

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Ian Mercer

Minutes of the Parish Council's Monthly Meeting held on 9 February 2022 at Whixall Social Centre starting at 7:30pm

Present:

Councillors: I Mercer (Chair); J Spenser; B Harris; A Rawlinson; M Evans; D Edgerton

Shropshire Councillors E Towers: P Broomhall; (Cllr Broomhall left the meeting at 8.40pm)

Clerk: A Roberts

Other Organisations: 1

Members of the Public: 1

7/22 Public Session

Ms H Godfrey spoke to the council in relation to item 14/22c

8/22 Boglife Project

Mike Crawshaw gave his final update (Appendix A) as he is leaving the project at the end of March. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked him for his contribution over the years and wished him well in the future.

9/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr M Howard (work commitments); Cllr C Weedall

10/22 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared

11/22 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Harris that the draft minutes, of the Ordinary meeting of the Council held on 12 January 2022, were an accurate record. This was seconded by Cllr Rawlinson and agreed by all present. **Resolved**

The Chairman signed the minutes.

12/22 Reports

Cllr Mercer reported that Shropshire Council had done an excellent job clearing the ditches and culverts between Abby Green and the egg packing station. There is still work outstanding because one of the culverts needs to be replaced. He also highlighted the potential impact of the planned closure of Whitchurch Driving Test Centre. His concerns were shared by all present.

Councillors Broomhall and Towers had circulated their report in advance of the meeting (Appendix B).

The Clerk gave a verbal report (Appendix C).

13/22 Parish Matters

a. To Consider the Co-Option of a Parish Councillor

Proposed Cllr Mercer, seconded Cllr Spenser, agreed all.

Resolved: Philip Rodenhurst is co-opted onto the Parish Council.

b. The Marlot

i. Future Management Arrangements

Prior to the meeting, Graham Turnbull (Marlot Conservation Group) had shared ideas/proposals for the future of the Marlot following the LNR declaration. Cllr Mercer stated that it is difficult to have a discussion with members of the MCG at formal

Parish Council meetings because of the rules governing public participation and a separate informal meeting would be more suitable.

The following were noted:

- The Marlot is a key asset but, other than running costs, there is no finance set up for it at present;
- The MCG had put forward lots of very good ideas and had reasonable expectations;
- 'Future proofing' the voluntary element should be a priority as having to pay for management would be prohibitive. It would cause issues if Natural England was to stop providing additional volunteers (although it was suggested that this is unlikely);
- The relationship between MCG and WPC needs to be defined and the aim should be to set a clear operating brief for the volunteers, with agreed delegations and a statement of the level to which WPC will underwrite the work whilst allowing MCG a high degree of independence.

Proposed Cllr Mercer, seconded Cllr Rawlinson, agreed all

Resolved: Members of Marlot Conservation Group will be invited to meet informally with Parish Councillors in order to agree proposals for future management arrangements. These proposals will then be put to the Parish Council for approval.

ii. Activity Report

Martin Spenser provided his final report (Appendix D). Graham Turnbull is now the lead volunteer.

On behalf of the Council the Chair expressed gratitude for the work that Martin has done for many years. He acknowledged that without Martin the Marlot would not be what it is today.

c. Bowling Club Lease

The Clerk explained that, at the Bowling Club's request, WPC had agreed to commission Hatchers to update the lease. This was done on the understanding that the BC agreed to cover all of the associated legal costs. However, due to changes in their committee membership the Bowling Club has queried the reasons behind the expectation that they would pay the outstanding £360, because they believed it included a charge relating to land registration (which WPC has already paid independently). Hatchers have been asked to provide a breakdown of the invoice for clarity but have not responded. The Parish Council does not have a budget for this work, does not benefit from it, and firmly believes this expenditure lies with the BC. There is a requirement that WPC make an effort to reclaim this expenditure on behalf of the Parish.

Proposed Cllr Rawlinson, seconded Cllr Evans, agreed all.

Resolved: The Parish Council will write to the Bowling Club requesting immediate payment of the amount owing under the agreement between the two organisations.

d. Platinum Jubilee Plans

The Marlot Conservation Group has obtained trees to plant for the Queen's Green Canopy. The Council was asked to approve their proposal for a community planting event.

