

**SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 9<sup>th</sup>. 2023 AT 7.00pm**  
**IN SHAWBURY VILLAGE HALL.**

**In Attendance:**

Councillor B. Lyon (Chairman); Councillors Mrs. J. Herbert, Mr. K. Pickering, Mr. R. Pinches, Mr. P. Sharp, Mr. A. Foster, Mr. J. Vernon.

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones.

Group Captain A. Baron (RAF Shawbury).

Mr. R. Bailey (United Charities).

Parish Clerk.

25 Members of the public.

**1. Welcome & Introductions.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Group Captain Andy Baron.

**2. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. M. Roberts; Ms. S. McIntosh; Mr. A. Brown; Mr. C. Kirkup; Mr. C. Forshaw and W/O M. Lingham.

**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 attached to the Agenda.

**4. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Parish Council Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman began his report by reminding everyone that the Council met in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month, when residents were always welcome to attend and had an opportunity to raise comments before the full meeting started. Agendas were always displayed on local notice boards and on the Council's web site.

He then gave an interesting and informative report, highlighting the range of activities undertaken by the Council in the past year, in an effort to meet the needs of the community. These included road safety measures, litter control, maintenance of the two play areas and the local areas and footpaths which are well used by residents.

By careful budgeting and the monitoring of expenditure it had not been necessary to seek an increase in the precept, which meant that the local element of the Council Tax had not increased. However it had been possible to pass on £37,000 of grant money to assist in the development of football facilities for young people and carry out a wide range of projects, including new fencing, re-painting the parking areas on the car park, ensuring the play areas

were well maintained and that the Moat and Glebe areas were kept litter free and accessible for the general public. All of this was possible by the voluntary work of the dedicated Councillors and the support of some excellent contractors.

The state of roads and concerns about speeding traffic was at the forefront of many of the meetings, with continued pressure being put on Shropshire Council and the police to take positive action.

In conclusion he wished to extend thanks to all the Members, the Parish Clerk , Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and Warrant Officer Matt Lingham from RAF Shawbury for their dedicated support throughout the year.

A full copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

#### **6. Presentations of Community Service Awards.**

The awards, which are presented in collaboration with RAF Shawbury, were presented by Group Captain Andy Baron who stated how pleased he was to undertake this task. He was aware of the close co-operation there was between the Community and the RAF Station and appreciated the support that was always given. He had a firm affection for the Parish and Shropshire, having undertaken training here several years ago.

He then presented individual awards to:

Mrs. Margaret Powell

Mrs. Barbara Cross

Mr. Ronnie Box

Mr. John Kennedy

Squadron Leader Kim Leach

and a group award to :

River Meadows Nursing Home and the Yarn Benders Knitting Group.

#### **7. Report from Shropshire Council.**

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones gave a fulsome and interesting up-date on Shropshire Council activities, which included an up-date on the Electoral Review of Shropshire, being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission and could lead to Hadnall being moved out of the Shawbury Division.

He complimented Shropshire Schools, where the average attendance figures were well above the National average for primary and secondary schools and spoke highly of the Council's holiday and food programmes and children being offered walking, cycling and scooter training. He outlined the excellent work being taken in a wide range of programmes to help deal with the problems of climate change and activities related to improving Adult Social Care and Public Health.

In closing he reminded everyone that at future elections there would be a need to produce photographic evidence.

A copy of the full report is attached to these minutes.

#### **8. West Mercia Police Report.**

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

### **9. United Charities.**

Mr. Richard Bailey reported on the work of the Charities Committee, explaining how the money was raised and how small grants can be made to support a variety of people who are in particular need. A small Committee, which included two nominated Parish Council representatives, was responsible for running the charity and the Chairman had been the Revd. Rich Cresswell until he moved to new pastures and his replacement was still awaited. The Committee were keen to ensure that all residents were made aware of the Charity and how it could help and would be arranging delivery of an explanatory leaflet to every local household.

### **9. Open Forum.**

There were a few issues raised about possible housing development on land adjacent to Poynton Road but it was pointed out that Shropshire Council's overall plan had yet to be approved by the Government appointed Inspectorate. The time for this to be considered in detail would be when plans were submitted.

### **10. Chairman's Closing Comments.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

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

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

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **2023**

## **Chairman's Report - 2022-23**

Thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting of Shawbury Parish Council

I would like to report on the activities of the Council during the last 12 months.

