

# **HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

An ordinary meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 7.00pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

**Present:** Cllr. G.Court – Chair, Cllrs. R.Honeybourne, A.Honeybourne, P.Vinall, N.Barker, D.Thakrar, M.Brooks, P.Atkinson, D.Scriven, J.Law, D.Bayley, D.Tremellen, J.Marshall  
Clerk: Mrs.E.Preston

## **00. Parishioners Time – No Comments**

***Declaration of Pecuniary interests: Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer.***

## **01. Guest Speaker : Shropshire Council Leader - Councillor P. Nutting**

Chair Cllr.Court welcomed Cllr.Nutting to the meeting.

Cllr Nutting said he was aware that roads were a big issue. He did state that roads were a big issue in the whole of Shropshire with over 3,000 miles of road to look after .

He gave a report of planned works for the Highley Area as follows :

B4555 Chelmarsh Bends: Large structural patch required to hold road together this financial year, prior to the larger improvement scheme planned for next financial year.

Footway Surfacing/Slurry sealing sites to commence at the end of September are: - Oak Street Woodhill Highley and The Shops Woodhill Highley.

The High Street, Highley has been included in a bid submission against the DfT Challenge Fund. If successful, this will lead to a surfacing scheme for a significant part of the High Street next financial year. The remainder of the High Street will be prioritised over a series of financial years. Discussions with the Parish Council will be required regarding traffic calming and gateway measures to ensure continuity. We are expecting to hear back from the DfT in December 2019.

A County wide pothole trial, utilising a new system of defect correction is being rolled out over the next month. This process is extremely quiet and speedy and is therefore being undertaken overnight to minimise disruption. Weather depending, we plan to be in Highley within the next 3 or 4 weeks (further information to follow and briefing to the Parish Council and Cllr Tremellen). This process will deal with defects in the highway, footpaths and utilities resin and then tarmac to seal the repair. The same process was rolled in out in Whitchurch and Market Drayton and dealt with over 50 permanent repairs in an evening normal working time is 7pm – 7am

3 street are having the street lights converted from part night lighting to dusk to dawn, to alleviate anti-social behaviour and work on CCTV.

Cllr. Vinall asked about the petition that was sent in from Highley Residents regarding the Local Plan. He said that residents objected to any further developments in the village until road repairs were carried out on the B4555. Road a major issue because it was the main road into the village. Cllr Barker stated that this was an important route for parishioners accessing Schools and healthcare and needed to be kept in good repair. Cllr.Nutting said although he was aware of the concerns Shropshire Council had to give proper consideration to Developers requests.

Cllr.Brooks stated that the present Doctors Surgery was not fit for purpose as disabled persons are not able to access the Doctors rooms in Wheelchairs. It was stated by Cllr.Tremellen that a petition was currently going around the village for funding to be made available by the CCG for a new Surgery. Cllr.Nutting said he would look into this issue with the CCG and asked to be kept informed of any outcome with the surgery.

Cllr. Bayley asked about the provision financial assistance of post A level transport to further Education. Cllr.Nutting said that unfortunately he could not answer that as he did not have the relevant information.

Cllr.Tremellen pointed out the difference with the population figures for Highley between Shropshire Council and the recent Census figures and the impact this had with the local plan. Cllr Nutting said that it was hoped to have the Formal Plan out for consultation in October.

Highley Parish Council Chair G.Court thanked Cllr.Nutting for attending the meeting.

**01. Apologies for absence.** Apologies received R.Broome, Medical appointment. **RESOLVED** to accept.

**02. To confirm the minutes of the meeting** dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019. it was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a true and correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

**03. Matters arising from minutes:-**

CCTV – Technical Services have installed new cameras in village centre. Cllr.Tremellen reported on a meeting with Technical Services regarding the ANPR . Further meeting to be held  
Severn Centre Disabled Hoist -Severn Centre Manager is purchasing sloping steps to enable disabled users to access the pool.

Parking Bays Village Centre/Lines Coronation Street– Shropshire Council sent details of the proposals for restrictions on waiting times in the parking bays in the village centre together with additional yellow lines in Coronation Street. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to these with the proviso that the existing double-yellows outside the garage to be retained but stop just short of the entrance to the alleyway between Coronation Street and Orchard Street, and not be extended to the frontages of the first few houses beyond the alleyway. On the Bache side of Coronation Street. The existing double-yellows to be extended to the right-hand corner of the entrance splay to the Bache car park.

