

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 28th APRIL 2014 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors J.R. Caswell
Ms J.L. Clements
R.J. Cotham
D.S. Cowie (Chairman)
M.J. Edwards
D. Harris
S.J. Lawrence
Mrs. J.C. Marsh
R.S. Parr
D.A. Whitmore
Mrs. V. Williams

Shropshire Unitary Councillor Mrs. Tina Woodward

Also present: Mrs. A. Clarke, Mr. T. Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. R. Hollingshead

Apologies: Councillor D.A. Cook, Mr. P.A. Pickerill

The Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

64/14 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Cowie informed those present to feel free to ask questions during the open forum.

Richard Wilkes, who had not stood for re-election in May 2013, was thanked for his hard work whilst a councillor. As insufficient candidates had stood for election, four councillors had now been co-opted and it was hoped to fill the remaining vacancy in the near future. Councillor Parr and Claverley in Bloom members were congratulated on achieving another Heart of Britain in Bloom Gold Award. It was pleasing that their hard work had been recognised.

Councillor Cotham had kindly made a different field available for the 2013 bonfire and fireworks event and, despite many challenges, it had been a successful evening aided by improved communications.

The Parish Website working group had held many meetings to achieve a professional website which was now up and running. Councillor Williams was thanked for all her hard work.

Councillor and Mrs. Lawrence were thanked for all their work forming Claverley Youth Club which had been launched on 21st April 2014.

The Parish Council had been investigating the provision of replacement Victorian style street light columns and lanterns fitted with LED lights. A suitable supplier was still being sought.

Work was being undertaken to improve the financial and risk management of the Parish Council.

Councillor Cowie concluded by thanking Shropshire Councillor Tina Woodward for her dedication and efforts helping to raise local issues with Shropshire Council. Her commitment deserved recognition. He also thanked councillors who gave up their time to ensure the Council was working on behalf of parishioners.

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 22nd April 2013 were confirmed and signed.

65/14 **REPORT BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR MRS. TINA WOODWARD**

Councillor Woodward said it had been nearly a year since she had been re-elected as a Shropshire Councillor. She had been very busy supporting local residents and local village groups. She worked with four parish councils in the district. Information was shared if appropriate. She thanked all councillors for their support, especially Councillor Cotham for his help with issues relating to highways and rights of way. Councillor Woodward offered support to Claverley's new Youth Club.

Councillor Woodward informed the meeting that as Deputy Portfolio Holder for Business Growth, she had been involved with the new Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery opening at the Music Hall where the Visitor Information Centre was also located. It had been well received but concerns had been raised about entrance charges. She hoped everyone would be able to visit it.

Shropshire Council was looking at the commerciality of what it had and hoped to encourage more business to the county.

Councillor Woodward said she was happy to take questions but no questions were raised.

66/14 **REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

Claverley in Bloom (CIB)

Councillor Parr reported that Claverley in Bloom had been running since 2005 and had participated in the Heart of Britain in Bloom competition since 2008. It was difficult to maintain the standard for a Gold award and the Royal Horticultural Society was now placing more emphasis on environmental issues. CIB worked with the school on horticulture and the environment and projects had included litter picking, tree planting, and for the third year the pupils had been supplied with free packs of wild flower seeds

Councillor Parr thanked the Parish Council for the financial support for the summer and winter planting schemes, the Flower Festival committee for allowing judging of the Heart of Britain in Bloom competition to take place during the Flower Festival, to all the volunteers whose help was essential and to the members of the CIB committee.

The Aston Lane bank was a long term project. In 2013 shrubs costing £800 had been planted as part of the Jubilee project and Jill Rowney and Chris Nock were thanked for raising the

funds to make this possible. The planting of wild flower seeds had mixed results as clover was rampant. CIB had nearly filled the bank with daffodil bulbs. Volunteers were required to help with watering the trees and shrubs planted on the Aston Lane bank.

The community orchard was taking shape and work took place to keep the footpath clear. The planting boxes at Winchester crossroads and in the Bull Ring had been refurbished. Theft of plants had been a problem. Shropshire Council did not want land at Clover Heath physically cultivated to achieve a planting bed and consideration was being given to planting containers. David Austin Roses had sponsored the Hanging Basket competition.

Councillor Parr expressed regret that the Bridgnorth Journal did not always give coverage when photographs were submitted but, thankfully, the Parish Council website can now be used. CIB would welcome fresh ideas for projects for the next twelve months.

Mr. Hollingshead asked about the relationship between the church and CIB. Councillor Parr said the churchyard was important as it was a large green space in the centre of the village. Unauthorised removal of the rose bushes planted by CIB had created a difficult situation but CIB had helped the Vicar to establish a wild flower scheme. CIB had attempted to arrange a meeting with the Vicar to discuss a joint scheme but there had not been a response so far. When carrying out a village spring clean CIB had carried out weeding and pruning in the churchyard.

Councillor Parr and Claverley in Bloom were thanked for all they had done.

Tree Warden

In Paul Pickerill's absence, the Clerk read out his report in which he stated that approximately 200 trees had been obtained through the Shropshire Free Trees Scheme. Keith Smith was thanked for allowing Claverley School pupils to plant 80 trees in Ludstone Estate woods and for his support in arranging clearance of the ground and providing help during the planting. Jacqui Cooper and Councillor Parr were also thanked for their help. The remaining trees had been distributed to local residents who had applied for them. The Woodland Trust was seeking applications for tree packs of up to 420 saplings to establish a one acre copse or 100 metre hedge and land owners who were interested were asked to contact the Tree Warden.