I would remind you that the council meets at 7.00 pm on the second Tuesday of every month and meetings are open to the public, when there is an opportunity to raise issues with Council Members before the start of the official business. The meetings are only part of the work of the Council with many activities taking place throughout the remainder of the year.

Agendas for meetings and minutes are displayed on the Village Hall and the Council notice boards and can also be found on the Parish Council's website at [www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk](http://www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk) and concerns can be expressed or details of council activity can be obtained from Mr Jack Wilson, the Parish Clerk who can be contacted by post at 6, Primrose Drive, Shrewsbury SY3 7TP; by telephone on 01743 236810 or by email at [shawburypcclerk@talktalk.net](mailto:shawburypcclerk@talktalk.net). Jack will do his best to solve your problem or put you in touch with a councillor or other organisations which may be able to help.

### **Major Issues This Year.**

#### **Membership:**

In the autumn John Kennedy, the longest serving member of the Council, decided to retire from Council activity after over 20 years' service and he will be greatly missed. John looked after a range of Council activity but serving Councillors have come forward to help, with Kelvin Pickering taking responsibility for the oversight of the burial ground; Jan Herbert the notice board and Merv Roberts the role of Tree Warden.

The vacant seat was advertised and a few months ago Chris Forshaw was co-opted onto the Council.

#### **Community Infrastructure Levy.**

Over the years Shropshire Council has passed on various amounts of money that have arisen from housing projects in the Parish. Following discussions with Shropshire Council it had been agreed that much of this money could be used to support the development of junior football in the Parish and £37,000 had been held in trust, whilst the local football club negotiated a lease on land alongside the A53. This was concluded during the year and the money transferred to the club who are making big strides to complete work on the ground and we look forward to the first matches being played there. It was also possible to use some of the grant to carry out work on the streetlights.

#### **Community Environment Project.**

The Council were again successful in obtaining a grant of £1,500.00 from Shropshire Council to carry out work related to Shropshire Highways. This grant has to be matched with an equal amount from the Parish Council and has enabled us to continue to employ JST Services to clear footpaths which have become overgrown and were restricting use. An excellent job has been carried out.

#### **Street Lights.**

The dramatic increase in the cost of electricity impacted the Council with a substantial problem and as mentioned earlier we were fortunate in having grant money to enable the majority of the Council lights to be changed from all-night lighting to fixed hours and convert them to LED units rather than sodium lighting. This reduces the use of electricity and is more beneficial to the environment. When challenged about the new level, Scottish Power informed the Council that they had been over charging and that we were in credit by over £3,000. However, they would not refund this and stated it would be credited against future invoices and since then they have not responded to any correspondence and we have not received any invoices.

The maintenance of the lights has been carried out for the past ten years by E.ON but they are in dispute with Scottish Power who handle all the underground cabling and will no longer work in an area where they have to work with them. This has meant that a project in Bridgeway and Millbrook could not be completed and we have needed to engage a new company to maintain the lights. It has been a difficult and demanding few months.

#### **Highways.**

The Council continues to press for the repair of pot holes and other road damage and in particular the area by the traffic lights where large areas are sinking. Site meetings have been held with various representatives to no avail and we understand that the problems at the traffic lights are being caused by the breakdown of underground drains which is the responsibility of Severn Trent, who also seem reluctant to address the problem. Some repairs have been carried out including Wem Road and plans have been put in place to improve the junction of the A53 and Mytton Estate – watch this space.

### **Speeding Traffic**

This is a concern raised by many residents, together with drivers failing to observe red lights at the traffic lights and the crossing by the shop. We are still awaiting effective road lining and warning signs which have been promised. After much publicity, a small group was formed to set up a Community Speed Watch scheme. Three of the volunteers were from Edgebolton and the rest were Councillors. All volunteers have to be carefully assessed before they are able to take part in checks but the turmoil in the police force, with all officers needing to be re-assessed has delayed this training and we understand that three volunteers will not be able to take part now, which means the scheme will not go ahead.

### **Play Areas.**

The play areas on the playing field and in Erdington have a continuing maintenance programme which includes an annual ROSPA inspection by a Shropshire Council-qualified inspector and ensures that children can play safely on the equipment provided. A number of issues have been identified and a programme of maintenance was put in place and overseen by Councillor Paul Sharp who continues to monitor the equipment.

### **Tree Work.**

Under Government and Insurance regulations, trees that the Council has responsibility for have to be inspected every four years and the review has recently been carried out again by a highly qualified arborist who identified problems, including the need to remove some dead trees. This has to be carried out to maintain insurance cover and this work has already been contracted out and will be carried out at the end of the bird nesting season.

