

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – MAY

Two Council meetings were held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 14th. May. The first was the Annual Parish Meeting which was an open meeting, giving residents a chance to meet local Councillors and discuss topics of interest. Unfortunately no residents joined the Councillors to hear reports from Councillor Merv Roberts who chaired the meeting, Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones, P.C. Jack Harper from Wem Police and Mr. Richard Bailey on behalf of Shawbury United Charities.

Councillor Merv Richards gave the report on Council activity over the past year explaining that he had been asked to do this as both the Chairman and Vice Chairman were unable to attend because of health issues. He confirmed that it had been a busy year and outlined many of the important developments that had taken place during the past twelve months. He expressed thanks for the support the Council received from many excellent contractors and for the dedicated service of his Council colleagues and others who carry out a host of jobs seen and un-seen, without being paid for their work. This included overseeing the burial ground, the children's play areas, the Moat and Glebe, the defibrillator, litter picking and much more.

Reporting on Shropshire Council activities, Shropshire Councillor Simon Jones had prepared a very comprehensive written report covering amongst other items - Finance and Resources, Climate Change and the Environment, Transport, Economic Growth, Planning, Adult Social Care, Children and Education and Housing. The Council were facing with increased demand especially for social care and there was a need to review services to remain within the available budget.

P.C. Jack Harper from Wem Police joined the meeting and apologised for not being there at the start as he had been called to deal with an emergency situation. He stated that at Wem the team consisted of him and two PCSO officers and they were responsible for the day to day policing of Wem and all the surrounding villages. They tried to visit Shawbury as often as possible both by car and on foot, pointing out that it is a relatively low crime area although shop lifting seemed to be a concern at present. The team were aware of earlier concerns raised regarding drug use in the Glebe/Moat areas and this was being monitored.

The final report was from Mr. Richard Bailey who gave an up-date on the Charities membership and work, pointing out that he was still acting as Chairman as a replacement Vicar had not been appointed. He was pleased to report that two new members had been recruited and reminded the Council that both seats on the Committee allocated to the Council, were held by past Councillors who had served for several years.

Full details of all the reports are included in the minutes of the meeting and a copy can be obtained on request from the Parish Clerk.

The second meeting was the Council's AGM, when Councillor Paul Sharp was elected as the new Chairman and Councillor Merv Richards as Vice Chairman, replacing Councillors Brian Lyon and Adrian Brown who had both resigned. Other Members were elected as representatives on various committees and appointed to oversee aspects of Council work.

During the meeting it was confirmed that the new shed had been ordered for erection on the burial ground, that two members of the public had indicated an interest in the vacant seat on the Council but had yet to officially apply for the post and that a Flag of Peace had been purchased and would be flown from the Church tower on D-Day.

The major item on the agenda was to consider the erection of new fencing round the Playing Field and it was unanimously decided that continuing to replace rotting posts was not a realistic proposition and that a metal one was required. This had been widely publicised as the suggestions for hedging or trees was not an option because the purpose was to prevent unwanted vehicles accessing the field. Quotations were then considered and the company selected was Ray Parry Playgrounds Ltd., a company well known to the Council as it carries out maintenance work on the children's play areas. Subject to approval from the Diocese who own the land, work will start soon and the plan is to erect the new fence inside the current one and remove the existing posts as they rot away.

As usual at all meetings, planning applications and a wide range of correspondence was considered and responded to.

The next meeting is on June 11th. when the Annual Audit documents will be considered Further details and as stated earlier copies of reports can be obtained from the Clerk at shawburypcclerk@talktalk.net or by 'phoning him on 01743 236810.