

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN SHAWBURY VILLAGE HALL

ON WEDNESDAY MAY 25TH. AT 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor Mrs. J. Manley (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs. F. Medley, R. Bailey, D. Baldwin, S. Dodd, D. Roberts

Wing Commander B. Nichols and Mrs. G. Moore (RAF Shawbury)

Community Support Officer L. Heathcote (West Mercia Police)

Mr. J. Hughes (Shropshire Wildlife Trust)

The Parish Clerk

Thirty one members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs. S. Dove; Mrs. T. Howells. J. Kennedy and A. Brown.

2. Minutes of meeting held on May 27th. 2010

Chairman pointed out that under revised regulations the minutes of the APM had to be approved at the first Parish Council meeting after the event and this had been done. Copies were available if any one wished to have one.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by thanking everyone who had made the effort to attend and stated how pleased she was to see so many there.

In her report Jill extended her thanks to all the Councillors and the Clerk for their dedication and hard work throughout the year, which had enabled the Council to make progress on a number of projects. She reminded people that Councillors received no salary or allowances for the work they did. She pointed out that there was a vacancy on the Council due to the resignation of Simon Jones and expressed her thanks to Simon for the valued service he had given to the Council and the Community.

She went on to highlight a number of the projects which had been undertaken and thanked specific Councillors and many volunteers for their input into these activities. The Council was grateful to several organisations who had given grants and to local businesses that had sponsored the Floral Gateways and Erdington Close Play Area.

Jill went on to point out that as well as the new projects the Council had to finance a range of services which enabled the business to run smoothly. The money required for the total service, which came from the Council tax, was £42,000.00, which was supplemented by grants and sponsorship. The cost to individual households in the Parish was less than £40.00 per year.

A full account of the Chairman's report is attached to these minutes.

5. Moat Report

Mr. Brown was unable to attend the meeting but had sent in a detailed report which was distributed to those in attendance and a copy is attached to the minutes. The Chairman praised the development work that had been undertaken by the Moat Committee led by Adrian Brown which had created an excellent community asset.

6. Village Fun Day

Mrs. Manley stated that the day was now an established event and offered a range of activities for members of the community. It had been well supported last year even though the weather conditions were poor. Thanks were extended to all those who had helped.

This year the Fun Day was being held on July 17th. and would include a Craft Fair in the Village Hall. Offers of help to organise and run the day would be gratefully received.

7. United Charities

Mrs. Medley gave an outline of the objectives of the charity which is to give grants of money to local organisations and individuals in need of financial support. During the past year several grants had been made in both categories including giving hampers to large families and small donations to elderly residents. Help is also available to young people going to University.

Applications for aid should be made in writing to the Vicar who is Chairman of the Charity. There is currently a balance of £3,456.00

8. Parish Issues

Parishioners were given an opportunity to raise issues of concern and the following were brought to the Council's attention:

(a) Poynton Road:

Concerns expressed about speeding traffic on the road and the possibility of an accident involving children who appeared to be playing 'chicken' on the road.

CSO Heathcote promised to take some action and the Chairman agreed to include it on the agenda for the next Council meeting, having pointed out that the Council had in the past raised concerns about this with Shropshire Council.

(b) Blocked drain at the junction of Wem Road and Oak Drive

This was causing flooding of the Wem Road after heavy rain. Clerk promised to report it to the Highways Department and ask for urgent action.

9. Glebe Area Development:

Mr. Bailey informed the meeting that the Diocese had agreed to lease the area of the Glebe between the Recreation Ground and the River Roden but that to date we had not received full details of the proposals from the agents – Balfours. However it was anticipated that the Council would lease this area and would be seeking suggestions from the public as to how it should be developed. There had been a quick survey of the land and it was thought that it would be essential to have paths and gates put in place to allow easy access for all but there was a need to think carefully as to how best to use the area. Any suggestions could be passed to the Clerk or any of the Councillors.

10. Poynton Road/Recreation Ground Hedge.

The Chairman and Mr. Bailey explained the problems caused by gaps being made in the hedge and young people running out into the road. There had been several 'near misses' and the Council were fearful of there being a serious accident. Many attempts had been made to close the gaps but the repairs were quickly dismantled. Meetings had been held with the Police and Shropshire Council to try and resolve the problem but it had been impossible to find a suitable solution. It had been suggested that the whole hedge should be removed and replaced with wooden bollards but there had been a mixed reaction from Council Members. Mr. Bailey had suggested that a section of the hedge be removed. Both of these options would not stop youngsters running on to the road but would give motorists a clearer view.

The Council wished to assess the views of the community before taking any action. In response there were a number of suggestions put forward and the Chairman asked for a show of hands on the suggested actions. Only one person agreed that the hedge should be removed but a majority of those attending supported the idea of part of the hedge being taken down.

11. Community Service Awards

The Chairman gave details of the Council's decision to give awards to people nominated for outstanding service to the community and was pleased to announce that RAF Shawbury had offered to sponsor the awards. She introduced Wing Commander Bret Nichols from the base who presented awards to Heather Matthews, Beryl Horton, Tony Cook, Margaret Cook, Gail Matthews and Jan Bailey. Bret offered the apologies of the Station Commander, who was unable to attend but said that he was delighted to have the opportunity to carry out such a pleasant duty. He congratulated all the winners and complimented the Council for the initiative.