### **Planning.**

Planning applications are considered at every meeting of the Council and in the past year about thirty applications have been considered, most of which have related to extensions and improvements. Some of the applications have been objected to for various reasons but frequently the objections are over ruled by Shropshire Council who make the final decision. Details of all the applications and the results are published in the Minutes of Council meetings.

As part of the National Plan, Shropshire has been set a housing target for the period up to 2036 and is still in the process of planning where development should take place in consultation with and agreement of the Government appointed Inspectorate. They have proposed development in Shawbury and suggested suitable sites and eventually there will be applications to build on one of these sites. At that stage the Parish Council and the public will be able to question and respond. Until that time the Parish Council has no say in what is being proposed.

### **Other Areas of Activity**

#### **Burial Ground**

The wooden fence at the far end of the burial ground had rotted away and was recently replaced with metal fence matching the existing fencing of the site

#### **Allotment.**

During the year the Council has been able to complete the purchase of the small area of land which houses the allotment, with the terms of the sale agreement requiring that it must be retained as an allotment or a related activity. Members will be considering how best it can be used during the next year

#### **Car Park**

Early last month contractors were engaged to re-paint all the parking bays on the car park, which was carried out successfully. Lines.

#### **Floral Gateways**

I feel sure that most of you will have seen the splendid displays as you enter the Village. These are the work of Mr. Richard Bailey who voluntarily plants and nurtures them and has secured sponsorship to cover the cost of the plants – we extend our thanks.

#### **Grants.**

The Council has a small budget for grants to organisations that serve local needs and apply for help. This year a grant of £250 was sent to Hope House Hospice; The Severn Hospice and Crane Counselling as well as two grants to the local Scouts and Guides group to help off-set the cost of providing a splendid Christmas meal and entertainment for older members of the Parish.

#### **Playing Field Fencing.**

Unfortunately many of the fencing posts are becoming unstable and a decision was made to replace the rotten ones with similar posts rather than removing them all at the same time

#### **Litter**

Litter is another major source of concern to local people and we are fortunate to have Mr. Mike Varndell keeping

the Moat, Glebe and Playing field clear and I would like to thank all those residents who make an effort to keep our villages tidy by picking up and disposing of litter.

**Crime**

Crime remains relatively low however we urge members of the public to be vigilant and report suspicious incidents to the police by telephoning 101 or direct to one of the local team. If you report them to the Clerk he will pass the concern on to the police but they will still need your details.

**Footpaths.**

Considerable use has been made of local footpaths, especially, since the lockdown in March 2020. All residents of the parish are urged to keep to the marked paths, control dogs and follow the country code. Work is carried out by our Parish Paths Partnership Volunteer group, maintaining stiles, cutting back overgrown vegetation, and renewing the yellow and blue footpath and bridleway signs. Volunteer help is always welcome.

**Finally**

Despite inflationary increases Members have, by careful financial management, not needed to seek an increase in the precept for this year and next year too, which could have increased the local Community Tax. Full details of our budget can be found on the Councils web site or obtained from the Clerk

In ending I should like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors, our Parish Clerk Mr Jack Wilson, Shropshire Councillor Mr Simon Jones and our RAF Shawbury associated member W/O Matt Lingham for their dedicated help and support throughout the year.

Brian Lyon

Chairman of Shawbury Parish Council.

May 2023

**Current Parish Council Members.**

Mr. B. Lyon (Chairman).

Mr. A. Brown (Vice Chairman)

Mr. M. Roberts.

Mrs. J. Herbert.

Mr. K. Pickering.

Mr. A. Foster.

Mr. P. Sharp.

Mr. C. Kirkup.

Mr. C. Forshaw

Ms. S. McIntosh

Mr. J. Vernon

Mr. R. Pinches

## **REPORT TO SHAWBURY DIVISION ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS 2023**

I will start this report with the latest details of the Electoral Review of Shropshire – The Local Government Boundary Commission for England published their Draft Recommendations on 2 May 2023 and will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period to 10 July 2023. We hoped the Commissioners would accept our proposals for 75 seats since to hold us to the 2009 figure of 74 divisions with around 3,500 residents could entail extensive shifting in boundaries and potential disruption of communities of interest (on which the Commission places heavy emphasis). We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed divisions as the more public views the Commission hear, the more informed their decisions will be in making their final recommendations on 3 October 2023. In the Shawbury Division they received very strong evidence from Clive Parish Council, supported by Councillor L. Bardsley, detailing the links this community shares with the neighbouring parish of Grinshill. Grinshill Parish Council also expressed their desire to remain in a rural division, and not be placed in a division with market towns. In their Draft recommendation they have adopted this proposal and retained the existing Shawbury division with the exception of Hadnall parish, which is placed into Tern division as proposed by the resident's scheme. This would leave the Shawbury Division with a -9% variation below the anticipated 2028 average number of electors per councillor of 3594.

