

SHRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL - PARISH MEETING NOTES
09.04.2018

The Chairman Councillor Michael Partridge opened the Parish Meeting.

Present Councillors; Michael Partridge, Richard Tesh, Rebecca Mosedale, Colin Honan, Peter Benkwitz, Naomi Thomas & 8 Members of the Public.

Apologies; Councillor Anna Dorrell, CSO Vanessa Snape & County Councillor Phil Grove.

The Chairman outlined the objectives of SPC are to seek harmony and progress in a democratic way, to best serve and represent the interests of our community and to improve all aspects of our parish life wherever possible.

The Chairman gave a detailed report as follows;

1 SPC comprises seven Councillors:

Michael Partridge	Chairman
Richard Tesh	Vice Chair
Naomi Thomas	
Peter Benkwitz	
Anna Dorrell	
Rebecca Mosedale	
Colin Honan	
+	
Stephen Clee	Clerk

Pip Armstrong and Caroline Norris resigned during the year. We are grateful for their service. Rebecca Mosedale and Colin Honan have been elected during the year.

All declarations of interest have been duly completed and filed with MHDC and are valid until the election in May 2019.

There have been eight meetings held in the year including two Annual Parish Meetings, as well as a number of working group meetings and discussions and various site visits.

2 Assets:

The asset register is available for perusal if so desired. Principal assets are as listed below:

- Shrawley Parish Hall.
- Land, Obelisk and Seat at Millennium Green.
- Village Barbecue.
- Telephone Kiosk and Defibrillator (2) equipment.
- Litter Bins (2).

3 Budgets and Finance:

DRAFT forecast	Opening Balance	£	11170
	Income	11870	
	Expenditure	7989	
	Surplus	3881	
	Closing Balance		15051

The closing balance includes a £3356 transparency grant not yet spent. When netted by that amount the balance of £11695 is twice the annual precept which is a little higher than recommended.

The transparency grant is government inspired and is available for improvement of web site activity, digitisation, equipment – all to improve visibility and accountability with good governance.

The precept was again £5500 and will be the same for 2018/19. The 2018/19 Budget will be similar to that shown above.

Additionally the Lengthsman's income and expenditure was just under £800 for the year. Excellent internal and external audit reports have been received and risk assessment has been undertaken. Richard Tesh is to be thanked for his management of this work together with the Clerk.

4 Grants:

SPC made various grants in the year amounting to £600.00

5 Speeding:

The Safety Partnership cameras have been operating in both directions on the B4196 during the year. There has been a large number of prosecutions to date.

The Vehicle Activated speed sign continues to operate in the village and another is proposed that will show actual speed to drivers. It is thought that the signs showing actual speeds have a major calming influence with drivers' associating such cameras with prosecution.

White gates are about to be erected, wheelie bin 30 mph signs have been purchased and distributed, road markings have been added to and other speed calming ideas are under discussion.

6 Planters, Litter Bins, Grit Bins and Xmas Tree:

Planters, signage and litter bins are maintained in the village. As mentioned, white gates are to be erected at both ends of the village on the B4196 as part of identity and speed calming measures.

A large Christmas Tree with lights was again erected at the Village Hall as a joint project with the Village Hall Trustees - praised by all.

Action is in hand to procure an extra grit bin for the New Inn hill part of the B4196.

7 Planning Applications and Policy:

A number of planning applications have been dealt with during the year - some being supported and others being recommended for refusal. The Parish Council continues its fair minded policy of viewing applications in the best interests of the community as well as considering the rights of applicants. SPC has a written planning application review process that is available for inspection.

Settlement boundary guidance is always borne in mind, but your Parish Council continues to reserve the right of flexibility where occasional applications outside the settlement boundary may be supported when exceptional merit so dictates. This policy now has to be

operated alongside the new South Worcestershire Development Plan published by MHDC.

8 Footpaths:

The Shrawley Footpath Officer continues to inspect, manage and report on footpaths in the area, and no major issues are outstanding.

9 Training:

Your two new Councillors are to attend training sessions covering good governance, procedures, regulations and good practice. The Chairman has attended the Parish Council Chairmen's training course during the year to update appropriate knowledge in line with latest edicts.

10 Broadband:

01905 numbers are now well served by fibre cabling and good speeds are prevailing. Whilst 01299 numbers are enjoying improved service, there is still much to do to complete satisfactory coverage in the northern part of the village. Work continues to press the authorities on this matter.

11 Telephone Box and Defibrillators (2):

The telephone box is now adopted and owned by the village and has been refurbished by Pete Knott for which we are grateful. The defibrillators are located in the telephone box and in the lobby of the Village Hall. Two training sessions have been held for residents and more are planned in the future.

12 Neighbourhood Watch:

NW continues to operate as it is thought to be a useful crime deterrent initiative.

13 Weeds, Litter, Hedges, Verges, Effluent, Pot Holes etc:

Work goes on to keep the village looking good, it is never ending..... Further initiatives on litter picking are to take place including community volunteer effort as well as Lengthsman contracting.

14 Projects for the Future:

Your Parish Council wishes to undertake one or two forward thinking projects for the benefit of the community during the next twelve months. Residents were asked for ideas recently in the Parish Magazine but apart from reference to litter picking (mentioned elsewhere) a disappointing nil return was posted. Have a think and let us know what you would like to see?

15 Offensive Graffiti:

There have been a few occasions where offensive graffiti has been posted in and around Shrawley Woods. Please let it be known that the Police are involved and be vigilant to report culprits indulging in such disgusting practice.

16 Notices:

- The Parish Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th May at 7.45 p.m.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their inputs on your behalf during the year. Also, may I thank Stephen Clee (Parish Council Clerk), Phil Grove (WCC Councillor) and Pam Cumming (MHDC Councillor) for their huge support and you all for taking an interest this evening.

District Councillor Pam Cumming reported on MHDC going forwards with a fortnightly bin collection being introduced to make savings of £250k p.a. She stated MHDC were going forward with closer working arrangements with Wychavon DC starting with the Planning Department later this year. She confirmed MHDC were moving their staff into the main building at Malvern thus freeing up Brunell House & Portland House for disposal.

John Lee - Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee gave a verbal report. He stated the VH had a septic tank problem and if it was not rectified the VH may not be open at the end of 2018. He confirmed there was a damp problem in the rear part of the hall and this was being addressed.

Chris Freeman – Horticultural Society, stated they have a membership of approximately 30 members. Plans were underway for visits to gardens in the summer & speakers in the winter months.

Richard Tesh – Vernon & Bourne Charity; reported they administer the interest on the account at these meetings for people in need in the parish and grants towards children in the village going to university.

A member of the public stated a local footpath was difficult to use by dog owners due to barbwire blocking its passage. This matter had been reported to the parish footpaths officer.

The Chairman thanked everyone present and closed the meeting at 20.45pm.