for disabled drivers.

8. West Mercia Police Report.

The Chairman welcomed Police Inspector Claire Greenaway who is based at Oswestry. With overall responsibility for the area which includes the Parish, Claire stated that overall crime figures across the whole Parish were not very high and that the main concerns raised by

residents related to speeding traffic and anti-social behaviour. There had been a number of incidents related to violence but several of these had been domestic situations.

The Police Commissioner was insistent that town and rural issues should receive full attention and individual Parishes had been asked to identify their priorities. She was aware that the Council had indicated their major areas of concern related to road traffic offences and anti-social behaviour and these would be kept under constant review and reported on every three months.

The small police team responsible for the area was based in Wem but the Police Station was not manned all the time. She stated that 101 is a National number and overwhelmed with incident reports and she advised residents to report incidents directly to a local officer's email address or mobile telephone number both of which were widely publicised. They would always be willing to respond to reported incidents.

The Chairman thanked Claire for her attendance and the overall support of the police team and stated that details of the police team would be placed on the Council's web site and Notice Board.

9. United Charities.

Mr. Richard Bailey reported on the work of the Charities Committee, explaining how the money was raised and how small grants could be made to organisations and particularly individuals in need, stressing that in the Parish there were a number of families that desperately needed help. The Committee were keen to let the public know of the Charity and the Revd. Rich Cresswell, Chairman of the Committee, was always prepared to give advice and information.

10. Open Forum.

Two members of the public commented on the new parking restrictions by the school which currently seemed to be working very well but there were concerns that when the school was fully operational some drivers may well ignore the regulations.

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones stated that if there was a problem there was an arrangement for enforcement officers to attend and if necessary issue fines. Plans were also in place to extend the no parking areas if the problem persisted.

11. Chairman's Closing Comments.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded them that the Council met every month and he hoped that next year's meeting would be held as normal in May.