The Chairman thanked him for attending and for the sponsorship of the awards.

12. Talk by Mr. Hughes from Shropshire Wildlife Trust

John Hughes gave an interesting, thoughtful and challenging presentation on the actions he felt the Council should take when it took over the lease for the new area of the Glebe. He felt it was necessary to assess what was there to start with and how the area should be planned and developed to serve the whole community. He felt it would be an exciting project, which would offer a range of activities and attract grant aid for its development. He was prepared to give advice and help during the process.

The Chairman thanked him for his advice and felt sure the Council would be contacting him for help over the ensuing months.

13. Any other Business

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

Signed *Jill Manley Parish Council Chairman*

June 14th. 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past year has again been a busy and eventful one for the Parish Council and I make no apology for starting my report by thanking all the Council Members for their dedication and hard work. None of them receive any allowances or pay for Council work but serve on the Council to do their best to improve life for all the residents in the community. It is a demanding task which entails attending a lengthy meeting once a month and then working behind the scenes to progress decisions made at those meetings. I would also like to thank our Clerk for the work he does for the Council – his support is invaluable.

At this point I would like to remind everyone that there is a vacancy on the Council for one Member. A few months ago Simon Jones, a long standing Member resigned his seat because of pressure of work. He is amongst other things, a member of Shropshire Council's cabinet which is an extremely large commitment. We were sorry to lose Simon and the knowledge and experience he brought to the running of the Council. So if there is anyone who wishes to join us please, please get in touch with me or the Parish Clerk who will gladly give you all the details.

Just what have we been doing then? The following will be a resume of some of the major projects that have been going on. They will not be in order of importance but will certainly outline the wide variation of responsibility undertaken by your Council

Burial Ground

During the year we renewed the planning approval for the extended Burial Ground and the Bishop of Shrewsbury consecrated it one day during the summer. It became apparent that there was a need for some remedial work required in the current burial ground as some of the graves had sunk and others were standing proud. Also there were several graves where relatives were not keeping to the rules. This meant that it was becoming very difficult for the grass to be cut neatly and the area maintained to a high standard. We have been able to contact most of the relatives and they are taking action to follow the Council rules. In the autumn a team of volunteers will be carrying out work to level the area. We shall also be putting in some new paths and planting a hedge alongside the railings.

CCTV Camera

Last autumn we completed the necessary legal business and erected a CCTV Camera in the Council car park. The range of the camera covers the Recreation Ground, the car parks and the Village Hall and it is hoped that it will curb the anti social behaviour that used to take place in these areas.

Car Park

It has been decided to slightly extend and carry out maintenance work on the car park. A quotation has been accepted and work should start in the very near future.

Drop in Club

The Council gave the Village Hall Committee a pump priming grant to organise a drop in session where local people could call in for a drink and a chat. It has been running for several weeks now and is well attended and a popular event.

Floral Gateways

The Floral Gateways on the A53 have received many favourable comments and we have been able to get local businesses to sponsor each of them for which we are extremely grateful

Cycle Track

A substantial grant from Shropshire Council has enabled Richard Bailey and some helpers to make additions and improvements to the Cycle Dirt Track. It has proven to be a popular activity for many young people.

Firework Evening

The evening last November was hugely successful with an excellent turn out and it is now firmly established as an annual Council event. Many thanks go to Richard Bailey and his team of helpers who ensure that the evening runs smoothly and that the income more than covers the expenditure meaning that there is no cost to the Council

Fun Day

This is now becoming an annual feature of the Council's activities and last year's event proved to be a popular event even though the weather did not favour us. The date of this year's event has been changed to July 17th. and we welcome support in the planning and organisation of the day.

Church Street Lighting

Over the past few years the Council has received a number of complaints about the standard of lighting in Church Street and we have just completed an upgrade of the lanterns and hope there will be a big improvement when the dark nights return.

Seats

Additional seats have been placed at various locations in the Parish and in the Moat area and appear to have been well received and used.

Moat

With the help of a dedicated group of volunteers the Moat area has been transformed over the past few years, Adrian Brown is leading the project and has devoted many hours in ensuring that the area is a delightful place to visit. He will be talking in detail about this area a bit later on this evening.

Glebe Development

Extended negotiations have been taking place with representatives of Lichfield Diocese who have indicated that they are prepared to lease to the Council the area of land between the Recreation Ground and the River. Richard Bailey will be outlining some of the plans the Council has and seeking your suggestions as to how it should be used.

Litter Collection

Council Members believe that it is essential that efforts are made to keep the environment clean and tidy and are one of a few Councils that employ someone to do this on a daily basis

As well as funding all these projects the Council also has to finance the management of the Council and its assets. These include employing a Clerk; office expenses; streetlight maintenance; electricity

for the lights; regular grass cutting; insurance; maintenance and annual safety checks on all the play equipment; rent of the playing field, Moat and car park; running a web site.

All this activity is carried out within a budget of £42,000 which is provided by Shropshire Council from the income from your Council Tax which works out at less than £40 per household each year. This is then supplemented by the Parish Council seeking grants and donations from other sources