

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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Council News:

The coronavirus and subsequent lockdown has meant that the Council has been unable to hold face to face meetings since the March meeting, however, it has been possible to continue with Council business by holding online meetings using Zoom and by Members and the Clerk keeping in regular contact by emails and telephone calls. It is hoped that it will be possible to hold a normal meeting in the Village Hall in October and the Annual Parish Meeting later in the month. The following is some of the business that has taken place during the past six months:

Election of Officers:

At the May meeting Councillor John Kennedy was elected as Chairman with Councillor Brian Lyon taking over as Vice Chairman. Other officers and representatives agreed to stay in post whilst the coronavirus regulations remained in place.

Audit:

The Council has reviewed the annual internal audit report which indicated that there were no concerns regarding the financial and overall management of the Council during the past year and the necessary documents have now been forwarded to the External Auditors, appointed by the Government and based in London. Their report should be received in late September when it will be published.

Road Safety:

Speeding Traffic is still one of the most common complaint received by the Council and affects many roads throughout the Parish. The Council is in regular contact with the Police and the Safer Road Partnership in an effort to get some enforcement action but they are faced with ever increasing demands on their time.

The Council has recently purchased and installed additional road side data recorders and hopefully they are having some impact.

Streetlight up-grade:

Government statements have indicated that in an effort to reduce the carbon footprint all sodium street lighting has to be replaced by LED units, which are cheaper to power and maintain.

The Parish Council is responsible for many of the streetlights in the Parish and has decided to gradually have all the units changed. The latest area to be converted was in Church Close and Park Avenue and hopefully it will be possible to undertake work in other areas later in this financial year.

Community Environment Project:

The Council has received a grant of £1,500.00 from Shropshire Council, which has to be match funded and can be used to carry out a range of Highways tasks in the Parish, which would normally have been done by Shropshire Council staff. The grant enabled the Council to employ its own contractors and Mr. John Tait, a local resident, has been engaged to undertake this

work. Because of his qualifications and background experience he will also be undertaking other projects for the Council.

Parish Seats:

An inspection of many of the seats has been undertaken and resulted in three being replaced by new ones and others needing to be re-painted. Mr. Tait is carrying out this work.

Community Infrastructure Finance:

Members were delighted to hear that the Parish had received a considerable amount of unexpected finance from this fund which can be spent on agreed Parish projects. There is a need to carry out consultation with local residents and this will be a major item for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Highways:

The maintenance of the highways, pavements, road signs etc. is the responsibility of Shropshire Council and regular concerns are highlighted by the Parish and sent to the Highways Department for action. You are probably aware of the dire state of Shropshire Council's finance, which has been worsened by the need to use staff time and additional money to deal with the virus crisis. As a result many of the reported problems have not been dealt with but the Parish Council will continue to report problems and press for the existing ones to be actioned.

School Road Safety:

A road plan to improve the safety of children attending the local school has been approved by Shropshire Council and the Parish has been informed that the new parking measures will be in place before the school re-opens in September. Officers will be in attendance to take action against drivers who fail to observe the new regulations.

Litter and Dog Fouling:

Regular reports are received about this problem throughout the Parish and particularly in the Moat and Glebe areas. Residents are urged to observe the rules which are increasingly important during the current crisis. Please ensure that you clean up and remove your waste and put it in one of the bins or take it home.

Resignation:

Following the August meeting of the Council, Mrs. Jill Manley tendered her resignation from the Council. Jill has been an active Member for many years and has served as Vice Chairman and Chairman and been involved in a range of successful Council projects and her presence and support will be greatly missed.

Her resignation means there is a vacant seat on the Council and if you are interested in becoming the new Councillor please get in touch with the Clerk who will advise you of the procedure and the commitment involved.

General:

Agendas, Minutes and other information can be found on the Council's web site and if you have any queries, concerns or comments please get in touch with the Clerk by whichever method is most convenient for you.