

SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH. 2025 at 7.00pm.

Public Session:

There were no members of the public present.

Present:

Mr. P. Sharp (Chairman)

Mr. M. Roberts

Mr. A. Foster

Mr. K. Pickering

Mr. J. Vernon

Mrs. Jill Manley

Mr. T. Davies-Moss

Mr. R. Pinches

In Attendance:

Shropshire Councillor Mr. S. Jones.

Flt. Lt. D. Hewitt (RAF Shawbury).

The Parish Clerk.

24/125 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. A. Brown, Mr. C. Forshaw and Mrs. J. Herbert.

24/126 Disclosure of Personal or Prejudicial Interests.

No interests were declared.

24/127 Minutes of Meeting held on January 14th. at 7.00pm.

The minutes of the meeting having been circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record following an amendment to the date.

Additional Item:

The Chairman reported that following the recruitment process he and the Vice Chairman had interviewed the most suitable candidate for the post of Clerk, to replace the current Clerk who was retiring at the end of May. The interview had gone well and they were seeking Council support for the appointment of Mr. Daniel Evans who had been in attendance at an earlier meeting. There was unanimous support for the proposal.

24/128 Matters Arising.

(a) Burial Ground maintenance (24/116(a)).

Councillor J. Vernon reported that Mr. Matt Thorpe was keen to undertake the identified work in the Burial Ground and would be submitting a quotation together with a copy of an insurance policy and a risk assessment when a few outstanding issues were resolved.

(b) Church Close - footpaths, verges, etc. (24/121(b)).

Repair and maintenance of the footpaths and verges was proving to be a difficult project because of the complexity of the deeds for the adjacent properties. The Chairman suggested that a good deal of investigative work was needed and suggested any further action should be delayed until the new Councils were elected.

(c) A53 Road markings (24/116(b))

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones apologised for not having obtained a written statement from the Highways Department confirming that the repaired signs met legal standards. Any further work was unlikely to be undertaken as Shropshire Council were only dealing with urgent projects which would become apparent in his report later in the meeting.

(d) Wem Road Trees (24/117).

Following further complaints from a resident, the Estates Department at RAF Shawbury had confirmed that all the trees they had responsibility for were inspected regularly by qualified arborists and any maintenance problems were quickly resolved. Details had been passed to the resident who was still unhappy with the report and it was agreed that he should be advised to send any further concerns to the Community Relations Officer at RAF Shawbury.

(e) Moreton Mill Bridge (24/117).

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones stated that he was still awaiting a response from the contractors.

(f) Scrambling Events (24/121(a)).

The Vice Chairman had raised concerns about the number of events taking place within the Parish but discussion appeared to indicate that they were actually taking place on land in High Ercall Parish. He agreed to monitor future events to try and identify the exact location.

(g) Mini Mart Light 24/121(ii):

The problem had been brought to the attention of the police when they carried out a Community Visit and the problem had been resolved.

(h) Council Election:

It was confirmed that the election for the new Council would take place on May 1st. and every effort would be taken to make residents aware of the event and to obtain details and stand for election.

24/129 Correspondence.

Members considered the attached list of correspondence received by the Clerk since the last meeting and forwarded to Members, noting that where necessary appropriate actions had or were being taken and responses made.

24/130 Accounts and Financial Statement:(a) Payment of the following accounts was approved:

Mr. J. Wilson	Salary (February)	£536.17
Inland Revenue	PAYE & NI (Feb.)	£375.96
Mr. J. Wilson	Expenses (Jan)	£61.50
Mr. M. Varndell	Litter collection and disposal (February)	£500.00
Shawbury Village Hall	Housing CTV Recorder	£250.00
Mr. R. Bailey	Repairs to Floral Gateway	£160.02

(b) Financial Statement.

The financial statement was tabled and approved.

24/131 Section 137 Grants:

Applications were considered and the following grants were made to organisations who had applied: Shawbury Scouts and Guides £500.00: Hope House £250.00: The Severn Hospice £250.00.

24/132 Community Awards:

The following nominations were approved:

Mrs. Karen Lloyd, Mr. Adrian Brown, Mrs Tracie Howells, Mr. John Tait, Mrs. Gemma Richards and Mr, James Plaskett.

24/133 Exchange of Information.(a) Additional Items for inclusion on the next Agenda.

No items were raised.

(b) Urgent issues regarding the following:(i) Highways:

A local resident had raised concerns about the danger to children caused by speeding traffic as they were taken to school alongside the A53 from the Aries Estate and had asked for railings to be erected alongside a section of the road.

The issue had been reported on 'Fix My Street' and the police had been asked to carry out speed checks but it was felt that it was unlikely that Shropshire Council would currently fund any development.

(ii) Streetlights:

No concerns raised.

(iii) Other:Shawbury Fun Day:

It was agreed to give a grant of £500 to support the event which was being held on Saturday, 31st. May.

24/134 Reports from:**(a) Police:**

The following incidents had been recorded in December:

Burglary – 1 (Oak Drive).

Anti-Social Behaviour – 1 (Carradine Close).

Public Order 2 (Glebelands -1; Church Close -1).

Violence/Sexual - 4 (Glebelands -2; Leasowes Park -2).

PCSOs Liz Walmsley and Olly Morris were in attendance and reported that the police were continuing to monitor unwelcome activity in the Brickyard Area and at the empty house in Church Street. Visits had been made to the local school and the speeding project was on-going.