Castle Inn Update – Shropshire Council stated they have been discussing the best way forward and are writing a report recommending specific action for this property. Awaiting Report.

Christmas Lights - Report Cllr.Tremellen:

At the meeting to discuss the Christmas lights on 8 August, we met with Andy Vaughan (based in

Oswestry) who has agreed to take on the job this year. All the existing displays will be used, although the lights that string along the catenary wires may need to be replaced to conform to new regulations. The catenary wire anchor points will also be regularly checked and recorded for insurance purposes. All existing lights will be catalogued, and their locations noted to ensure all future displays are the same, this fits with the requirement to place the whole Christmas lights system on a more formal footing. If anyone has any photographs of earlier displays could they let Ella have them for the records. Likewise, fitting will be done using one of the cherry pickers owned by Andy Vaughan to comply with H&S regulations and to keep Highley PC's insurers happy. Andy Vaughan was made familiar with the Christmas light display on the Severn Centre frontage and he'll be advised of the delivery and erection of the tree and the installation of the tree lights. The stock of existing lights was checked over in the Severn Centre dressing room where they're stored. Once Ella has the details of the storage container and the company delivering it have been told about the access then once it is in place the lights will be moved to that storage. A walk-about to familiarize Andy with the extent of the shopping Centre display, the fixing points and the power supplies, was carried out and Andy could see no problems as far as he was concerned. The testing of the lights will be carried out by Andy at a time convenient to him and in good time to be ready for their installation..

Church Street – Awaiting a reply from Shropshire Council regarding parking problems.

Defibrillator – Awaiting response from BT regarding the decommissioning of the Phone Box.

#### **4. Correspondence:**

SALC - AGM November - Cllrs G.Court, D.Tremellen and N.Barker to attend

Shropshire Council - BT Payphone Removal Consultation

SALC - Monthly Bulletin

Shrewsbury Model Railway - October 2019

Shropshire Council - Festival of Ageing 15<sup>th</sup> October 9am to 4pm Shrewsbury Town Football Ground.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust - Community Engagement Event 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September.

A parishioner wrote to the Council to ask for support to build his own affordable home in the village.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** that it would not be appropriate to comment on this until the official planning application is received.

#### **05. To look at any planning applications received.**

Reference: 19/03375/FUL (validated: 19/08/2019)

Address: 3 Hazelwells Road, Highley, WV16 6EA

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear Reference: 19/03585/FUL (validated: 14/08/2019)

**RESOLVED** - No Objection

Address: 55 Redstone Drive, Highley, Shropshire, WV16 6EQ

Proposal: Erection of single storey front extension

Applicant: Rev Richard Law (55 Redstone Drive, Highley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6EQ, United Kingdom) Reference: 19/03549/TCA (validated: 09/08/2019)

**RESOLVED** - No Objection

Cllr.Thakrar did not vote or take part in any discussion on this planning application

Address: Co-op , High Street, Highley, WV16 6LP

Proposal: Remove 2 Trees from roof of Co-op within Highley Conservation Area

Applicant: Mr Ben Lee (Co-op, High Street, Highley, WV16 6LP)

**RESOLVED** - No Objection.

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## 07. Severn Centre

Carl Gregg has sent a Monthly report with the current Profit and Loss figures. (Emailed to all Councillors).

Swim participation was slightly lower than this time last year, but we exceeded budget on swim income again for the second month since opening the pool. Challenging weather has had an impact on participation against an exceptional summer last year.

Room hire has had the biggest impact on income against the previous year we are down considerably due to the cancellation of Pure and Simple Web Design who cancelled their room booking last November and Sure Start Children's Services.

Participation	Actual	Target
Indoor Activities	485	560
Swimming	1,994	2,303
Outdoor Activities	0	170
Health & Fitness	613	832
Passive Attendance	1,248	1,600
Total Activity Participation	3,092	3,865
Total Visits	4,340	5,465

Staffing -Now have a full team in place - 2 full time staff members - Jack Noakes and Alice Stanley Customer Service Coordinators, Bethany Hinkinson Customer Service Manager. In addition to this have a 16-hour Cleaning and Grounds Maintenance post and a 30-hour apprentice.

### Service

We have had a solid month of operations and no staffing or capacity issues in the pool.

Grounds maintenance - Grounds maintenance is now being regularly carried out.

Pool to be kept open longer this season

Steps have now been ordered for Disabled access to the pool.