Proposed Cllr Mercer, Seconded Cllr Rawlinson, agreed all.

Resolved: The Council strongly supports the proposal for a community event to plant the Marlot Platinum Jubilee Hedge

e. Contribution towards Clerk's Training

Wem Town Council has formally asked WPC to contribute £250 towards the cost the Clerk's CILCA training which would be to the benefit of both organisations.

The Clerk was asked to leave the meeting during discussions and Cllr Towers was asked not to contribute to the discussion, as he is also a Wem Town Councillor.

Proposed Cllr Reynolds, seconded Cllr Harris, agreed all.

Resolved: Whixall Parish Council will contribute £250 towards the Clerk's CILCA training with Wem Town Council on the condition that the Clerk remains with WPC for at least two years after the date on which the payment is made.

14/22 Planning

a. To Consider Applications

None received

b. To Receive Planning Application Decisions

Reference	Detail	Decision
21/03510/FUL	Change of use of main dwelling, associated office and storage building to form home for looked after children and young adults (C2) Alders Farm, SY13 2PZ	Grant Permission
21/05341/FUL	Conversion of existing attached garage with installation of a dormer and roof lights to provide additional living accommodation Braynes Hall, SY13 2PS	Grant Permission
21/04610/FUL	Erection of 2no. local need dwellings with detached double garages and parking including provision of vehicular access. Land South of Rack Lane Farm	Refuse

c. To consider request for local connection confirmation

Proposed Cllr Mercer seconded Cllr Harris, agreed all.

Resolved: Whixall Parish Council can confirm Miss Helen Godfrey's strong local connection.

15/22 Financial Matters

a) To receive monthly bank balance record.

The Clerk advised the council of the council's bank balances.

DATE	ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
31 January 2022	Current Account (Working Budget)	£2029.07
	Savings Account (Reserves)	£10,551.90
TOTAL		£12,580.97

b) To resolve to approve outstanding accounts

Orders for the payment of outstanding invoices and all payments approved remotely (under "Power to Spend" LGA1972 s.112(2) and 124(1).

Proposed Cllr Harris, seconded Cllr Spenser, agreed by all.

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid and the payment transactions authorised by two authorised councillors.

Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Power of Expenditure
Employee	Salary (for January hours)	£201.49	LGA 1972 s112
HMRC	PAYE	£134.00	LGA 1972 s112
NEST	Pension Contributions	£35.14	LGA 1972 s112
Employee	Reimbursement	£32.77	LGA 1972 s112
Total		£403.40	

Scheduled date of next meeting: **9 March 2022**

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Thank you Chair, Councillors.

It is likely that this is my last report to you as the BogLIFE Project is coming to an end. Or perhaps I should say, a new beginning – after all the point of the restoration work is to leave an asset for both the animal and plant life that dwell on a healthy bog and for existing and future generations. We have not so much restored the Marches Mosses as given nature a hand to ‘kick start’ their recovery. Bogs are characterised by being **open landscapes covered with a specially adapted vegetation typically including** species such as *Sphagnum* mosses, cotton grasses and sundews. These plants thrive in the very wet and nutrient poor conditions found on a bog, with *Sphagnum* acting as a ‘keystone species’ actively encouraging water retention, high acidity and peat formation. This results in conditions that are unfavourable for trees to grow. So, in short, **healthy bogs are open with a scattering of scrub and trees and wouldn’t naturally be woodland covered. This gives them the ability to remove and store vast amounts of carbon from the atmosphere, helping to prevent global climate change.**

The restoration work –

Most of the restoration work has been done, this includes tree removal, sphagnum planting and bunding. The focus now is on work in the middle of the mosses to improve and tweak the peat restoration of previously restored areas, all the tree work on the English side is now completed.

A brief explanation of bunding. The peat underground in many places will still be saturated with water; this peat still holds its water instead of allowing it to drain away like the degraded top peat does. Bunding uses this deeper peat to make a 30cm tall bund that will hold back rainwater in a cell. This allows the degraded peat within the cell to rewet and ‘re-pickle’. The process of digging down to the ‘good’ peat also breaks up any underground water drainage channels meaning that water is stopped from draining away both above and below ground.