The Chairman asked for the speeding project team to carry out checks on the section of the A53 from the traffic lights to the roundabout.

(b) RAF Shawbury:

Flt. Lt. Hewitt reported that there was no additional information to add to the items which were published in the January Minutes. However the charity 'Combat Stress' have teamed up with 'Digging History UK' to raise funds through metal detecting events and are looking for land that can be used. Any land owner willing to help is asked to contact Combat Stress through the Engagement and Media Team at RAF Shawbury.

The Vice Chairman reported that at a recent meeting he learned that the BMX Track built by RAF Shawbury was still in place and he had asked if it might be made available for community use. Flt. Lt Hewitt stated that he been made aware of the request and that Health and Safety issues were being addressed, with an expected decision by the 15th. March.

(c) Shropshire Council:

Shropshire Councillor S. Jones gave a detailed report on financing road maintenance projects, pointing out that only urgent issues were being addressed. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

24/135 Planning:**(a) Applications:**

No applications had been received since the last meeting.

(b) The following application had been approved:

Wytheford House, Wytheford Road – development of a free range egg unit with associated equipment, hardstanding and landscaping (24/01544/FUL).

24/136 Committee and Other Reports.

The Vice Chairman reported that he had attended the Executive Committee Meeting on the 4th. February when a 'Council Election Briefing Document' had been tabled. This contained valuable and interesting information and he would arrange for a copy to be circulated to Members.

24/137 Press Matters.

The Chairman and Clerk will co-ordinate reports to the Parish Newsletter and the local Facebook page.

24/138 Date of Next Council Meeting:

Tuesday 11th. March 2025 at 7.00pm.

Approved as a true record of the Meeting.

Signed: P. Sharp (Chairman) Date: 11th. March 2025

Correspondence received since January Meeting.

Chairman – Well Being Benches.*

Heather Ford – Application for Grant for brownies, Guides etc.

Shropshire Project Gigabit Update.*

Flt. Lt. Hewitt – Wem Trees update.*

Claire Crackett – Lord Lieutenants Garden Party invite.

Graham Baker – Wem Road Trees.

Chris Mellings – Well Being Benches.

Shawbury Parish Newsletter.*

Robin Henderson – VE Day.*

Severn Trent – Newsletter.*

Amanda Roberts – Minutes from January meeting of Area Committee.*

Flt. Lt. Hewitt – Wem Trees – further report.*

ALC – Avian Flu outbreak.*

Gail Power – Newsletters.*

Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital Trust – Newsletter.*

Resident – Removal of Post Box in Poynton Road.

Shropshire Council – Avian Flu Regulations.*

Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital – Health Up-date Meeting.*

Tracie Howells- Shawbury Fun Day.*

Laura Howells – Tipping Information.*

Chris Mellings – Information Items.*

Dianne Dorrell – Weekly Briefing.*

Resident – Safety Issues on the A53.

Cllr. K. Pickering – Faulty light in Church Close.

Resident – Wem Road Trees.

Jamie Robinson North Shropshire Police report.*

Report from. Shropshire Councillor S. Jones regarding financing road maintenance projects.

'The condition of the roads in the North of the county is not unique within Shropshire, or indeed across the country with almost all highway authorities struggling to keep on top of defects with numbers significantly rising year on year which has been exacerbated in Shropshire by recent poor winters and flooding which has severely stretched resources. Surveys of Shropshire's roads show that 14.5% (or 463 miles) of the highway network in Shropshire is considered to be in need of significant repair. Whilst this is obviously disappointing Shropshire is performing better than the latest published national average (source ALARM survey March 2022) for roads in England across all highway authorities which showed that 18% (or 36,918 miles) of roads maintained by local authorities are considered to be in need of significant repair.

Government funding for maintenance of roads has been insufficient to address the decline of highway networks for many years and this has been recognised by the Department for Transport with the introduction of its Pot Hole funding. Disappointingly however, Government funding to authorities has been frozen this year and for the next 2 years as well, despite unprecedented levels of inflation in maintenance costs, meaning that authorities are able to do significantly less with the funding they receive. Many authorities have been topping up budgets over the years, however with overall local authority grants continuing to decrease, many authorities have had to stop this additional funding, and over 56% of highway authorities saw their budget's cut.

Shropshire Council modelling shows that any extra funding for next year is still only sufficient to provide a small improvement in condition and this is being further challenged by spiralling inflation in highways maintenance which is seeing costs rise by over 30% for some activities. Notwithstanding the above, a significant amount of carriageway resurfacing work has been carried out in the North of Shropshire and further sites have been identified for inclusion in the future Capital programme in the next couple of years.

On page 5 of the latest state of the asset report it says:

Future planned funding is approximately £14 M (45%) lower than the lifecycle funding needs.

- All asset types are not receiving sufficient funding to fulfil their steady-state lifecycle requirements.*
- Funding for carriageways has the greatest deficit compared to the calculated life-cycle requirements.*
- The planned investment in footways is just a sixth of the lifecycle funding need.*
- The funding for street lighting and traffic signals remains much lower than the long-term lifecycle funding need. The lifecycle funding is based on the regular replacement of assets according to a stated service life. However, there has been significant investment in low energy lighting on the existing stock which may extend the service life of these assets and reducing the future lifecycle funding requirement.*

Correspondence received since January Meeting.