

Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25 May 2016, at Welshampton Parish Hall, starting at 7pm

Present: Chair: Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council Chair, Andrew Haydon
Clerk: Rebecca Turner
In attendance: Sue Thomas, LJC Community Action Officer, Brian Williams,
Shropshire Councillor
Residents: 6

APM 01/16 Introduction by the Chair

The Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced those present. He explained the format of the meeting.

APM 02/16 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 6 May 2015

The minutes were approved and signed.

APM 03/16 Annual Report of the Parish Council

Cllr. Haydon gave a report on the activities of the council over the past year. In summary, the number of planning applications has reduced since SAMDEV has been adopted. The parish council is budgeting prudently. There are a number of key challenges ahead, such as that the council may be asked start to pay for Shropshire Council services in the near future. Councillor Haydon then introduced Councillor Williams and Sue Thomas who had come to report on changes to Shropshire Council services.

APM 04/16 Shropshire Council report

Councillor Williams presented his report, assisted by Sue Thomas, which focused on changes to the funding and delivery of services and implications for the parish. Councillor Williams had provided a sheet detailing income and expenditure which in summary showed a projected £47 million deficit. Councillor Williams advised that by 2020/21 the rate support grant will be nil so the council needs to save £10 million over the next 4 years. It will be able to keep all of the business rates it receives (currently 50%). However there will be competition as bigger areas are offering incentives for businesses to invest. Small businesses may put pressure on to reduce business rates so they can compete effectively.

Councillor Symes asked how much Shropshire Council can raise Council Tax by. Council tax can be raised by 2% per annum plus an additional 2% of adult social care; alternatively a referendum can be held to seek a community mandate to achieve a higher increase. Councillor Wright asked if schools funding has changed since academies were introduced. Councillor Williams advised that it has not changed significantly but academies operate back-office functions themselves.

Key services affected in the parish affected by the funding cuts include Colemere Countryside Heritage Site. Shropshire Council is seeking expressions of interest from councils who may be interested in taking an increased role in the management/funding of affected services by September/October 2016. Councillor Williams gave examples of where town councils had taken on management of facilities, such as Wem swimming pool. It was suggested that this approach may be rolled out to other services which Shropshire Council is struggling to fund. Councillor Wright asked if it has to be the Parish Council that takes on a service or could a sub-group do it? Councillor Williams advised that this is up for debate. Councillor Houghton asked if this involved management of an asset or ownership of an asset Councillor Williams advised in most cases it is a long-term lease. Councillor Williams was asked what would happen if the parish council took on a service and failed to manage it. Councillor Williams said this would depend on the service and circumstance at that point in time. Councillor Symes asked how this could be coordinated and was informed that clusters are being considered - Sue Thomas advised that she is meeting with Ellesmere Town Council shortly in regard to this.

Actions:

- Sue Thomas to send details of the cost of managing Colemere
- clerk to investigate applicable spending powers
- Sue Thomas to provide a map of affected services

Ellesmere library

An update was given on the library. The consultation is just started regarding reducing library hours. Ellesmere Town Council wish to make a community centre in the mayor's day centre, which will include the library, with rooms available to rent. The Town Council went out to tender but no tenders were returned. All interested parties have been contacted to find out what the issues were to see if they can be overcome. The Friends of the Library are now supporting this concept

APM05/16 Other Parish Matters

None raised.

Cllr Haydon thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed.....

Date.....