The Scrapyard. All the clearance work has been completed and the site has been landscaped with soil taken from an adjacent field, which was in turn planted with Sphagnum Moss plants. The clearance work has taken seven years from planning to final implementation. The access track to the scrapyard will be improved in due course.

I have been asked what will become of the former scrapyard now that it has been cleared. Personally, I think that it is important to first look at what we no longer have – rusting piles of metal, mountains of tyres and lakes of oil.

As to what it can be used for in the future – We will ask the community what they would like to see here and on the Mosses. A consultation exercise is planned for the Spring, but we have yet to finalise the details – you will, of course, be consulted.

The Viewing Tower – The Tower is open and proving very popular with visitors and regulars alike. There are still some finishing touches in terms of artwork and interpretive information signage to be

added, all with a climate change and carbon capture theme. It is hoped that this work will be finished by Easter.

The Bird Hide – Is almost completed. We have a few finishing touches to complete, such as some exterior screening, a pathway suitable for disabled users and internal interpretation including a mural. We hope that these final works will commence by the end of February.

Sinker's Fields – The scheme at Sinker's Fields is now operational so that the flood function of the land is fully maintained. Modelling and post scheme measurement shows that the flood plain capacity of the land to hold water has not been compromised.

Natural England Volunteers – Volunteers play an important part in the operation of the National Nature Reserves in the UK. The volunteers at the Marches Mosses have been working especially hard and this has been recognised by Natural England who have awarded them a Grafta.

The Graftas are Natural England's 'Green awards for terrific achievers'. The Graftas recognise, thank, and celebrate the hard work of our staff and volunteers.

Team Volunteer; "**Marches Mosses BogLIFE project**, for carrying out bird surveys, weekly practical task days, surveys, monitoring works, data inputting, and site wardening under very challenging conditions."

Project Trainees – One of the aims of the BogLIFE Project was the acquisition of skills and experience by providing training opportunities. So far, we have had seven trainees through the project, six of whom have gained employment in their chosen field of nature conservation. Three have been employed directly on the nature reserve itself and the seventh, Fergus, is currently working with us.

Plans for the Future – As I have already touched on – An exercise to engage and gather views from the community is planned in the Spring. We would like to see what aspirations local people have for the Marches Mosses.

***Mosses and Marshes** - An arts project spanning two countries – the UK and Australia, both with Ramsar-listed wetlands of international importance, bringing together artists, land managers, and scientists to reimagine the future of these landscapes and the place they have in our communities. Something unique and something that local people should feel proud of.*

Worlds End Drainage – Over half of the drainage scheme has been completed but the rapid deterioration of the ground conditions in November has meant suspension of work. This will resume in late Spring when conditions are favourable and we would like to thank the residents for their forbearance, we have tried our best to minimise any disruption.

A small diameter pipe across Moss Lane, near Moss farm is being investigated by CCTV and may need upgrading in size. This may result in a short closure of the lane for a day in the Spring. This will be arranged by permit with Shropshire Highways, all residents will be notified in advance, as will the Parish Council. We will arrange alternative access where practical and in discussion with affected residents.

Public Events – One of the greatest joys of this job has been the opportunity to arrange and manage public events. From walks out to see the Birds of The Mosses, to Moth Trapping nights, to Xmas Wreath Making – each has been a delight. To actually be paid to enthuse about this beautiful space has been a privilege and an honour. (So much of an honour that I moved house to be closer). However, with the end of project funding we will need to look at other ways of spreading the word. To this end SWT and NE are meeting with our volunteers to discuss how we will carry on with events in the future.

Thank You - I would like to take this opportunity Chair to thank you and the Parish Council on behalf of the BogLIFE Project for all the support that you have shown us over the years and for being a 'Critical Friend'. We at the BogLIFE Partnership appreciate that a true friend will always tell you when you've got it wrong and help you to put it right.

I sincerely hope that this relationship continuous once my role ceases, and I know that we have active volunteers among your numbers.