QEII Jubilee Field

In Councillor Cook's absence, the Clerk read out his report in which he informed the meeting that a Parish Council work party had repaired and reseeded the top goalmouth during the summer as this area gets heavy use by both the community and the school.

The Shropshire FA had condemned the goal posts as they were in a poor condition but the FA had agreed to fund replacements. In order to try and solve the issue of heavy wear, the Parish Council had purchased an additional goal of a smaller dimension together with two sets of sleeves. These sleeves were installed several metres to both the right and left of the main goal nearest the school. The full size goals are now removed after every Claverley Football Club game and the smaller goal is positioned in one of the sets of sleeves and then

moved to the alternative set of sleeves on the other side of the main goal mouth when the grass shows signs of wear. Councillor Cook thanked Councillors Cotham and Parr, members of Claverley Football Club, and Murray Arnold and Greg Jones for all their help carrying out the repair work to the top goalmouth and ensuring the new goals were correctly and safely installed.

As the Parish Council had been unsuccessful in obtaining a grant to improve the compacted and uneven surface of the field, £6000 had been allocated in the budget for 2014-2015 to carry out extensive renovation of the whole field which should result in an improved surface for when school children and the community used the field.

Last season Claverley Football Club had become the lowest ranked club ever to win the prestigious Shropshire Junior Challenge Cup. This season they had put up a strong defence of the trophy but had lost in the semi-final.

Parish Plan

Councillor Harris reported that the Parish Plan, the strategic development plan, runs out in 2015. As the Parish Plan identified the majority views of the community for a ten year period, the Parish Plan working group were holding regular meetings to compile a questionnaire which will be delivered and collected from every household in the parish. This would give everyone an opportunity to state what the priorities should be for the next ten years so it was important for everyone to fill in a questionnaire. Sally Beaman had been invited to form a focus group to critically appraise and submit their views on the questions asked before the questionnaires were printed. Councillor Tina Woodward and Tom Brettell, Shropshire Council's Senior Community Action Officer, were thanked for their help. A youth focus group had been formed to help compile the youth questionnaire. It was hoped to distribute both questionnaires in June 2014.

Mr. Hollingshead said it was essential to make people aware of its importance and Mr. Godfrey put forward the suggestion that as the British Legion covers the whole parish when selling poppies, perhaps Mr. Glass, the organiser, might be able to offer advice about the distribution of the questionnaires.

Rights of Way

Councillor Cotham reported it had been a fairly uneventful year. There had been some complaints about overgrown rights of way. Shropshire Council's Rights of Way department had reinstated the steps at the bottom of Cottons Holloway to FP62/63 and would provide materials to improve Digbeth Lane if manpower could be provided. There had been an incident on the Damson Hollow to the War Memorial bridleway when a 4-wheel drive group got stuck and had cut through fences. The Police had been called out and the matter had been put in the hands of Shropshire Council's Legal Department. The bridleway had been levelled out again when the Damson Hollow residents had put in their drain.

Mrs. Clarke asked if a finger post could be provided near Orchard Close to indicate the footpath as the stile was not easy to see and the trees required cutting back. She regretted that access to the footpath could not be made through the gate. Councillor Cotham

confirmed the landowner was within his rights to lock the gate as access to the footpath could be made by using the stile.

Emergency Planning

Councillor Caswell reported that he had attended the Emergency Planning meeting held in Shrewsbury which he had found helpful. It was important to plan for disasters, adverse weather conditions and pandemics. The Flood and Water Management team should be contacted in the event of flooding problems.

Wolverhampton Airport

Councillor Parr reported he was the Parish Council's representative on the Wolverhampton Airport Consultative Committee which meets four times a year, sometimes electronically, to monitor events at the airport. The Wolverhampton Airport Action Group (WAAG) still maintains a close watch on activity at the airport which was at much the same level.

The Vice-Chairman of Wombourne Parish Council had put forward a Tourism paper with the airport being designated a destination hub. Local parish councils had been asked to submit their views on the potential future tourism opportunities for the airport and the local area and this will be discussed at the June 2014 meeting.

An all-weather landing system had been installed which the airport hopes will attract more traffic. A grant had been obtained from the EU covering half the cost. Consultation would have to take place prior to any extension of the holding pattern at 3000 ft.

Claverley Parish Website

Councillor Williams informed the meeting that the website sub-committee had sought quotes for designing and building the website and an order had been placed with Kensa Creative Ltd. Kensa produced two options before a decision was made on the final version. The website commenced operation at the beginning of April 2014. Its main purpose was to be a platform to inform and consult. It was important the information was kept up to date and feedback would be welcomed.

Councillor Cowie thanked the representatives for their reports.

67/14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Godfrey asked for the white line to be reinstated on the bend by the turning to Wall Hill. He was also concerned that at the Hopstone junction with the Claverley to Worfield road it was difficult to see if traffic was coming from the Claverley direction. Shropshire Councillor Mrs. Woodward informed him she would be having a site meeting with Shropshire Highways and would raise his concerns.

Mrs. Hollingshead expressed concern about the poor state of repair of some listed buildings in the Conservation Area and asked if anything could be done to ensure they were better maintained. Shropshire Councillor Mrs. Woodward said Shropshire Council would be involved if they became unsafe and she would check what powers Shropshire Council had in these circumstances.

Councillor Lawrence informed the meeting that 14 young people had attended the first meeting of the Youth Club. He was grateful for the items of equipment which had been donated.

Mr. Hollingshead commented that since the street light had a new bulb fitted the light was very bright and was concerned that LED lights the Parish Council was proposing to introduce would be very bright.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. He closed the meeting at 9.05 p.m.