A pool hoover has been purchased - cost £2,300 - purchased from hundred club money

New Floats purchased for use in the pool - purchased from hundred club money

**08. Donation Request** - Mini Dragons Taekwondo Club - Request for Training Equipment for junior martial arts club to enable quality teaching of techniques. - **RESOLVED** to give a donation of £700.

### **09. Street Lighting - Report from meeting with Jason Hughes .**

Jason Hughes from Shropshire Council agreed that the Street Lights in Coronation, Orchard and Barke Street will return to Dusk to Dawn Lighting. The Parish Council to add street lights on Hazelwells Road onto their inventory. Shropshire Council agreed to look into whether it would be beneficial for Highley Parish Council to purchase their electricity through their bulk buying scheme.

**10. Shropshire Councillors Report. Cllr. Tremellen** Not a lot to report or comment on this month because for some obscure reason everything “political” still closes down over August. A councillor friend said that he’d been in Shirehall earlier in the week (I’m writing this in mid-August) and reported that the place was “like the wreck of the Hesperus”. The ‘Marie Celeste’ might have been a more accurate comparison.

I suppose I can understand Parliament at Westminster shutting down to allow MPs to spend time in their constituencies, but at a local level it always seems a bit of a faff because it’s not as if local councillors spend days stuck in committees or attending rounds of meetings, as I explained in last month’s report all that is a thing of the past since the Cabinet system was introduced in 2009.

The concerns of our town or parish constituents don’t go away for a month so council officers are still in post to keep the wheels turning, although with the increasing tendency to promote “flexible” working trying to find an officer at their desk when you phone can be challenging, it often happens that your first point of contact is a request to leave a voicemail, ending with the dreaded words: “... and we’ll get back to you.”

There is some advantage to email because at least you have a paper trail, but there are often instances when you’re having to chase someone up just to check they’ve had it, the old fashioned way of confirming receipt as a simple common courtesy is sadly a thing of the past, which can be embarrassing if you’ve told a constituent that you’ll get onto their case without delay but then find yourself having to hang fire getting back to them because you’ve been assured you’ll get a response “ASAP” and then hear nothing.

Which is why I’ve given up making promises or indeed raising expectations, because a central plank of Tremellen’s First Law of Fundamental Errors acknowledges that disappointment is directly proportional to expectation – the greater the expectation the greater the disappointment. Conditional assurances like: “I’ll get back to you as soon as I hear something”, are meaningless because making an outcome ‘conditional’ on something else happening is to introduce doubt, the hedging of a bet where the chances are odds-on.

I’ve always tried desperately hard to avoid doing that conditional thing, but over the last few years it has got increasingly harder because “non-executive councillors” (by definition those councillors who are not one of the ten members of Shropshire Council Cabinet) have very little power, they are essentially conduits of information.

Add to that the obvious North Shropshire bias evident in both Cabinet and the Authority as a whole and you have a recipe for the factional make-up of Shirehall, where even Members of the majority Conservative group (the ruling group) can find themselves representing areas that are overlooked for funding. Pretty much every area to the south, east and west of the Wenlock Edge consistently loses out in favour of the north and north-west. Shrewsbury is an anomaly because despite being the power base of the Labour group at Shirehall (virtually all Labour seats are in Shrewsbury electoral wards), Shrewsbury Town Council sees power shared between Labour and Conservative, two recent mayors of Shrewsbury have been Labour and Conservative. So yet another factor that sees the self-interest of “the north” work against the desperate need of “the south” for a fairer spread of funding.

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**10. Finance:**

N.Power	Street Lighting	3674.22
H.M.Customs & Revenue	Tax and National Insurance (July)	72.76
M.E.Preston	Salary	967.16
J.Pietragallo	Watering July	300.00
S.J.Maintenance	Village Maintenance July	195.00
S.J.Maintenance	Village Maintenance July	270.00
SALC	Code of Conduct Training	81.00
B.A.Shorthouse	Skip Hire	165.00
Viking Direct	Stationery	117.38
Highley Garage	Battery for water bowser	90.00
Vaughtons	Chairman's Badge of Office	911.69
Jody Pietrangelo	Watering	400.00
Mini Dragons Taekwondo	Grant - 137	700.00
BT	Adoption of phone box	1.00
Severn Centre	Children's Play Activities (Chairman's Allowance)	200.00
Severn Centre	Christmas Decorations (Chairman's Allowance)	100.00

**Meeting closed 8.55pm**

Signed .....

Date: .....

Agenda Next Meeting

Churchyard.