

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 25th APRIL 2016 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors Mrs. J.A. Beaman
D.A. Cook
R.J. Cotham
D.S. Cowie (Chairman)
D. Harris
S.J. Lawrence
Mrs. J.C. Marsh
R.S. Parr

Shropshire Unitary Councillor Mrs. Tina Woodward

Also present: Mr. and Mrs. T. Godfrey, Mr. S. Inglis, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kendrick, Mr. E. Lynch,
Mr. and Mrs. S. Redshaw, Mr. P. Wade (for part of meeting)

Apologies: Councillor J.R. Caswell, Councillor M.J. Edwards, Councillor D.A. Whitmore,
Mr. P. Pickerill

72/16 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded the members of the public that they could raise any matters or ask questions.

He thanked all the Councillors for their work which they carried out on a voluntary basis. Regrettably, the Council had lost two valuable members, Joanne Clements and Vera Williams and the vacancies had been advertised.

During the past twelve months more LED street lights had been installed and the Parish Plan for 2016-2025 had been published.

He concluded by thanking Shropshire Councillor Tina Woodward for her support and dedication helping to raise local issues with Shropshire Council.

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 9th April 2015 were confirmed and signed.

73/16 **REPORT BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR MRS. TINA WOODWARD**

Councillor Mrs. Woodward reported that all local authorities were faced with tough financial choices and budgets were having to be cut. Since 2009 £146m had been removed from Shropshire Council's budget due to significant reductions in the direct funding from central government. By 2020/21 the government's revenue support grant will end. This money helps local councils to provide services and it is estimated that Shropshire Council will be a further £77m worse off, due to the combination of inflationary increases in costs, particularly in adult social care, and further cuts in government grants.

Shropshire Council's predicted budget for 2020/21 was estimated to be £188m, of which 87% would be spent on core services such as adults' and children's social care and safeguarding, domestic waste disposal, concessionary travel and school transport. This would leave 13% to be spent on the remaining 150 plus services currently provided.

If local authorities are permitted to retain 100% of Business Rates the challenge for Shropshire would be to attract new businesses as Shropshire is made up of mostly small to medium sized business and farming as a large number are exempt from Business Rates due to their size.

Shropshire Council is looking at closer working with Town and Parish Councils and options for Town and Parish Councils to take over local services and jointly contribute to service delivery.

Shropshire Highways were aware of various roads in the parish requiring more permanent solutions to address the issues such as Woundale crossroads.

With regards to planning, there had been a large number of planning applications in the system and Officer caseloads had been heavy. Planning issues had been taking longer to resolve. The public can view planning applications and other useful information on Shropshire Council's website. Shropshire's Site Allocations and Management Development document had been found sound by the Inspector and had been adopted by Shropshire Council. The assessment of housing land supply over the five year period to 2019/20 demonstrates Shropshire has 5.75 years' supply of deliverable housing land.

In conclusion, Councillor Mrs. Woodward thanked the Parish Council and the public for reporting areas of concern and she would endeavour to resolve these issues.

Councillor Mrs. Woodward asked if anyone had any questions but none were forthcoming.

74/16 **REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

Claverley in Bloom (CIB)

Councillor Parr reported it had been an eventful twelve months in which CIB had gained its 7th Gold award in the Heart of Britain in Bloom campaign and had also achieved a Gold award and had been runner-up in the village category of the national Britain in Bloom campaign. Out of the 70 entrants in the various categories in the national finals only 29 had gained a gold award. Community involvement had been very important and he thanked everyone who had helped. Because of the worsening street scene in the centre of Claverley it had been decided not to enter the 2016 campaign.

Work on the Aston Lane bank was continuing and a bench in memory of Sheila Higham had been installed in Aston Lane. Another 5000 daffodil bulbs had been planted.

CIB had carried out a litter pick on approach roads to Claverley when 20 bags of litter had been collected. CIB had also helped Claverley School children with a litter pick. Dog fouling continued to be a problem and CIB will continue to work with the Parish Council to

bring about an improvement. Horticultural and environment projects with Claverley School children continued and the outdoor classroom had been maintained. Wildflower planting in the churchyard had taken place with the co-operation with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Rather than holding a hanging basket competition, a front garden competition had taken place which had been successful. David Austin Roses had kindly donated the prizes and it was intended to repeat this competition in 2016.

CIB running expenses were minimal. Winter planting material was saved for the next season and expenses incurred by members attending the awards ceremony in Sunderland were met by individual members. Fund-raising events had taken place including quizzes at the Plough run by Keith and Karen Horton. Thanks to the generous sponsorship from an anonymous donor, the Berkeley Salon Ensemble had performed at the Proms in the Church. CIB thanked everyone for their support including the Parish Council.

Theft of plants was a worry and everyone was asked to report anything suspicious. Press coverage was improving.

CIB would welcome any suggestion for future projects and for additional volunteers to help CIB committee members.