Thank you

Mike Crawshaw

Community Engagement Officer

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project

Restoring Marches Mosses BogLIFE Project (LIFE15 NAT/UK/000786)



Shropshire
Wildlife Trust

Report 4 to Whixall Parish Council by Shropshire Councillors Peter Broomhall and Edward Towers – February 2022

Dear All – Please find below our fourth written report as your Shropshire Councillors, the last one being for your November Parish Council meeting.

Rachel Robinson, Shropshire Council's director of public health in giving the latest weekly Covid update from Shropshire Council last Friday reports:-

"Cases have remained stable in this time, but there has been another increase in the number of people being treated for COVID-19 in our local hospitals. The majority of people who are seriously ill with the virus are unvaccinated. It's not too late to [get the jab](#), even if it is the first dose. Please protect yourself and help ease the pressure on the NHS. We continue to see outbreaks in schools and care homes and our public health officers are working closely with these settings to minimise the spread of the virus. As we move forward without any legal restrictions except for self-isolation if testing positive, we rely on our residents to help us keep Shropshire safe and protect the NHS. After nearly two years, we are now learning how to live alongside this virus as safely as possible, and that does mean being cautious and taking small personal steps to reduce transmission. Simple things like wearing a face covering in crowded places, and testing for COVID-19 before you mix in large groups, will make a difference."

Full Shropshire Council Meeting....at Theatre Severn on 13th January 2022

The first major item on the agenda was the setting of the Council Taxbase for 2022/23.

This is a representation of the number of properties in Shropshire. As well as Shropshire Council doing this is essential for Town and Parish Councils, the Police and Fire and Rescue Service to enable them to set their precept for 2022/23. [It was agreed by 56 votes for and 11 against that for 2022/23 the Council Tax taxbase will have an increase of 1.58% from 2021/22.](#) This means for Wem Town the figure for our Council Tax Taxbase (Band D Equivalents) is 1,993.78.

Then followed the Treasury Strategy mid-year review which provided an economic update for the first six months of 2021 and includes a review of the investment portfolio and borrowing strategy for 2021/22 and confirmed compliance with Treasury and Prudential limits (in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management). As at 30 September 2021, the Council held £175m in investments and had £292m of borrowing. [This was agreed unanimously.](#) However, some concern was raised here to say that the budget was only issued last week....and not before Christmas and that £191,000 had been cut from the Library budget with no consultation or meetings with agendas or minutes to support this decision.

The next item was regarding the provision of wheeled bins for kerbside collection of plastic, metal and glass recycling and to approve the financial provision required. [This was approved unanimously](#) and roll out will begin in South Shropshire from mid-May onwards.

This was followed by the 1st report to the council on its corporate carbon reduction performance. The Council had adopted a Climate Strategy and Action Plan in December 2020 and is committed to reporting annually on both this and the projects and initiatives designed to reduce its carbon footprint. This strategy and action plan establishes the objective of achieving net-zero carbon performance for Shropshire Council by 2030 and aims for an annual carbon reduction of 10% per year. A Climate Change Task Force was established to lead the Council's response in November 2019, supported by an internal officer working group. During the last year (2021), the efforts of the Task Force have been directed towards embedding climate change as a key consideration in the Council's corporate governance systems. A range of projects and initiatives have also been developed to help the Council improve its own performance and to help foster similar

action across the wider economy and communities in Shropshire. Accurate data and monitoring and reporting systems for carbon performance are still being developed. There has been a welcome significant reduction in direct emissions, but also a slight increase in indirect emissions which has limited the overall reduction in gross emissions to only 3% against a target of 10%. Whilst this is disappointing, it reflects the impact of increased spending on commissioned services across several service areas where carbon emissions are still being estimated using spend, rather than actual measurement. It is worth noting that Shropshire Council is currently one of only a few Councils to report the full extent of its carbon emissions, including indirect emissions. Whilst the carbon savings generated from recycling and land management activities means that the Council's footprint is technically already net-zero, it is important that the Council continues to focus on reducing its gross emissions. The Council's corporate footprint represents only around 1% of Shropshire's total carbon footprint, but the Council is able to influence as much as 33% of emissions through its regulatory and support functions. The Council is already supporting a wide range of projects and initiatives designed to support local businesses and communities to reduce their carbon emissions.

