

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 11TH. 2014 At 7.00pm.**

Public Session:

1. Mr. Simon Brown (Outdoors Development Officer, Shropshire Council) gave a short talk on a Government/Health Service sponsored project, aimed at encouraging people with disabilities to become involved in outdoor projects. It had been suggested that a group could undertake some work in the Moat area but having visited the site he felt this was beyond their capabilities. Mr. Clive Dean had suggested that he might be able to provide some form of support and he would get him to contact the Clerk.

1. Mr. R. Bailey gave a detailed report on the Firework/Bonfire event held on November 8th. The evening had included the attendance of a ukulele band and a fun fair, with refreshments readily available. Despite the inclement weather, an above average number of people had attended and overall there would be a small profit. He was indebted to the willing band of volunteer supporters who had given help.

Members applauded the efforts of everyone involved, with particular thanks given to Richard for organising and overseeing the whole event.

Richard advised Members that he had booked the fireworks for the next two years and was prepared to organise the two events but after that would be not continuing with this project.

Richard also questioned the Council's policy regarding dogs on the playing field and felt that an effort should be made to ensure that they were kept on leads there, as they could be let loose in the Moat area and in The Glebe.

It was agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. Mr. R. Rathbone (Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee) raised concerns about the future of Shawbury Library and was granted permission to contribute when it was discussed later in the meeting. Two members of the public were present, Mrs. Crowl who had offered to be volunteer for the Speed Watch Programme and the other member wished to hear the Council's response to the planning application for the proposed development on Wem Road.

.Present:

Ms. S. McIntosh

Mrs. J. Manley

Mr. R. Pinches

Mr. P. Sharp

Mr. A. Foster

Mrs. M. Clark

Mrs. F. Medley

Mrs. G. Matthews

In Attendance:

Mr. S. Jones (Shropshire Councillor).

Ms. S. Thomas Community Enablement Officer Officer).

The Parish Clerk.

Ms. R. Wall (Applicant for co-option on to the Council).

Two members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Ms. S. McIntosh (Vice Chairman) chaired the meeting and (a) Advised Members that an outline application for housing development on the Wem Road would be considered under Agenda Item 15 and

(b) Asked for, and was granted, approval to move Agenda item 11 to the start of the meeting and allow Mr. Rathbone and Ms. Thomas to take part in the debate

Apologies:

Apologies were presented and accepted from Councillors: Mr. D. Roberts and Mr. J. Kennedy and Ft. Lt. J. Hobkirk (RAF Shawbury).

14/96 Declaration of Personal or Prejudicial Interests:

Mr. Pinches declared an interest in the planning application for outline development on land east of Wem Road.

14/97 Co-option of New Member:

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Rachel Wall to the meeting.

Rachel, who had applied for the vacant seat on the Council, gave a brief outline of her experience and her reasons for wishing to serve on the Council. After due consideration, there was a unanimous decision to confirm her co-option as a Council Member.

Clerk to advise the Elections Officer of the decision.

2. After completing the necessary documentation, Ms. Wall took part in the remainder of the meeting.

14/98 Library Service in Shawbury:

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones and the Clerk gave a report of a meeting they had attended with Shropshire Council representatives from the library service and accompanied by Mr. D. Roberts (Parish Council Chairman) and Mrs. F. Medley (Village Hall representative).

They had been informed that the library service had to make considerable savings and it had been decided that the only libraries that would be retained and fully financed were those based in the market towns. This meant that they had to identify alternative methods of providing the service in Shawbury, which had low usage. In the first instance they were hoping to find a volunteer group to take over the employment and management of staff and the rent and running costs of the building. There would continue to be help provided by Shropshire Council in the provision of books and other forms of support. They were hoping that the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee or another volunteer group would be interested in agreeing to do this. The financial commitment would be in excess of £20,000.00 per annum. If this could not be actioned then, following a consultation process, it may mean that the library service had to be provided by a mobile van calling at the village.

Members considered the proposal, noting that to do this it would be necessary to increase the annual precept by about 50% and put the cost of providing the service on to the local Council Tax bill, at a time when every effort was being made to limit expenditure. At the same time, local people would be contributing to the cost of libraries in the market towns.

Mr. Rathbone outlined the implications the closure would have for the Village Hall Committee, with the need to find ways of using the space created and raising additional revenue. He also stated that it would not be possible for the Village Hall to take on responsibility for managing the service.

