

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RUSHBURY PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2019 AT 8.00PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs M Pye.

2. **PRESENT**

Councillors M McFarland (Chair), Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley, Clerk C Maclean and 8 Parishioners.

3. **MINUTES**

Mr P Bodimeade proposed and Dr C Stevenson seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2018 be adopted and it was resolved that the Chairman sign these as a true record.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr M McFarland, Parish Council Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the activities of the Parish Council through the last year.

4.1 **Wall under Heywood Speed Limit**

Shropshire Council were required to enter into and re-advertise the consultation period for the changes due to the expiry of the 2-year period. This has concluded and passed to the Highways team for installation of the new remaining signs. Awaiting details when this will be concluded at which point the Police will adopt.

4.2 **Rushbury Road Widening**

Proposals made to install step ups near the school. Shropshire Council agreed to the proposal but no funds available to implement.

4.3 **Potholes**

B4371 resurfaced between Easthope crossroads and Church Stretton A49 junction. Some gaps remain although the general condition is much better. Whilst a blanket closure had been introduced, understanding of the sections being worked on did improve as the work progressed.

4.4 **Longville Arms**

No movement on the planning applications with Shropshire Council has been seen. Noted that approval had been given to the application relating to the Wenlock Edge Inn.

4.5 **Planning Applications**

Number of applications had been received throughout the year with none receiving any objections.

4.6 **Joint Meeting with Village Hall Committee**

A joint meeting with village hall committee members was held on 3rd April 2019 where consideration was given to the proposal that a caretaker be employed to manage the hall on a day to day basis. It was also suggested that some of the site could be gifted to the local housing association to create 2 affordable houses for local people with one being tied to provide accommodation for a local employee.

4.7 **Change of Clerk**

The retirement of the former Parish Clerk mid-year was noted and thanks was given to Mrs Val Sagar for her dedication and contribution given during her 36 years of service. He concluded his report by thanking his fellow councillors and the clerk for their commitment and support throughout the year.

5. **SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor Mrs C Motley outlined the key activities and challenges facing Shropshire Council and the communities.

5.1 **General Book Balancing and Governmental Decision Making**

Current financial environment remains challenging especially in relation to balancing the books. Concerns remain and are increasing from 2021 onwards in the absence of the government failing to provide initial detail on the scope for the next round of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The government focus on Brexit is holding back progress in many such matters. Red alerts are being flagged from authorities around the country.

5.2 **Potholes**

Extra governmental funding provided to repair potholes with an allocation made available to cover South Shropshire. It was noted that the county maintains one of the largest networks of minor roads and lanes in the country.

5.3 **Restructure of Highways Management Team**

Restructure and recruitment ongoing as elements of management are being brought in-house.

5.4 **Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chaired by Councillor Motley this committee has scrutinised a range of issues impacting communities. These include (i) the work of the Community Safety Partnership in addressing reports of rural crime; (ii) burial services review; (iii) the future of Local Joint Committees; (iv) revised terms of reference for local Environmental Maintenance, organised by the individual parishes; (v) Community Transport Services and how they can be better supported; (vi) youth services – how to fund and support.

5.5 **Place and Parish Plans**

Re-emergence of place plans increasing the need to ensure that parish plans are sufficiently up to date. Under pressure to meet the demand to build 28,000 homes between 2016 - 2036. Shropshire Council has created a new housing company with the objective of balancing the housing delivery with a focus on starter and affordable homes. A housing needs survey is being promoted by Maria Howells to understand the numbers of houses required in the individual parishes within the division.

5.6 **Shropshire Council Cabinet Coverage For South**

Gwilym Butler has been appointed to the Cabinet with a mandate to include community and voluntary sectors and place plans.

5.7 **Rural Services Network**

Template for rural strategy is under development with ideas being presented to government to support the construction of a 25-year development plan. Noted that Philip Dunne as chair of the All Parliamentary Group on Rural Affairs, together with RSN and other rural stakeholders, is meeting in May with Elizabeth Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury who is leading work on the Comprehensive Spending Review, which will set the funding for local government for the next four years.

Councillor Motley ended her report by noting that there is a lot going on and challenges being met to keep the ‘show on the road’. She is a vice-chair on the AONB boards and involved with the European-funded LEADER group supporting business in the South which has to date provided £800k to businesses and enterprises in the south of the county.

6. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Parish Clerk presented the Council’s audited accounts for the year 2017-2018.

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|---------------------|-----------|
| Income for the year | £9,105.69 |
| Expenditure | £9,125.64 |
| Carried Forward | £2,237.49 |

It was noted that amounts had increased following receipt of Environmental Maintenance Grant of £2,282.96 and Transparency Grant of £770.00. Through the year it had been decided that the Environmental Maintenance Grant would not be used and the funds were returned to Shropshire Council.

The precept for the year 2018-2019 maintained at £5,700.

7. **WAINWRIGHT TRUST AND RUSHBURY TRUSTEES**

In the absence of Mr M Pye, Mrs E Welsh presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. She advised that there are two separate charities: The Jones and Wainwright Educational Foundation and the Rushbury Charity. Both charities share the same trustees and, to most extents and purposes, operate as one organisation with one bank account. However, two separate financial returns are completed to the Charity Commission, as required.

7.1 **Wainwright Trust**

The Wainwright Trust exists to help with the external maintenance and upkeep of the buildings of the original school building, school garden and outbuildings. It also provides funds for services not normally provided by the local education authority. Historically, and in the days before state benefits, the trust provided some support for parishioners in need. In more recent times, this role is rarely needed although an annual notice in the parish magazine (to appear in this year’s May edition) reminds parishioners of the trust’s charitable aims and contact details.