Then followed two items:

- a) to delete a footpath in St Martins with the assistance of Wrexham County Borough Council and
- b) The Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 was presented. This 'sets out how youth justice services across West Mercia are structured and resourced and outlines key actions to address risks to service delivery and improvement'.

Both of these were agreed unanimously.

The next agenda item dealt with introducing a scheme to purchase 'temporary accommodation'. In recent years the Council has seen an increase in homelessness and the associated need to provide temporary accommodation either whilst applications are being investigated or whilst households owed a homeless duty are awaiting an offer of suitable settled accommodation. The pressure on temporary accommodation by single homeless persons has been further intensified since the Government's Covid-19 pandemic response which changed homeless legislation to widen the definition of priority need based on vulnerability. Limited availability of suitable social and private housing for temporary accommodation use has led to reliance on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation which is both unsuitable and costly. Consequently, Shropshire Council has set out a proposed programme to use £1.5m of S106 contributions to acquire property for temporary accommodation to reduce the use of bed and breakfast held in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), be ring-fenced for temporary accommodation and managed by STaR Housing. It is estimated to deliver annual savings of £1m to the Council. This was agreed unanimously as well.

Following some revisions to Committee Appointments four motions were then debated:

- **Discharge of Sewage into Rivers.** The water quality in Shropshire's rivers has been deteriorating for a variety of reasons with the chief contributor being the frequent and intermittent discharges of sewage when it rains. These combined sewage outfalls (CSOs) have contributed to the deterioration of water quality and biodiversity. Fish stocks have reduced by 60% in the last 10 years. Water firms discharged raw sewage into English waters 400,000 times last year, an increase of 27% on the previous year. It is therefore important that Shropshire Council plays an active role in holding key partners to account and amongst other measures to urge Severn Trent to increase funding and provide timescales for mitigating the effects of sewerage and other pollutants being discharged into our rivers, not least through the planning process to hold them to account and provide adequate sewerage provision for the expanse of housing proposed in the draft Shropshire Plan. This was passed unanimously.
- **Acoustic Cameras.** As it is well known that excessive noise damages both physical and mental health and degrades the environment and general amenity of an area...in recent years there have been successful trials of acoustic cameras to catch motorists and motorcycle riders with vehicles that emit excessive noise. This motion called on the

Shropshire Council's administration to seek funding for a pilot scheme that, if successful, could address this anti-social behaviour and be rolled out across towns in Shropshire to fine noise emitters above the threshold used in trials in London of 80db. Emergency vehicles and otherwise law-abiding HGVs and tractors would not suffer fines. [This was agreed unanimously too.](#)

- **Shropshire Ambulance Services.** This third motion concerned the worsening of ambulance services in Shropshire over recent years despite the best efforts and dedication of ambulance staff noting, amongst other things, that patients are dying waiting for an ambulance in Shropshire and queues of ambulances form at both the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital because there are no beds available for patients. [It was agreed unanimously that Shropshire Council demand, along with a couple of other measures that all parties be required to attend regular meetings between the West Midlands Ambulance Service and the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust hosted by Shropshire Council.](#) The aim would be to draw up an action plan with completion dates so that the number of ambulances queuing outside hospitals is reduced.
- The final motion noted that **the Corporate Plan 2019-20 to 2021-22 makes no mention of working towards 'net zero'**, nor of the opportunities for work, healthier living and economic well being involved in a just transition to a fossil fuel free economy....and that Shropshire deserved better and called on Cabinet to create meaningful opportunities for engagement involving members, communities, local organisations and businesses to help shape these strategies. [This motion was defeated as only 24 voted for it and 37 against.](#)

Then followed two Members Questions answered by the appropriate member of Cabinet:

1. Asking what steps Cornovii Developments (SC's House builders) are taking to limit the carbon footprint in their developments.
2. Asking about the technically complex issues of the relative carbon impacts of the performance of different forms of energy generation, waste management and transport fuels.

The concluding part of the 'open' agenda was to receive the latest Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Reports of Meetings held on 13 October 2021 and 15 December 2021.

Regarding Whixall Parish, there is less to report with just monitoring planning applications coming forward and their being accepted or refused. There have been no road closures so far as we are aware.