Ms. Thomas stated that she had asked Shropshire Council's legal department for a copy of the lease agreement with the Village Hall Committee, to see if they were in a position to cancel this lease.

There was general disquiet about the news and it was also pointed out that the Parish would lose access to the computers which were in the library and were well used.

The following proposal was made and seconded:

'Because of the financial costs involved, Shawbury Parish Council is not in a position to enter into an agreement to take responsibility for the management of the local library service'.

This was put to the vote and unanimously passed.

It was further agreed that discussions should continue with the Library Service in an effort to secure the best possible solution for the Parish and to see if the computers could be retained, with the Parish Council looking at ways in which they could manage them.

14/99 Minutes of Meeting held on October 14th. 2014:

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

14/100 Matters Arising:

(a) Highways (14/83(a))

There were no reports of any progress being made on issues which had been reported to Shropshire Council.

(b) Play Area Repairs (14/83(b)):

Clerk reported that Mr. Parry had completed the work and that he had checked the repairs and they all appeared to be satisfactory.

(c) Graffiti on Car Park (14/88(iii)):

Clerk reported that Mr. Creber had carried out work on the car park and removed most of the graffiti. Mr. Kennedy had given him assistance and was happy with the result.

(d) Speed Watch Project (14/89(2)):

There had been two volunteers from the community – Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Crowl. Clerk reminded Members that there would be a need for at least six volunteers if they wished to be included in the scheme. Mr. Foster agreed to join the team and it was decided to put another article in the January edition of the Parish Magazine.

(e) Firework Event (14/83(f)):

Members noted Mr. Bailey's comments given at the start of the meeting. It had been another excellent event and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Richard and ask him to pass on their thanks to the team that had helped him.

14/101 Correspondence:

Members considered the following correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting:

SALC – Bulletin October 20th.

Teresa Eccleston – Meeting re. planned changes to Library service.

Sue Thomas – Housing Association grants.

Clerk stated that as Members had not come forward with any suggestions, he had passed on the details to the School, the Scouts and Shawbury Players to see if they were eligible to apply. Mrs Matthews confirmed that the Scouts had put in an application.

SALC – Community Health News.

SALC – notification of cancellation of AGM.

Sue Thomas – draft agenda for the LJC meeting.

Adrian Brown – need for grass to be cut in the Moat area.

Mr. R. Pinches – re. message he had received about river clearance in Stanton.

Chairman – similar message to above but with a suggestion that the two Councils might work more closely together. Also mentioned was a possible footpath from Shawbury to Stanton.

Mr. Pinches pointed out that there was already a path connecting the villages.

14/102 Accounts for Payment:

It was resolved to pay the following invoices:

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|----------------------|---|-----------|
| Mr. J. Wilson | Salary (November) | £538.86 |
| Mr. J. Wilson | Expenses (Oct.) | £105.07 |
| Inland Revenue | Tax/N.I (November) | £136.27 |
| Mr. T. Creber | Village work (October) | £340.00 |
| Mr. R. Bailey | Maintenance (September) | £420.00 |
| | Floral gateways – plants & compost | £ 85.83 |
| | Materials for repairing waste bin (Glebe) | £ 25.00 |
| Norton Security | Computer security (Oct 2015 -2016) | £19.99 |
| EON | Streetlight repairs (Church Close No's7& 15) | £63.73 |
| Mr. R. Parry | Play Area repairs | £1,920.00 |
| Jack Flash Fireworks | Display November 8 th . | £2,760.00 |
| Nobridge Ltd. | Grass cutting Mach 6 th – Sept. 30 th . | £2,522.68 |
| EON | Streetlight repair (Church Close No.11) | £63.73 |
| Mr. I. Thomas | Play area repairs | £584.40 |

14/103 Financial Statement:

A financial statement was tabled and approved.

14/104 Place Plans:

Clerk had completed the return for Shropshire Council based on the suggestions made at the last meeting and a few others that had been sent to him. A copy of the return had been sent to Members and after consideration the documents were approved and counter signed by the Chairman and Shropshire Councillor S. Jones. Clerk to forward the report to Hayley Deighton at Shropshire Council.

14/105 Re-location of bus stop on A53:

Members had been sent details of correspondence received by Shropshire Council asking for the bus stop outside Shawbury House to be re-located to a more convenient site. Shropshire Council had suggested it should be placed by the pedestrian gate leading to Carradine Close and this was supported by Members.

