

**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26 April 2017, at  
Welshampton Parish Hall, starting at 7pm**

**Chair:** Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council Chair, Cllr. Andrew Haydon

**In attendance:** Andrew Hodson (Headteacher - Welshampton Primary School), Camilla Bruce (Chair of Governors - Newhampton C of E Schools Federation), Guy Wellsbury (Welshampton Church), PCSOs Kerry Hogg and Tracey Walker, Cllr. Brian Williams (Shropshire Council), 11 members of the public

**Clerk:** Rebecca Turner

**Apologies:** Michael Dinsdale, Mark Standen

**APM 01/17 Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The chair welcomed all present to the meeting.

**APM02/17 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**APM 03/17 Annual Report of the Parish Council, including financial report**

The chair thanked all councillors for their service. It was reported that there will be 3 vacancies on the parish council from the date of the election, all vacancies being in Welshampton ward. Interested persons can contact the clerk for further information.

The chair highlighted several ongoing planning issues, including trying to ensure the development of TG's Wood Lane site is safe and good for the community, ongoing planning enforcement issues and applications for development at Corner Farm.

Other achievements for the year include improvements along The Balmer - repainting the phone box and Shropshire Council introducing a revised speed limit.

Speeding remains a high priority for the parish as a whole and a survey was recently carried out by the Safer Roads Partnership, the results of which are awaited.

Ongoing cuts to Shropshire Council funding and the impact on the parish, including Colemere Countryside Heritage Site, are a continuing concern.

The clerk reported that the accounts were in the process of being finalised and will be reported to the next parish council meeting.

**APM 04/17 - Shropshire Council – changes to funding and delivery of services - implications for the parish, including Colemere Countryside Heritage Site**

Councillor Williams reported that Shropshire Council's financial position remains poor due to factors such as a reduction in government grants. Adult social care is a major cost for the council and accounts for 60% of the budget with costs going up by 10% per year. Education funding is ringfenced and the cost of funding children with SEN is rising. Several of the council's activities such as hedge cutting, libraries, street sweeping and waste collection may start happening less often. Shropshire Council is

looking to parishes to take over many of its functions because it can only raise the council tax by 2% a year.

Martin Withington asked if it was possible to hold a referendum on raising council tax. Councillor Williams said that this is possible but that there are no plans to at present.

Guy Wellsbury said that he was surprised to see an area of road near to his house being resurfaced recently when it was in relatively good condition. Councillor Williams reported this is because legally Shropshire Council has to resurface roads every 20 years.

#### **APM 05/17      Speeding**

The PCSOs gave a report in relation to speeding. They advised that the police carry out spot checks in the area at least once a week. The statistics from the Safer Roads Partnership monitoring are not yet known. The police are looking into locations at which laser speed gun monitoring could be carried out and following this it may be possible to get the speed van out to the area. The criteria to get the van out is that 85% of the traffic must be going over the speed limit. The national guidelines for prosecuting in relation to speeding are 10% +2 mph above the permitted speed limit.

Martin Withington asked why there is not zero tolerance and the PCSOs replied that this is because it is up to individual police force areas as to how they choose to enforce. The chairman asked for surveillance during peak periods and was advised that this is up to the Safer Roads Partnership. Some results were not recorded by the school because the 30mph zone is very close to the 60mph and there is a tolerance distance within which drivers have time to slow down.

Jennifer Wright asked about community speed watch and was advised that this was possible and the PCSOs would follow this up with PC Crump.

#### **APM 06/17      Community reports**

*Welshampton Primary School* - Andrew Hodson gave a report. The Federation is proving to be very successful and the results in the SATS were outstanding. The budget is very healthy and the schools will gain from the new national funding formula in the long term. The federation has allowed the schools to pool ideas and experience and hold joint events.

*Welshampton Church* - Guy Wellsbury gave a report. The link between the church and the school is very good. Approximately 18 to 20 people attend each service. An advert for the vicar post is due to go out shortly. The church has created a new area for the burial of cremated remains. The quinquennial review identified that little work is needed to the church. The church thanked the parish council for the churchyard maintenance grant.

*Lyneal Trust* - Chris Symes, Chair of Lyneal Trust gave a report. The trust is based at Lyneal Wharf and cottages and canal boats for the disabled are available to hire. Over 1000 people per year visit and the Trust is very grateful for the contribution of its volunteers. The trust has acquired a new boat, The Shropshire Lady, which will be unveiled at a naming ceremony on 21<sup>st</sup> July. The Trust is aiming to raise £120,000 to build another boat.

*Welshampton Village Hall* - Jennifer Wright gave a report. It was noted that the committee needs new members and that the council has 2 seats on the committee.

**APM07/17 Open Forum**

In response to a question from a member of the public, Councillor Williams advised that no decision has been made in regard to car parking charges at Colemere and that personally he is against car parking charges due to the fact it would increase off-street parking. Sarah Jefferies said that she hopes this will be part of the consultation on services.

In relation to parking at Stocks Lane, the council was asked if it could look at resurfacing the car park and whether the cost can be shared between the users - the school, preschool and church. The chairman explained that the issue is that the lease is short-term. The parish council does however budget for short term maintenance, such as filling in potholes.

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