The current chair of the trust is Martin Pye. There are six trustees: William Hotchkiss, Andrew Henderson, Nancy Cleaton, Anna Child, Liz Welsh and Martin Pye. In the 2018/19 financial year, the trustees met on Monday 30 April 2018; Monday 22 October 2018 and Monday 7 January 2019 – AGM.

Most of the trust’s income comes from the lease of the original school buildings and grounds to Shropshire Council. In 2018, the trust was successful in gaining a £10,000 grant towards the cost of improving the school playground and the area in front of Rushbury Church. The works were completed in summer 2018.

7.2 **Financial Report**

The most recently audited accounts are from the 2017/18 financial year:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Opening Balance | £6,472.08 |
| Total In | £1,628.92 |
| Total Out | £767.76 |
| Closing Balance at 31/03/17 | £7,333.24 |

Financial statements, and other information about the work of the trust, can be viewed on the Charity Commission's website. Minutes of meetings are available to be viewed on request from the chair.

8. **RUSHBURY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT**

In the absence of Mrs D Pye, other teachers and the school children due to the holidays, a written report was presented on their behalf by the chair.

Currently 46 children on roll. 4 year 6 pupils will leave at the end of this year. 7 pupils will join in September 2019.

The report detailed (i) Organisation and Staff; (ii) Standards; (iii) Some interesting events in 2018/19. A copy of the presented report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

9. **VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Mrs S Madeley reported that it had been a busy year for bookings. The floor had been resurfaced; a floor cleaner purchased and delivery of stage and lighting in a joint buy with the school.

A joint meeting had been held with the parish councillors to understand the challenges of running and maintaining a large hall. Ideas shared but no conclusions at this stage. Further discussions expected.

10. **PARISHIONERS BUSINESS**

10.1 **Playground Equipment Replacement**

Mrs S Madeley advised on the condition of the playground equipment and that its replacement needed to be kept in focus. This is not a council run facility. It was noted that some of the wooden poles had been removed due to their poor condition.

10.2 **Recycling**

Dr C Stevenson shared concerns over the plan to remove the bring banks. Concerns related to what could be placed in the kerbside recycling such as tetrapaks and similar cartons which are currently understood to go to landfill. Further concerns related to fly tipping and the costs that may be placed on the local landowners to clear. Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley requested to be advised of any increases in such events.

Meeting closed at 8:55pm.

APPENDIX – RUSHBURY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Headteacher: Mrs Diane Pye
Annual Report to Rushbury Parish Council

Firstly, apologies for not being able to attend with the children this year. It is the school holidays and many children and staff are away.

There are currently 46 children on roll.
4 Year 6 pupils will leave at the end of this year.
7 pupils will join in September 2019

Organisation and staff

The school currently operates three classes. There are two full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. The school employs five teaching assistants. Two are full-time and the others are part-time. Teaching assistants include a Spanish specialist and Forest School leader.

The school employs a full-time administrator and part-time site manager.

The current chair of governors is Mr Peter Davies.

The current chair of the Friends committee is Mrs Laraine Oxley.

School meals are cooked on site and, from April 2019, these are provided by Telford and Wrekin catering services.

Other staff include sports coaches and music tutors (violin, keyboard and guitar). All children in Key Stage Two learn to play the recorder.

Volunteers include: Mr Wrench - Stretton Climate Care, who help us run and report on the weather station; Mr Williamson and Mr Taylor, who run a chess club and parents who help with Friday afternoon enrichment activities such as cookery, gardening, computer programming and Eco work.

Standards

The school maintains high standards of progress and attainment. For the last three years, the school has been in the top 10% nationally for attainment in reading.

In the summer term 2017, the school was judged as 'Outstanding' in all areas by Ofsted.

The headteacher is currently employed directly by Ofsted as an inspector and monitors standards in other schools in the West Midlands.

Some interesting events in 2018/19

In summer 2018, as part of a Tudor project, the older children stayed overnight at Stratford-Upon-Avon to learn about Shakespeare's life and works.

In August 2018, the school playground and road-facing areas were resurfaced and painted with new markings. This was funded in part by generous donations from the local community, the Wainwright Trust and the hard work of our school's 'Friends' committee. In addition, Air conditioning was installed into the demountable building. This was generously funded by the Apedale Charitable Trust.

Also, in August 2018, the school won the Shrewsbury Flower Show's school garden competition. With the help of teaching assistant, Sam Carter, the children built a World War 2 garden complete with Anderson shelter, vegetable plot and chickens. The school also received the Gold Award from Britain in Bloom judges.

In October 2018, the headteacher and older children were key note speakers at the Shropshire schools conference at Theatre Severn. The children assisted with a presentation about the school's curriculum to staff from Shropshire schools.

In the autumn term 2018, as part of the World War I commemorations, children researched the lives of Evelyn and Constance Brown. These two sisters lived in Rushbury (one working as an assistant teacher at the school) and moved to Philadelphia in the early 1900s. Both sisters were travelling back from Philadelphia to visit relatives when their ship, the Lusitania, was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland. The names of the sisters can be found on their parents' grave in St Peter's Church. The children displayed their work in Rushbury Village Hall.

In January 2019, Rushbury Village Hall committee was successful in an Awards for All bid for a new stage and lighting. This is something we look forward to using for our school performances and we are grateful to the committee.

Later in the year, all the children took part in the Shrewsbury Bookfest. They were visited by famous authors and entered their own story books into the story-writing competition.

The school has recently formed a partnership with a school in Nepal and we are now applying for a Global learning grant to develop links further.

The children continue to sing regularly at various venues, most recently in Church Stretton where they entertained customers with Easter songs.

The school minibuses enable the children to regularly visit places of interest, the theatre or activities and workshops.

The school maintains close links with regional organisations and other local primary schools.

Rushbury School continues to thrive and has many exciting things planned for the year ahead.