

SHRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015-16  
20.04.2016

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

1 SPC comprises seven Councillors:

Michael Partridge	Chairman
Pip Armstrong	Vice Chair
Richard Tesh	
Naomi Thomas	
Caroline Norris	
Peter Benkwitz	
Anna Dorrell	
Stephen Clee	Clerk

Stephen Clee was appointed in November 2015 to replace the previous clerk, Mark Keld. There have been nine meetings held in the year.

2 Assets:

An asset schedule is available for perusal if so desired. The ground behind the Obelisk by the Churchyard is a village asset and requires significant maintenance, which is partly done professionally at the moment. Volunteers for this maintenance would be helpful and would ensure better use by the community.

3 Budgets and Finance:

	£
Opening Balance	8323
Income	7301
Expenditure	5816
Surplus	1485
Closing Balance	9808

The precept was £5500 and will be the same for 2016/17. The 2016/17 Budget is a similar model to that shown above. The closing balance is in line with common practice at 1.78 x precept.

Additionally the Lengthsman's income and expenditure was £852 for the year. Excellent internal and external audit reports were received and risk assessment and bank account relocation has been completed during the year. Richard Tesh is to be thanked for his management of this work.

4 Grants:

SPC made grants in the year to the Friends of St. Mary's, the Parish Magazine, Great Witley School, Great Witley Scouts, Abberley Scouts and the Norma Parsons Day Centre.

5 Custodian Trustee Role:

as The Parish Council is Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall, and as such holds the deeds owner on behalf of the community. All operating matters are delegated to the Village Hall Managing Trustees, who are responsible for all normal administration. The deeds had been securely held by the Parish Council's previous solicitors, who were liquidated in 2014.

As a result of that process, the deeds for the Village Hall have been lost by the solicitors in question. The Parish Council has now appointed Morton Fisher Group as it's solicitor and with them, we are now in the process of having new deeds constructed with the Land Registry. The same process applies to the land known as Millennium Green by the Obelisk, the deeds of which were also lost.

6 Speed Cameras:

The Safety Partnership cameras have been operating in both directions on the B4196 for some time now. There have been approaching two hundred prosecutions to date and it is believed that a speed calming influence is prevailing. The Vehicle Activated speed sign also continues to operate in the village.

7 Planters, Litter Bins and Xmas Tree:

Planters and signage have been erected at the three entrances to the village. Pip Armstrong has done a lot of work associated with this project. Three litter bins have now been erected. The bins are emptied as part of MHDC refuse collection services.

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.

8 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 it's fair minded policy of viewing applications in the best interests of the community as well as considering the rights of applicants.

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 recently published by MHDC.

9 Local Plan:

Your Parish Council has decided to embark on the creation of an updated Local Plan, to establish community views on a variety of subjects, including planning policy. This initiative is instead of a Neighbourhood Plan, but it may be converted to a NP later if so desired. This Local Plan will guide your Councillors when making strategy and decisions, with an understanding of community opinion on relevant matters.

10      Footpaths:

A new Footpath Officer has been recently appointed.

11      War Memorial:

Some work is required to restore the war memorial to good condition.

Whilst a grant is available for 75% of this work, some fundraising by interested parties may be required.

12      Training:

All of your Councillors have attended complete comprehensive training sessions on good governance, procedures, regulations and good practice during the year. Your Parish Council is therefore up to date on performance requirements and all members are certified competent by Worcestershire County Association of Local Councillors. Further updated training will be undertaken when appropriate.

13      Broadband:

At last, progress has been made to better speeds and update the service on 01299 numbers to the north of the village. Concerning Ombersley exchange 01905 numbers, fast speed via optical fibre has reached Holt and forecasts are that Shrawley may benefit early next year. Meanwhile, Airband continues to give a good fast alternative solution.

14      Queen's Birthday:

has      A garden party event is to be held at the New Inn on the 11th June. The Parish Council decided not to compete and so hopes that you will all attend the pub function and help to make it a grand whole village celebration.

15      New Inn:

The New Inn is now finally registered as a Community Asset with the protection that brings for the future, after a number of attempts by your Parish Council. Your Parish Council has again successfully secured rural rate relief for the pub, helping in a small way also to secure its future. The survey done by Pip Armstrong, showed much support from the community for helping to maintain the presence of an improved pub in the village.

Sue and Charlie are the new tenants and they are really having a go. The pub has won the CAMRA Pub of the Winter award and it is now a Cask Marque Pub accredited for excellent ales! Admiral Inns may have been prompted by the Community Asset initiative and of course by the tenants, and they now plan significant investment there in the Autumn.

16      Telephone Box:

The telephone box is now adopted/owned by the village and is to be refurbished and turned into a tourist information point.

17 Bus Shelter(s):

The provision of one or maybe two bus shelters, depending on costs, is under consideration.

18 CCTV:

Provision of CCTV has been under consideration after some criminal activity in the village. It has been decided not to proceed.

19 Church Lane/Hillhampton Lane Speeding and HGVs:

Discussions are in hand re increasing numbers of HGVs at both ends of the lane and to see if the 30mph limit can be extended.

20 Security of Property Event:

A property marking event was held for the benefit of all - those attending thought it was a great success.

21 Neighbourhood Watch:

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

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

Work goes on to keep the village looking good, it is never ending.....

23 Notices:

- PCC Election Thursday 5th May
- EEC Referendum Thursday 23rd June
- Parish Council AGM and election of Officers Tuesday 24th May

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, Phil Grove and Pam Cumming for their huge support and you all for taking an interest this evening.

Michael Partridge

Chairman  
Shrawley Parish Council