Shropshire Council Training – We were given some on-line 'New Code of Conduct' training on the 29th January. If you need details of this we can send them to you.

Shropshire Council Briefings – We attended a very full and informative Workshop for Councillors on ‘Teams’ recently about the.....

SHROPSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

This Shropshire LTP is being developed taking a future ready approach that considers and prioritises the mobility needs of people, places, and activities rather than the transport mode-based approaches that have been used for previous LTPs. This approach was presented to Shropshire Council’s Place Overview Scrutiny Committee on 9th December 2020 and all recommendations were approved.

Significant work has taken place to date on the development of the LTP. A solid evidence base underpins our LTP development process and findings to date, and early engagement has already been taking place with members of the public, interest groups, businesses and town and parish councils throughout Shropshire.

It’s important to note, LTP4 will not sit in isolation and be an esoteric document, it will be fundamental, and consider its relationship to:

- Decarbonisation and the Climate Change agenda
- Local Plan / Economic Growth Strategy and Communities Strategy will all be interdependent.
- Bus Service Improvement Plan (if approved by government)
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Shrewsbury Big Town Plan / Oswestry Movement Strategy and emerging town agendas

The interrelationship and suite of work demonstrates the pivotal position for LTP in the years to come and is evident as both the Local Plan and Local Transport Plan run up to 2038.

As part of this (4th bullet point above!).....work is set to begin this month to develop a Shropshire-wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

City Science Incorporation have now been commissioned to develop the LCWIP with work due to be completed by early Summer 2022.

An LCWIP is a strategic, long term approach to developing walking and cycling networks and identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. LCWIPs form a vital part of the Government’s ‘Gear Change’ strategy which has a bold vision for a transformation in the UK’s transport system with half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030. Additionally, LCWIPs are increasingly being seen as a key requirement to access Department for Transport funding.

The Shropshire LCWIP will focus on the main urban areas of Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Oswestry and Whitchurch and those settlements within 10km of each of these towns. 10km is considered to be the maximum distance that most people are prepared to cycle to access work, education, shopping or leisure facilities.

City Science will shortly be undertaking an information gathering exercise where they will do an audit of the existing cycling and pedestrian networks, looking at the quality and coverage of existing infrastructure and where things such as major junctions and roundabouts create barriers for cyclists and pedestrians. They will also be analysing existing and emerging local, regional and national strategies and plans, including the emerging Shropshire Local Plan and the emerging Local Transport Plan 4 to ensure alignment between the plans. They will also undertake an analysis of current and projected demand for cycling as well as look at accident

hot-spot locations throughout the county. There will be a significant emphasis on stakeholder engagement in developing the LCWIP and Shropshire Council will be engaging with diverse audiences early on to help inform and verify data collected as well as inform the planning of the network and prioritisation of schemes.

BELOW THIS REPORT IS A BRIEF 5 MINUTE SURVEY FROM CITY SCIENCE TO ASCERTAIN YOUR VIEWS ON KEY NETWORK-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS THAT YOU MAY FEED INTO THIS PROCESS. ANY DATA COLLECTED WILL BE USED FOR THIS SOLE PURPOSE, WITH SUMMARY FINDINGS REPORTED IN THE LCWIP DOCUMENT. IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU COULD FIND A MOMENT TO PRINT THIS OFF, FILL THIS IN AND RETURN TO ELLIOT REID.....see below!Many thanks!

Please find link to the easy to complete online survey (opportunities & constraints) below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5ZnDzm1pcUOChNgdo33ruQtIx2zIXGpAqh07DR-koW9URjA4TIZUOE1DRzNSSFBJM1BUQzQ5VU5WRC4u>

All paper versions can be sent to me directly, but the online survey would be preferred.

Kind regards,



Elliot Reid | Associate Director – Transport Policy & Planning
Pronouns: (he/him)



North Salop Wheelers – Some dates that we have just been given for any who wish to go along.

- **NS Wheelers CBP AGM: Monday 07 March 2022**, 10.30am at **Wem Baptist Church** (change from 14 March).
- **NS Coffee Morning** is being held at Whitchurch Civic Centre on **Friday 04 March**. Any offers of assistance gratefully received.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – June 2022 – Minutes of our latest Zoom meeting held on 11th January are available and can be sent to you if you ask either of us.

