

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10TH. 2015 at 7.00pm.**

In the absence of the Chairman, this meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor S. McIntosh

Public Session:

1. Wem Road:

Four members of the public were present and raised further concerns about the speed cushions on Wem Road and gave detailed information about the research they had carried out regarding the required consultation process before they could be installed. They felt that this had not happened and stated that a petition asking for the cushions to be removed had been signed by over 1,000 people. They were advised that this should be delivered to the Chief Executive Officer at Shropshire Council. Councillor John Kennedy pointed out that some members of the community supported the project. The Chairman said that the issue was to be discussed by Members as part of the evening's agenda and invited them to stay and listen to the debate but the offer was declined and they left.

2. RAF Shawbury:

The Chairman welcomed Group Captain Jason Appleton, the new Commanding Officer at RAF Shawbury, to the meeting and he gave an interesting and informative talk, stating that this was his third posting to Shawbury, having been here in 1993 and again from 1999 – 2001. He had many happy memories of his time at Shawbury and was looking forward to his new role and continuing to enhance the fine relationship between the base and the local community.

The future of RAF Shawbury looked secure but there would be changes and by 2018 the Griffin and Squirrel helicopters would be phased out and replaced with a new model. Additional facilities were going to be needed and a new build would begin in January.

He believed that service personnel undertaking training should be involved in some form of voluntary work in the community and he hoped there would be many projects where help could be given.

He explained that he was a great supporter of the new speed limit on the Wem Road and felt that there should be some form of speed restriction, although he understood the concern about the current cushions. He was aware of the short cut motorists were taking to avoid the cushions but had arranged for speed retarders to be placed on that road too.

The Chairman thanked him for coming to the meeting and assured him that the Council would work closely with him to maintain the good relationship that existed.

3. Shawbury Library:

Sue Thomas, Shropshire Council's Enablement Officer and Teresa Eccleston from the Library Service explained that the consultation period regarding changes to the local library service had been extended. They were still hoping to find a group willing to take over the management of the existing library, either in its present location or in a new one in Shawbury. The local school and RAF Shawbury had already indicated that they would be unable to do this and Council Members confirmed that they would not be able to undertake this role.

Shropshire Council had received a petition signed by over a thousand people objecting to the possible closure but if there was no group willing to take over the library, Shropshire Council would have to look at providing an alternative method of delivery. They confirmed that there had been no additional use of the library since the change had been suggested earlier in the year.

The Chairman thanked them for the information.

Firework Event:

Mr. Richard Bailey reported that it had been a very successful and well attended event and the full report can be found in the minutes of the meeting under item 15/104(h).

Council Meeting:**Present:**

Ms. S. McIntosh (Chairman).

Miss R. Wall

Mr. P. Sharp

Mrs. G. Matthews

Mrs. J. Manley

Mrs. M. Clark

Mrs. F. Medley

Mr. J. Kennedy

In Attendance:

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones.

Lt. M. McArdle (RAF Shawbury).

Mr. R. Bailey (for part of the meeting).

The Parish Clerk.

Apologies:

Apologies were presented and accepted from Councillors Mr. D. Roberts, Mr. A. G. Foster and Mrs. T. Howells

15/102 Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests.

There were no interests declared.

15/103 Minutes of Meeting held on October 13th. 2015:

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

15/104 Matters Arising:**(a) Wem Road – Speed Cushions (15/89(i))**

The Clerk confirmed that the issues raised at the last meeting had been forwarded to Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones and Mr. Richard Ayton, the highways officer responsible for the project, as had other emails he had received on this issue. He had received a reply from Mr. Ayton stating that all the concerns and questions had been noted. They were in the process of monitoring the scheme, which would include speed surveys and as soon as he received the feedback and results he would respond to all the issues that had been raised.

Members then considered the items raised in the public session, the comments made by Group Captain Appleton, the report that there was some public support for the scheme and the confirmation that the petition being delivered simply asked for the cushions to be removed.

Councillor Simon Jones stated that the units were of an approved standard and used throughout the County but because of his role and the petition being delivered to Shropshire Council, he was unable to make further comment.

After due consideration the following motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

'The Parish Council fully supports the extension of the 30mph speed limit on Wem Road, understands the need for Shropshire Council to take note of the request from the police for traffic calming measures and also the concerns of local residents. It is felt that the system used is not suitable for this road and that a more appropriate form of control should be used.'

(b) Highways (15/89(h)):

It was reported that:

(1) Debris had been removed from the drains by the traffic lights but the problem had not been cured, indicating that there was still a deep rooted problem. Clerk to report.

(2) The lights at the pedestrian crossing had been re-aligned.

(3) Other issues were still outstanding.

