

**SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>. 2022 AT 7.00pm  
IN SHAWBURY VILLAGE HALL.**

**In Attendance:**

Councillor J. Kennedy (Chairman); Councillors Mr. B. Lyon, Mrs. J. Herbert, Mr. C. Kirkup, Mr. K. Pickering, Mr. R. Pinches, Mr. P. Sharp, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. A. Foster and Mr. M. Roberts.

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones.

Mr. R. Bailey (United Charities).

Parish Clerk.

One Member of the public.

**1. Welcome & Introductions.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed disappointment that there was only one member of the public present

**2. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on September 14<sup>th</sup>. 2021.**

The Chairman pointed out that the minutes had already been approved by the Parish Council at a Council meeting 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 up-date on Council activities, pointing out that it was only eight months since the last meeting and business through the winter months had been relatively quiet. There had been full Membership throughout the period but he was keen to try and identify prospective new Members.

He then outlined projects undertaken which included the replacement of old concrete lamp posts and changing the streetlights to LED units and converting to dusk to mid-night lighting in an effort to save increased electricity costs.

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 to Shropshire Council who had overall responsibility. Related to this was the increasing amount of traffic and the size of many of the vehicles, with poor driving in respect of speed and the disregard of traffic signals. Efforts to set up a Community Speed Watch programme had failed

through lack of volunteer numbers from the community when only a few existing Councillors had registered an interest.

He outlined the problems caused by the pandemic which had caused major problems in getting the work completed on some street light development and appeared to have delayed the negotiations that were still on-going in an attempt to purchase the local allotment with the Housing Association dragging their feet in the negotiations.

He complimented the small team of volunteers who continued to keep Parish Paths open and where additional volunteers were urgently needed to assist with the demanding work.

He pointed out that planning was an important issue for residents and that the Council responds to all applications that affect the Parish but are unable to make any comment until the actual application has been received.

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 with a special mention of Richard Bailey.

## **6. Report from Shropshire Council.**

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones gave a very comprehensive report on the first year of the New Administration with a great deal of time spent in trying to get things right, improving the highways, their communications both inside and outside the Council and attempting to work more closely with town and parish councils.

Three things had been promised:

1. Local Housing for local people and they were now delivering on that promise.
2. To put an additional £40 million into the Highways Capital and this had been increased to £60 million
3. A third wheelie bin for recyclable material and delivery of these would start soon.

He spoke forcibly about the effects Covid and the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis and the responses made by so many of the Council staff in dealing with the issues.

Simon pointed out that much of the time and effort is spent on trying to produce a balanced budget and pointed out that 75% of the net budget is spent on social care for adults and children which only account for 3% of the population pointing out that the greater part of the income from increased National insurance will be spent on NHS provision.

He gave an assurance that Council Members and Staff are constantly involved in discussions with Government Ministers and Civil Servants in an effort to get improved services for Rural Communities.

He confirmed that Council Tax repayments were already being paid into residents accounts and that he was pleased to announce that many areas of Council activity had been successful in obtaining awards.

The Chairman thanked him for a very interesting report which is on file and can be obtained on request from the Parish Clerk.

**7. West Mercia Police Report.**

There was no police representative present and no report had been forwarded.

**8. United Charities.**

Mr. Richard Bailey reported on the work of the Charities Committee, explaining how the money was raised and how small grants had been made during the past year to support a variety of people who were in particular need. They were aware of the possibility of Ukrainians being housed in the area and were keen to help if this was the case. 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.

**9. Open Forum.**

There were no issues raised.

**10. 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.

**Approved as a true record of the Meeting.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman.**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2022**