14/106 Capital Bids:

The Clerk proposed that there should be a budget for a Fitness Area for older people rather than a fitness trail and that the Council should introduce a Community Award for under 18's. and these were agreed.

He reported that he had discussed the budget with the Chairman, who was happy to support it. Clerk would email a draft copy to all Members during the next week for comments and seek approval for it at the next Council meeting.

14/107 Exchange of Information:

(a) Items for inclusion on the next agenda:

Maintenance of the Moat.

Dogs – fouling and control.

Library.

Budget 2015 - 2016

(b) The following concerns were reported:

(i) Highways:

No further issues raised.

(ii) Streetlights:

Light No. 97 in Hazeldine – burning all day.

Church Floodlight – it was reported that someone had got the light working again but it was now on all the time. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Eon to check it and that the Council would pay for any repairs.

(iii) Other:

No issues raised.

14/108 Reports from:

(a) Police:

1. Reported crimes in September:

Anti-social behaviour – 4 (two in Mytton Lane and two in Church Close).

Criminal damage – 1 (Church Close).

Assault – 1 (Church Close).

2. Meeting:

The Clerk reported that he had met with Police Sgt. Claire Greenaway and P.C. Dave Carpenter and discussed issues which had been raised by Members at previous meetings. They clarified the reports of anti-social behaviour, many of which would previously have been recorded as incidents rather than crimes. They were concerned about reports of vandalism but stressed the need for these to be reported by members of the public when they were seen or found. The more reports they received the easier it was to get the resources to tackle the problem. They confirmed that there was increased police presence in the Parish, some of it covert work.

They also pointed out that since October 20th. Housing Associations had much more power to deal with tenants where the families did not abide by required standards. If the family was warned about anti-social activity and it continued, they could be removed from the property as this was a civil matter. Concerns should be addressed to the appropriate Housing Association.

In general terms serious crime in the Shawbury area was not high.

(b) RAF Shawbury:

Flt. Lt. Hobkirk had sent a written report which stated:

1. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation have reported to the planning committee re. the planning application from Shawbury Football Club.

2. They are also considering the outline plans for development on the Wem Road and needed more information as to when the noise survey was carried out.
3. The Station is still looking for community projects under the proviso outlined earlier in the year by the Station Commanding Officer.

(c) Shropshire Council:

Councillor Simon Jones reported that:

1. It appeared that budget constraints would continue for the foreseeable future.
2. The Planning Inspector had dismissed an appeal against Shropshire Council's decision to refuse a planning application in Donnington
3. Shropshire Council had now reached its target for housing development although this was being challenged by some developers.
4. Super broadband would be available from Cabinet 1 in March 2015.
5. That Youth Staff had been made redundant and that money for youth provision would be channelled through the LJs. Therefore it was important for Parish Councils to bid in for suitable projects.
6. Lee Brockhurst and Moreton Corbett Parish Councils are seeking an extension of the 40mph speed limit on the Wem Road.

14/109 Planning:

A. The following application was considered:

Land east of the Wem Road – outline application for the construction of twenty five properties with access to the site.

Members objected to the plans for the following reasons:

- (a) The results of the Parish wide questionnaire and the public meeting called to discuss Shawbury's response to the fifteen year planning cycle, had overwhelmingly been that Shawbury should be classed as a hub but that development over the period should be restricted to fifty properties. There was already a plan on the table for a development of fifty properties on land adjacent to the A53.
- (b) As Shropshire had now reached its SAMDev land target, the results of the public consultation and the Parish Place Plan could and should be observed.
- (c) When the preferred sites in the Parish had been considered, this site had been rejected in favour of the site alongside the A53.
- (d) There are sustainability concerns, especially in respect of providing Doctor's surgery provision and children accessing the local school.
- (e) Access to/from the site is directly onto Wem Road, which is notorious for excessive speed and heavy use, which has already been acknowledged by the extension of the 30mph speed limit; the installation of a Vehicle Operated Speed Control and regular visits by the Speed Watch Team. Additional traffic on to this road will only increase the inherent dangers.

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

13, Mytton Lane, Shawbury – 1st. floor extension + alterations.

C. The following application has been refused by Shropshire council:

The Meadows, Drayton Road – erection of two properties.

14/110 Committee/Other Reports:

No reports tabled.

14/111 Press Matters:

No reports suggested.

14/112 Date and Time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on December 9th. 2014 at 7.00pm in Shawbury Village Hall.

Approved as a true record of the Meeting.

Signed: D. Roberts (Chairman)

Date: December 9th. 2014