

GREAT NESS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.00pm Tuesday 7 June 2016

Nesscliffe Village Hall

MINUTES

1. **Welcome - Opening Comments** – In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Miss Gilbert welcomed everyone present.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Bustard, Tailyour, Nunn.
3. **To approve the minutes of the 5 May 2015** – It was **RESOLVED** to sign the minutes of the 5 May 2015 as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising from the minutes** - None
5. **Parish Council's Chairman's report** –

Planning - From April 2015 to March 2016 the Parish Council had reviewed and made decisions on 34 new planning applications compared to 56 the previous year. It was reported that at a meeting, Cllr Mal Pryce and Andi Mortimer gave and update on Shropshire's SAMDev which was adopted in December 2015 with no legal challenge and so was now in force. Appeals were being fought successfully on policy with only 3 lost mainly around speculative development in the countryside. An early review for 2026 to 2036 had already started and options on housing and economic growth would be prepared for consultation later in the year. The Exec sought assurance that parish councils would be consulted on the review process.

The Parish Council have also pursued the change from 'Clusters' to 'Open Countryside' and we have been informed that Shropshire Council propose to conduct a 'partial review' of the Local Plan (including elements of both the Core Strategy and SAMDev) which is due to start this year and will provide an opportunity to review the status of the cluster during the new Plan period from 2016 – 2036.

Co-option - On the 2 June 2015 Sue Peters was co-opted onto the Parish Council and she has been and continues to be a valid addition to the Parish Council.

Youth Club - As you are all well aware, Shropshire Council has had to make many cuts to their budget and the Shropshire Youth Service was one of them. This meant that there was a risk of the Nesscliffe Youth Club closing, but Shropshire Youth Association came to our rescue and the Parish Council in partnership with this organisation have worked together to ensure that this very successful Youth Club stays open. The Parish Council took the decision, due to the cuts by Shropshire Council, to help the Youth Club to stay open by paying for a Qualified Youth Worker. This has been achieved by increasing our Precept. Over this year, Cllr Eleanor Gilbert who is also a voluntary worker at the Youth Club has reported on the success of this club and the many fund raising events they have undertaken. We would like to thank not only Eleanor, but Mathew Mead for all their hard work in keeping the Youth Club running.

Collapse of Adcote Mill Bridge - The Parish Council has been in dialogue with Richard Knight the head of the P3 Team at Shropshire Council and we have at last received confirmation that costings have been obtained and negotiations will be taking place with land owners and all concerned shortly. We are all looking forward to this project coming to a conclusion very soon.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) - As you all know we had Andy Davies to the Parish Council meeting with reference to the AED and training. We have many residents who are very interested in this training, but for one reason or other the Parish Council has found it difficult to arrange training. We have in

the village a new resident who has agreed to help with the AED training and we will be hearing from him very soon.

New Website and Transparency Code - The Clerk explained a while ago now that Shropshire Council 'ShropNet' free website that the Parish Council was using was coming to an end as it was not fit for purpose and due to the cuts, was going to be discontinued at the end of March this year.

The Clerk attending website training and has developed for the Parish Council a new website provided by Hugo Fox which is also free and user friendly.

Also the Government has brought out the Transparency Code Act and all Parish and Town Councils have to publish certain documents on their website to show they are open and transparent. The government also provided funding to the smaller Parish Council, such as Great Ness and Little Ness, to provide training, website development and equipment such as a new laptop and scanner to ensure the Transparency Code was being carried out.

Police - We have not seen a lot of police participation at the Parish Council meeting during 2015-2016 due to the cuts they have also sustained, but Local Police Officer, Jonathan Summerfield has regularly updated us with his Police Report that is also published on the website. We do thank Jonathan for these valid reports.

Conclusion - Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Parish Councillors and residents not only for their public participation but for their support during my year as Chairman. **Cllr David Nunn.**

Mrs Zia Robins reported that the Heritage Project is in abeyance at the moment, but if funding can be found it will continue. There is no meeting arranged as present for Adcote Bridge repairs.

6. **Finance Report** – The Clerk referred to the Receipts and Payments and reported that the Parish Council's precept has risen due to funding the Qualified Youth Worker, but consultation with the residence at meetings had taken place and agreed. They have a new website and successfully obtained £1720.44 Transparency grant to cover the cost of a new laptop, scanner and training for the new website. Although there was a carry forward of £18,587.62, this will be needed if the cuts in Shropshire Council continue and Parish and Town Councils have to take on more responsibility for minor maintenance including the mobile library.

7. **Reports** –

a) **Police** – Local Police Officer Jonathan Summerfield reported that he has been covering this area for 6/7 years and there have been changes such as officers moved around and he introduced CSO Joe Bradley. They are still based at Pontesbury Police Station and also undertake surgeries in the mobile libraries. If you would like us to attend one of your meetings, please let us know and we will ensure it is booked in the diary. We have been liaising with schools and with Mathew Mead, Shropshire Council Community Action Officer and they also have helicopters and dogs available if needed. The crime in this area is very low, but you did have a cannabis farm. We have also been undertaking speed enforcement in the village, but please go onto twitter to see what is going on in your area.

Mrs Zia Robins informed LPO Summerfield about the number of drivers using their mobile phones while driving their vehicles. LPO Summerfield asked her to take down the registration and ring it into the office.

b) **Unitary Council** – In the absence of Cllr David Roberts, Mathew Mead reported that Shropshire Council has experienced a lot of challenges over the last 12 months. It appears that the Revenue Grant from the Government will be reduced and down to zero by 2020. This will affect several services such as libraries, leisure centres and country parks. Mathew suggested that both he and Clare Fildes from Shropshire Council Outdoor Partnership come to one of the Parish Council's meeting to speak to members about ideas they have for Nesscliffe Country Park. He reported that both Town and Parish Councils were having meetings to try to work together in partnership to save as much money as possible. The new leader of Shropshire Council, Malcolm Pate, are working very closely with Chris Edwards the Chief Executive and meetings are being held with Town and Parish Councils.

c) **School** – No representative present.

d) **Village Hall** – No representative present.

- e) **Playing Field** – Cllr Miss Gilbert reported that the Cabin door has been repaired.
 - f) **Youth Club** – Cllr Miss Gilbert reported that it has been a very successful year and their last event of the summer is the Sponsored Walk on the 27 June and she has a sponsor form if anyone would like to sign up. The money is going towards the Youth Club outing to the Safari Park on the 10 July and Birches Travel has very kindly reduced the price of the coach by £40.00.
 - g) **Any others not listed** – None.
8. Open forum where members of the public may raise any subject for the exchange of information and general discussion.

Jane Burgoyne said that now SAMDev has been adopted and approved and why are there so many planning applications being granted as surely they should look at our Parish Plan to see that we do not need them. Mathew Mead informed her that the Development Statement is very hard to argue with even if the development is on the borders of a large settlement that has a school, shop, post office, garage etc. SAMDev is an improvement, but no guarantee that houses will not be built in this area. Mathew suggested that every 3-5 years the Parish Councils Parish Plan should be updated and it is not Shropshire Council that has changed its policy it is the Government policies on planning.

Meeting closed: 7.50pm