Tree Warden

In Mr. Pickerill's absence, The Clerk read out his report in which he stated 100 free trees had been received from Shropshire Council. With the permission of Mr. and Mrs. Kempsey and the help of Claverley School children, they had been planted at Sutton Farm alongside the public footpath which crosses the farm.

Sponsorship of £100 had been obtained from Hager UK as part of their corporate social responsibility. This money will be used to purchase 50 standard oak trees for hedgerow planting.

Mr. Pickerill concluded by asking for more volunteers, both landowners and helpers, for the planting of more hedgerow saplings.

QEII Jubilee Field

Councillor Cook reported the remedial work carried out to the field in 2014 had improved the surface and compaction and the rotation of the small goal posts had reduced the wear on the goal mouth area nearest the school.

The far end of the football pitch had become water logged due to wet weather causing re-arrangement of some of Claverley Football Club's home matches.

Concerns had been raised about the small logs in the natural play area as some were split and some of the larger stumps appeared rotten at the base. Shropshire Council had been asked to inspect.

Parish Plan

Councillor Harris, Chairman of the Parish Plan Working Group, reported work on the new Parish Plan had continued during 2015 and the finished document had been adopted by the Parish Council at the January 2016 meeting. It had been uploaded on the Parish Council website, together with the supporting documents. He thanked Shropshire Councillor Tina Woodward and Tom Brettell, Shropshire Council's Senior Community Action Officer, for their help and Richard Cotham, Gordon Drury, Peter Knapton and Rod Parr, the members of the Working Group. The Working Group had now been stood down.

The future work of the Parish Council will be guided by the new Parish Plan over the coming years. Actions shown in the Parish Plan will be discussed by the Parish Council and implemented where possible, e.g. post code to be changed from WV5 to WV15.

Mr. Godfrey informed the meeting 'Shropshire' can be used in the address together with the post code.

Rights of Way

Councillor Cotham reported work was ongoing replacing way markers and treads on stiles. Shropshire Council had carried out work on the surface of the Digbeth Lane byway and potholes had been filled on the section by the houses on the byway running from the Lion o' Morfe. The right of way between the War Memorial and Damson Hollow had been flailed.

Councillor Cotham stressed the need to use rights of way on a regular basis as Shropshire Council's budget had been cut and help was needed to keep them passable.

Emergency Planning

Councillor Mrs. Beaman had been appointed the Parish Council's Emergency Planning and Flood Monitor in May 2015. She reported that in the short time she had been in post there had not been any issues. She had been unable to attend the 2015 Emergency Planning meeting held in Shrewsbury but hoped to attend the 2016 meeting.

Wolverhampton Airport Consultative Committee (WACC)

Councillor Parr reported that meetings between Airport management and local representatives were held quarterly. The division between physical and virtual quarterly meetings worked well.

MCR, a property company, had purchased the airport in November 2015. A company representative had given a presentation at the March meeting in which he had informed those present that Alastair Mackinnon, the Operations Manager, was remaining in post and MCR was working to create a long term vision for the site aimed at a sustainable future as an airport.

There had been a slight rise in aircraft movements until November when Westbeach Flight Academy had closed and there had been an extended period of bad weather. The Police Unit had closed but it had been agreed with the Police that they could still use the airport and facilities as and when required.

With regard to the proposal to install an instrument approach system, the airport was waiting for approval from the Civil Aviation Authority before starting consultation.

The airport had received some complaints about aircraft noise and nuisance.

Councillor Cowie thanked the representatives for their reports.

75/16 **CLAVERLEY YOUTH CLUB**

Councillor Lawrence reported the Youth Club had been running for two years and provided facilities for young people aged 10-16. Meetings were well attended and the balance of female/male members was improving.

Councillor Lawrence had been appointed Chairman of the Bridgnorth Youth Partnership. He and his wife had achieved Level 3 Youth Worker qualifications and they had received an Outstanding Contribution award from Shropshire Youth Association.

Members of the Youth Club had been involved with various activities such as planting trees, daffodil bulbs and planting the Clover Heath planting bed. Movie nights had been held and had been well attended. A parent had made a donation towards an outing to take place in the summer.

Councillor Lawrence concluded by saying he had investigated the formation of a Youth Parish Council but had decided he did not have sufficient time to set it up because of his other commitments. He would continue to bring up issues with the Parish Council which had been raised by Youth Club members.

Mr. Wade joined the meeting.

76/15 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Wade raised concerns about the unauthorised car salvage business being operated from farm buildings at Small Heath Farm. Mr. Wade was informed that Shropshire Council's Enforcement Officer was looking into the matter. A planning application for change of use had been submitted and subsequently withdrawn and the tenant had been given notice as he had broken the terms of his licence,

Mr. Godfrey expressed admiration for the Parish Plan. He had been surprised that parishioners had not complained about litter or speeding vehicles but complained about aircraft noise. It was important fly tipping was reported to Shropshire Council.

Mrs. Godfrey thanked the Chairman and councillors for the hard work done for the parish.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions. He reminded everyone about the public session which is held prior to monthly parish council meetings when members of the public can raise any matters.

He closed the meeting at 8.52 p.m.