### **EDUCATION**

Good News, the recent data on the DfE Attendance Dashboard has been updated and it shows the Shropshire is above the National average for primary and secondary schools, primary hit 94%

HAF – Holiday and food programme. Once again Shropshire Council working with some excellent providers put on a whole range of activities across 57 locations across the county for hundreds of our children and young people.

Children's Social Care & Safeguarding. Caer Bryn, Whittington our new residential home officially opened and two more of our residential homes received full OFSTED inspections and both received Outstanding judgments. The STEPPINGSTONES project is on track and with the opening of 3 therapeutic hubs we strengthen the early intervention and support needed Childcare information. The recent Council budget saw the announcement of a significant childcare offer for working parents. We have already begun talking to our EARLY YEARS providers about the opportunities and challenges which this will bring. Over 100 providers attended our recent network meetings. We await more detail on the offers in the weeks ahead including the all-important news on funding and what will be available to support our childcare providers.

Bikeability training / 20mph outside school's project. We are very nearly there the programme of works will soon start and we will be front and centre and rolling out lots of comms on what we have done. ALL children will be offered walk, cycle or scoot training in Shropshire, EVERY school is assessed, and we will do what we need to ensure safety outside schools continuing from what we have already started. A website will be launched, and all questions and queries can go through a centralised point of contact.

Adult Social Care/Public Health

It's been a busy period reviewing commissioning arrangements with the residential care homes and their representatives Shropshire Partners in Care, as well as domiciliary care providers. We want to increase the number of residents receiving care at home as generally they do much better in their own setting than in residential care. Our offer of further support to domiciliary care providers has seen an increase in providers which is really good news. We're also supporting the 'virtual ward' system using technology to enable those with complex needs to live either at home or in a residential setting rather than hospital.

Letters have started going out to Over-75s inviting them for another Covid booster. Please encourage your more elderly friends and relatives to attend as Covid is still lurking

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Biochar** – The Environmental team are developing an exciting business case to establish a facility for the manufacture of biochar from wood waste. The process would both capture and store carbon (which would otherwise be released from decomposition) and generate financial savings and returns from a range of products and energy.

Pyrolysis (incomplete burning) of organic matter produces both usable energy (from oils and gasses) and a long-term carbon store in the form of high value biochar.

The Council are proposing installation of a medium-sized pyrolysis unit costing @ £1.1m which will:

- 1 Provide an estimated 400 MWh pa of renewable energy to local businesses.
  - 2 Process 3000 tonnes of green waste per annum which currently costs a gate fee of £35 per tonne (£105K).
  - 3 Sequester a minimum of 602 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year. For comparison, heating of Shropshire Council's buildings in 2021 emitted an estimated 1,552 tCO<sub>2</sub>.
  - 4 Allow trade in Carbon Credits. Each tCO<sub>2</sub> credit is worth around £150 and can be sold via companies like Puro.Earth who sell biochar credits to Microsoft.
- The system is modular so the generation figures above could triple at the site.
  - Flue scrubbing equipment ensures emissions are way below regulatory levels.
  - The system could be operational and providing electricity and biochar by the end of 2023.

### **Transport**

Public Transport remains a high priority. We will be lobbying government in order to attract funding, but in the meantime the Public Transport Team will be developing the first phase of Demand Response Transport (DRT).

Autumn 2022 we submitted a Transport bid as part of the Levelling Up Fund: Round Two. This was using two elements from our Shropshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) focusing on Shrewsbury Connect and Rural Connect. Unfortunately, in January 2023 we were informed that Shropshire's transport bid was unsuccessful. Whilst disappointed this has not derailed us from



moving forward with several plans within each project and we are continuing conversations with colleagues in the Department for Transport and Shropshire's Members of Parliament Shropshire Council has extended its financial support for the 64 Market Drayton to Shrewsbury Service from 1 April 2023 that Arriva wanted to amend due to a fall in the number of fare-paying passengers.

**Voters ID**

This doesn't affect us at present as we have no elections, but it is important that all our communities are aware of the need to produce voter ID in local/general elections.