(c) Meeting with Mr. David Gradwell re. Highway concerns (15/95(b)):

Councillors D. Roberts, P. Sharp, Mrs. F. Medley and Mrs. J. Manley and the Clerk had met with Mr. D. Gradwell (area road safety engineer) to look at:

(a) The problems of speeding traffic in White Lodge Park, where he promised to arrange for additional signs and road marking to increase the awareness of the 20 mph speed limit and

(b) The dangerous situation on the A53, caused by traffic leaving the Elephant and Castle public house, speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking by the Co-op and other shops and the short distance between the traffic lights and the pedestrian crossing, concealed by the bend in the road.

A variety of suggestions were considered to help improve the situation but providing a solution was complex. There was insufficient distance between the traffic lights and the entrance to the public house to erect a warning flashing light but a sign saying crossing ahead would be considered. Legislation did not allow for a 'Concealed Entrance' sign to be erected, although a private sign could be put in place and the erection of a mirror on the opposite side of the road to the car park would need the permission of the owner of the private property there.

The police had agreed to take action against offending motorists and approach the manager of the Co-op to see if attempts could be made to restrict off-road parking at the site.

It was generally agreed that the Council had done all it could to alleviate the problem, much of which would be resolved if motorists used the excellent Council car park and walked the short distance to the shops.

(d) Fitness Area (15/89(d)):

Councillor P. Sharp reported that the completed application for a Lottery grant had been sent in and he was hoping that a response would be received before the end of the year. A second application had been sent to 'Community Green Space Grants', organised by Tesco, but he was not sure if our application fully matched their criteria.

(e) Access to White Lodge Park from A53 (15/89(c)):

It was noted that there had been no progress in improving the access from the A53

(f) Car park bollards (15/89(f)):

It was reported that these had now been replaced by Mr. Allmark.

(h) Firework Event (15/89 (c)).

Mr. Richard Bailey gave a full report on the event held on Saturday 7th. when it was estimated that over 1,900 people had attended, making it the best attended event since it returned to the playing field and resulted in a profit of approximately £400.00. Everything had proceeded smoothly and without major problems but was slightly marred by vandals smashing some of the barriers left overnight round the hot ashes. Replacing these would cost about £100.00.

Members passed a vote of sincere thanks for Richard's dedication and hard work and asked for thanks to be passed to the volunteers who had helped to make it such a success.

Richard reminded Members that he had decided that next year's event would be the last one he was prepared to organise and it was agreed to discuss this further at the January meeting. Clerk to include it as an agenda item.

(i) Youth Club and skateboard event: (15/89(b))

It was noted that the first meeting of the new youth club was taking place and was already well supported and that the skateboarding event held on October 25th. had been a success.

(j) Erdington Close Play Area (15/95):

The report from RoSPA regarding the gateway to the play area stated that the gate met the current safety standards but that the speed of the gate shutting could be slightly adjusted and there was a tiny exposed weld on one corner of the gate. The report indicated that there was no need to carry out any action but the Chairman felt that in the interests of good relations, Mr. Ray Parry should be asked to grind off the weld and re-paint and also see if it was possible to adjust the shutting speed of the gate.

It was noted that to-date the work had not been done.

(k) Internments (15/89(a))

1. After consideration, the following resolution was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved:
‘That the agreement to pay £10.00 per annum to the incumbent for work related to the Council’s burial ground should be discontinued.’

2. Lt. McArdle offered to meet with Councillor Mrs. Medley to discuss the plan for graves in the extended burial ground. Clerk would ask the Chairman to join them.

(l) Local Council Award Scheme (15/98):

Clerk reported that he and the Chairman had been invited to attend an assessment meeting on November 27th.

15/105 Correspondence:

Members considered the following correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting, most of which had already been sent to them:

NALC – Newsletter.

Condover Parish Council – Need for hedgerows.

Police Commissioner – Newsletter.

Shropshire Council – Children’s Trust Autumn Forums.

Ben Walker – Broadband update.

David Sandbach – Future Fit.

Gail Power - Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Newsflash.

Dianne Dorrell – SALC AGM.

NALC – Newsletter.

Dianne Dorrell – Newsletter (October 19th).

SALC – Bulletin on national developments and meetings.

Police Commissioner – weekly newsletter (October 19th).

RoSPA – report on play area gate.

Sue Thomas – Community Green Space grants.

Rev D. Humphries – letter of thanks.

Sqn. Ld. Kim Leach – possible projects.

Mr. Richard Bailey had made contact and secured help with projects in the Moat and Glebe areas.

Mr. F. Ratcliff – complaint about Wem Road speed cushions.

Vicky Roberts – concern about speeding traffic on the A53 at Edgebolton.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the ‘Safer Road Partnership’ and ask for them to carry out a covert check on the traffic speed.

Richard Ayton – Wem Road.