To help give you a feel for what is being planned, the days of celebration the outline of activities being discussed are....(taken from some minutes/notes):

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS DISCUSSION

<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>
Thursday 2 nd June	Lighting the Beacon https://www.queensjubileebeacons.com The information is specific to the <i>Beacon Lighting Event on Thursday 2nd June 2022</i> .
Friday 3 rd June	Youth Day (Disco in the Town Hall)
Saturday 4 th June	Big Festival – based on Wem Rec....as previously in 2012 for the Diamond Anniversary!
Sunday 5 th June	Church Service and Street Lunches

The planning group are following the guidance being offered by 'the Palace' on their website. <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend> and <https://www.local.gov.uk/queens-platinum-jubilee-central-weekend-2022>. What is now being discussed are the details related to each of these.....such as parades, the Jubilee Band involvement, the use of the Town Hall and other spaces....the planting of trees, etc.

A further meeting for the Planning Group for these Celebrations is set for Tuesday 15th February at the Wem Conservative Club at 7.15pm.

Hopefully this brings you up to date with issues that affect us here in Wem. If there is anything not covered, or you would like to raise, then let us know.

Kindest regards,

Peter Broomhall and Edward Towers

Shropshire County Councillors for the Wem, Wem Rural & Whixall Division

Date: 7th February 2022

Correspondence

1. Shropshire Council Elections Team
The election fee is formally confirmed as £100. Invoices will be sent in April.
2. NS Wheelers
 1. Information re. meeting dates etc. (to circulate)
 2. Letter from Phoebe Ashton re. retirement of John & Jackie Harrison (to circulate)
 3. Grant application received (to be considered next Month)
3. Planning enquiry
A request was received for information about which elements of a planning application the Council supported. The resident was directed to the planning portal.
4. Wem Youth Club Banners Exhibition
Open invitation to event at Theatre Severn (An exhibition about the Marches mosses National Nature Reserve). Circulated.
5. Vaccination Bus is in Wem on Monday between 2pm and 5pm
6. Notification from ICO – £35 fee to be taken this month.

Other

1. Code of Conduct and Register of Interests
NALC has supported the new code of conduct and it has been adopted by Shropshire Council. Whixall PC now needs to review and consider adopting the Code. This will go on the March agenda and the Code will be circulated.

Shropshire Council's Monitoring Officer has recommended that Other Registerable Interests should now be reported. The form will be circulated for members to complete and return.

2. Precept Request – 2022/23

This has been submitted.

3. CIL Funding

Clarification was sought regarding how CIL funding should be used:

'A local council's share of CIL receipts can be spent on a wider range of things than the rest of CIL, provided that it meets the requirement to 'support the development of the area', or any part of that area, by funding:

- the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
- anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area'

(Source: SLCC)

All other actions relate to items on the February agenda.

Since the last report to Council was prepared, John Piper has left the MCG, having recently moved house and needing to concentrate on his own property and garden maintenance. We have completed the process of clearing vegetation from the ponds. Thanks go to Alan Rawlinson for permitting a large amount of waste material to be dropped off at his yard. During the second clearing-up session, a lady arrived in a search for “rare snails”. We have not had any feed-back from that visit.

On 25th January, the team re-installed 15 bird nest boxes. We are hoping that their new, higher location may deter some of the interference suffered by the boxes in previous years. The boxes are occupied mainly by *blue tits* and *great tits* but will be monitored through the nesting season.

On 27th January a *kingfisher* was once again spotted in the pond area. It is uncertain whether this is a resident bird or a regular visitor; either way, we have to hope that it will not wipe out the other aquatic wildlife.

Cattle are due to be brought on to the meadow areas at the time of writing this report. It has been necessary to wait for a window of drier weather to do this, and the cattle will be there for a short period only.

As mentioned previously, a considerable amount of work will be needed, once the cows have done their bit, to clear the re-generated willow growth from the meadows. With some time available on 1st February, the team started this work on a trial section and it is proving to be particularly difficult with hand tools.

Martin Spenser
February 2022