

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY MAY 16TH. 2017 at 7.30pm.

In Attendance:

Councillor Ms. S. McIntosh (Chairman).

Councillors: Mr. D. Roberts Mrs. J. Manley Mr. A. G. Foster and Mr. B. Lyon.

Shropshire Councillor Mr. S. Jones.

Group Captain Norris (RAF Shawbury).

Mr. J. Champion (Police Commissioner).

Community Support Officer Liz Wormsley.

Lt. M. McArdle (RAF Shawbury).

The Parish Clerk.

Twelve members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. P. Sharp, Mr. J. Kennedy and Mr. A. Brown and from Mrs. F. Medley and Mrs. K. Mason.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on May 15^h. 2016:

The Chairman pointed out that the minutes had been approved by the Parish Council at the Council Meeting held in June 2016 and that a copy was included in the information pack which had been issued on arrival.

3. Matters Arising from those Minutes:

The Chairman reported on:

(a)Outdoor Fitness Area.

This was now well established and being increasingly used by individuals and groups and it was anticipated that the usage would increase during the summer months.

(c)Fishing Stands.

Following consultation with experienced people it had been decided that there was no need to construct stands as there were sufficient flat areas on the bank from where fishing could take place.

(d)Youth Club.

This had gone from strength to strength and was providing an excellent training ground for young people in the community and had been recognised as such by Shropshire Youth Association.

(e) VAS signs.

A sign had been erected on the A53 entering Shawbury from the direction of Shrewsbury and was proving to be very effective.

4. Visiting Speaker:

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Champion (West Mercia Police Commissioner) to the meeting and he gave an informative and interesting talk on the role of the Police Commissioner, pointing out that he was not an active police officer and his role was to oversee the police and hold to account the Chief Constable and all the force.

He believed that victims of crime always came first and stated that his objective was to take measures that would bring the police force up to date with modern technology and free officers to be more pro-

active in dealing with the public. This would ensure that West Mercia was a secure and safe environment and bring assurance to residents.

In response to questions, he pointed out that he could not comment on individual police incidents which was the responsibility of the local Safer Neighbourhood Team and urged all incidents to be reported, which enabled that team to build up a picture of local concerns.

The Chairman thanked him for coming to the meeting and sharing his aspirations.

5. Chairman's Report

At the start of the meeting a detailed written report on the Council's activities during the past year had been handed out and the Chairman briefly outlined certain aspects of the report.

Members had been disappointed in the response to the recent local election, when no new candidates had come forward and in the end only eight members had been elected. This meant that there were still four vacancies on the Council and she urged people to consider applying to be co-opted.

On the positive side of Council business, she highlighted the installation of the outdoor fitness area, the erection of the VAS road signal, improvements to the pathways and the drainage in the Moat and Glebe areas, the provision and installation of a defibrillator and the overall care of the local environment.

She wished to thank the support of all the contractors but above all the generous and unstinting work of a host of volunteers who ensured that a whole range of activities took place and created an excellent community.

Sam regretted that for various reasons it had not been possible to proceed with the Smartwater project, the installation of additional VAS signs and improvement to the safety measures by the exit from the Elephant and Castle car park. All of these would be considered again in the coming year.

A copy of the report is attached

6. Presentation of Young Leaders Awards.

The Chairman praised the continued success of the Youth Club and stated how delighted she was to present five of the members with Shropshire Youth Association Young Leaders Awards, which had been achieved through dedicated hard work and commitment.

Certificates were presented to Aaron Johnson, Jodie Hinton, Katie Brownson and Maddie Oakes.

7. Community Service Awards:

The Chairman introduced Group Captain Norris and welcomed him to the meeting, stating that the Council was delighted that RAF Shawbury continued to sponsor these awards, which this year were all being presented to volunteers and highlighted the wide range of commitment within the Community. This year for the first time awards were being presented to three junior members.

Group Captain Norris then presented awards to:

Mr. T. Richards; Mrs. S. Raines; Mr. R. Currie; Mr. D. Richards and Mr. P. Moore

Junior Community Service Awards were presented to Aaron Johnson; Katie Brownson and Billy Davies.

The Group Captain stated that he had only recently taken over as the Commanding Officer at the base but had been associated with the local community for many years. He was keen to foster the excellent relationship between the base and the local community and gave an assurance that the new initiatives being undertaken on the base would ensure that training would continue for at least twenty years.

A new fleet of helicopters was being installed and would gradually replace the current ones.

Whilst the changeover was taking place it would probably result in additional aircraft activity.

The Chairman thanked him for attending and for his and the base's continued support.

8. Shawbury Council's Group Award

The Chairman presented the plaque to Mr. C. Kirkup, Chairman of Shawbury Football Club which was being recognised for the senior team's outstanding success and for their commitment to junior football at all levels.

9. News from Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones thanked everyone who had voted for him in the recent local election, he was grateful for the continued support and the opportunity to represent the community for a further four years. As a Cabinet Member in the previous administration, he had been responsible for the oversight of Highways and Transport and outlined projects that had been undertaken within the County and locally, which included the installation of 'wig wags' at the school.

He mentioned the recent problem encountered by the Health Service and other agencies regarding computer hacking, pointing out that on an average day 50,000 emails were received by Shropshire Council with only 20% being legitimate, highlighting the necessity for a reliable and safe protection system.

He was determined to continue to support residents and deal with problems and concerns when they were brought to his attention – he could be contacted by telephone, email or letter.

10. Police Report:

Community Support Officer Liz Wormsley outlined a statement prepared by Sgt. Geenaway outlining a typical month's reports, showing that the vast majority of those received were ant-social behaviour incidents, many of which were family related, problems with neighbours and vandalism. There was some drug related crime and burglary but overall the Parish was still a safe place to live in.

11. United Charities:

Mrs Kath Mason, the acting Chairman, had forwarded a brief written report on the work of the Committee, explained how money was generated and how grants could be allocated to various organisation or individuals in need.

In the past year financial help had been given to the local Primary School, the Church roof appeal, the Scouts and Guides and eleven Co-op vouchers had been distributed at Christmas to people in need.

12. Open Forum:

No issues were raised.

13. Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance reminding them that the Council still needed to recruit additional Members and encouraged them to raise issues or concerns with the Council.

Minutes approved as a true record of the meeting.

Signed: S. McIntosh Chairman.

Date: June 13th. 2017