Mr. Wattinson – concern at the action taken to close the rear entrance to the Elephant and Castle Public House.

Colin Heath – Erdington Play Area.

Members rejected Mr. Heath’s request to have the play area changed to meet the needs of older children wishing to use it for football activity. Clerk to respond giving the reasons.

Neil Hitchens – complaint about speed cushions on Wem Road.

Martin McArdle – visit to Council by Shawbury RAF Station C.O.

Gail Power – Hate Crime research.

Dianne Dorrell – SALC Bulletin.

Gail Power – Health and Well Being news

Shropshire Council – Shropshire Hill news.

Police Commissioner – Newsletter November 5th.

Children’s Trust - Area Forums.

Neil McDonald – need for provision of defibrillator in the parish.

Mr. McDonald's suggestion was considered but it was pointed out that a previous attempt to get community support for this had been unsuccessful. It was noted that there were several first responders in the area and Councillor Kennedy and Lt. McArdle offered to discuss the issue with Mr. McDonald.

15/106 Accounts for Payment:

It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Mr. J. Wilson	Salary (November)		£550.90
Mr. J. Wilson	Expenses (October)		£70.72
Inland Revenue	Tax (November)		£137.60
	N.I. (November)		£1.72
Mr. R. Bailey	Maintenance (October)	£440.00	
	Play Area signs etc.	£49.80	
	Floral Gateways	£81.00	
	Wild Flower Garden	£178.40	£749.20
Mr. T. Creber	Village Work (October)		£300.00
Playsafety Ltd.	Play area gate inspection`		£261.60
R. Allmark & Sons	Replacement Bollards		£480.00
Information Commissioner	Renewal (2015 -2016)		£35.00
Norton Security	Renewal (2015 -2016)		£49.99
Jack Flash Fireworks	Display November 7 th .		£2,880.00

15/107 Financial Statement

A financial statement was tabled and approved.

15/108 Budget Setting.

Councillor Mrs. Jill Manley was nominated to join with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk to prepare a draft budget for consideration at the December meeting.

15/109 The Moat.

Councillor Sam McIntosh outlined details of a suggested A1 size sign for the Moat area, which had been prepared at her request by Shelly Signs. She suggested that it should be erected at the entrance to the Moat from the A53, include a map of the area and brief details. Members agreed to the plan and felt that the company should undertake the artwork and provide a detailed estimate for the full project.

15/110 Exchange of Information:

(a) Agenda Item for the next meeting:

1. Future of the fireworks.
2. Moat Sign
3. Budget and Precept Setting

(b) The following items of concern were reported:

(i) Highways:

No further reports tabled.

(ii) Street Lighting:

One light on the car park not working.

Clerk to report.

(iii) Other:

No issues raised.

15/111 Elephant and Castle Public House – nomination as an ‘Asset of Community Value’.

It was agreed to support this nomination.

15/112 Reports from:**(a)Police:**Incidents reported in September:

Anti-Social Behaviour – 5 (Glebelands -2; Poynton Road -2; playing field -1).

Burglary -1 Church Close (incident under investigation).

Violent Behaviour – 2 (Mytton Lane - under investigation) and (Millbrook Drive -offender put in touch with those affected to repair harm done).

(b)RAF Shawbury:Lt. Martin McArdle reported that:

The Christmas party was planned for December 8th.

The base would welcome applications from the community for volunteer support on projects.

There was a new mobile phone app called 'I Witness' which allowed incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour to be instantly recorded and reported.

(c) Shropshire Council:

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones reported on the recent Government statement regarding local Councils being able to retain business rates. Unfortunately this will have little impact in rural communities and Shropshire Council is facing the prospect of making further considerable savings.

15/113 Planning:A.The following applications were considered, with no objections raised:

1. The Moorings, Mytton Lane, Shawbury – outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling
2. 26, Church Close, Shawbury – erection of a conservatory.

B. The following application had been approved by Shropshire Council:

Field House, Wytheford Road – extensions and alterations to existing residential dwelling.

15/114 Committee Reports:Helicopter Noise Liaison Committee:

Councillor J. Kennedy stated that he had been unable to attend so Councillor Jones (Chairman of the Committee) gave a brief resume of the meeting, which had been positively chaired by the new Commanding Officer. He had given out a lot of information on proposed developments including news of a new model of helicopter planned to replace the Squirrel and Griffin in 2018.

15/115 Press Matters:

Clerk was asked to place an article in the January edition of the Parish Newsletter regarding the Council's response to the Wem Road speed cushions and attempts to alleviate the traffic problems by the Elephant and Castle public house and the shops.

15/116 Date and Time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on December 8th. 2015 at 7.00pm in Shawbury Village Hall.

Approved as a true record of the Meeting.

Signed: D. Roberts

(Chairman)

Date: December 8th. 2015