

# **CRESSAGE, HARLEY AND SHEINTON**

## **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

### **at Harley Village Hall at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Quenby (Chairman), Shropshire Cllr. Wild, 10 members of the public

**Clerk:** Mrs. R. Turner

#### **APM 1/20            Welcome and Opening Comments**

The Chairman, Cllr. Quenby opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

#### **APM 2/20            Present & apologies for absence**

Apologies from Revd Stafford and the policing team.

#### **APM3/20            Minutes of previous meetings – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

It was resolved to approve the minutes as being a correct record and the chairman was instructed to sign them

#### **APM 4/20            Matters Arising from the minutes**

None.

#### **APM5/20            Parish Council Report (by Chairman of Parish Council)**

The Chairman said that the council are very pleased with increased attendance at council meetings. The fete was successful and it is intended to make this annual so long as it is self-funding. Volunteers needed for 30<sup>th</sup> Aug fete and Tug of War event in May. Litter picking volunteers thanked – PC supplies equipment. The council is also grateful for ideas re the playing field and pavilion, which is in the process of being refurbished. The field is used by ladies rounders and Wenlock Warrior Football Team. The PC is hoping to work with VH Committee and social club to co-ordinate events. Irresponsible dog owners continue to allow dogs to mess, there are 4 bins in Cressage and signs and the chairman thanked parishioners for helping to tackle this issue. Much needed housing in village slow in being delivered. Ongoing debate re The Eagles and looking forward to suitable conclusion acceptable to all. The chair referred to the 2016 Chair's annual report which referred to fly tipping and ASB at The Eagles fly tipping – disappointing that 4 years on this issue is not resolved but attempts are being made to address it. Parking on Sheinton Road is an issue that has been raised and together with traffic speed in this area will be looked into further. Buildwas - development at Ironbridge Power Station and minerals application - has ramifications for parish, in particular traffic. Thanks to CRAG for updating community on road closures. Remembrance Sunday – celebrated with a good turnout. All street lights now LED. The PC kept within budget and precept realistic. Forthcoming year exciting with projects for community and to improve community spirit and bring community together further. Views in the community are often diverse but the sharing of opinions and views and working together to find solutions is much welcomed.

#### **APM 6/20            Finance Report**

Precept for 2020/21 held at same Band D level as 2019/20. On target to be on budget by year end, 31.3.2020. Year-end accounts will be published on the parish council website.

**a) Police Report****FEB 2019-FEB 2020.**

The last year has seen some challenges in terms of work load for our (SNT) Safer Neighbourhood Team which consists of 3 officers, myself PcsO Birch, PcsO Baldwin and Pc Milton.

We are currently responsible for nineteen parishes across Shrewsbury Rural East and manage Eighteen Risk Management Plans in relation to victims of Domestic violence/vulnerable adults & children. We have 5 children's care homes who we visit or liaise with on a monthly basis to keep updated with all children in residence which does change on a regular basis, we had 41 reports of missing persons from children's homes in our area in the last year. Thankfully all were found safe and well.

Our team have also been working closely with a number of agencies to resolve issues such as neighbourhood disputes, vulnerable adults and speeding enforcement to name a few and our commitment to resolving such matters and protecting people from harm in our communities is ongoing.

**Below are the crime statistics from February 2019-February 2020**

Anti-Social Behaviour	11
Burglary	5
Criminal Damage	2
Sexual crime	2
Theft	11

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>
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**Community Messaging Service is available online. [cms.westmercia.police.uk](https://cms.westmercia.police.uk)**

**The link gives information regarding what is happening in your area and the latest crime statistics.**

**Your Safer Neighbourhood Team email is [shrewsburyre.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:shrewsburyre.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)**

**Contact 101 non emergency**

**Or 999 for emergency**

**b) Shropshire Council****PARISH ISSUES**

Coronavirus leaflet – Cllr. Wild summarised the basic advice. Likely to be more cases.

Once again, I have really enjoyed working with the Parish Council this year. We managed to stop any changes to the 436 bus service which I know is a lifeline to many local residents.

I have been contacted over various matters from flooding to potholes to dog fouling.

You will be pleased to know that the Cressage bridge repairs have been commissioned and we are awaiting a start date from Kier.

Flooding over the last few months has been a real issue for many residents, circa 350 houses affected. The flooding at Harley has caused a lot of disruption. There were a number of short-term fixes, none of which

worked. The size of the pipe between the gully and outfall chamber is only 100mm and needs to be increased for a long-term solution. I am hopeful this work will take place within the next month. A consequence of this flooding was that the traffic used Wood Lane and Shore Lane causing substantial damage to the verges. Once the work to Harley has taken place, I will ask that the verges are tidied up.

There has also been flooding at Sheinton. The local technician and drainage engineer have to design a long-term solution in conjunction with local landowners. The delay in resolving this situation is down to the large number of flooding issues in the County and the recent severe flood warnings which has put further pressure on the drainage team. Hopefully a solution will be found soon.

## BUDGET

The Council's finances have again come under enormous pressure, mainly due to the continued increase in costs for Adult & Children's Social Care. Over the last few years the costs of Adult Social Care have risen by some £10M year on year. We have also seen a big increase in the number of looked after children which has added an extra £4m of pressure to this year's budget.

Council agreed in February 2020 to increase Council tax by 1.99% which equates to approximately £3.1M. In addition the government Social Care precept of 2% will be included giving a total increase of approximately £6.5M. As you will appreciate this goes nowhere near to funding the Adult and Children's Social budget let alone any provision for inflation.

It should be noted that the excellent work undertaken in social care across Shropshire, the number of actual service users is less than 10,000. There are over 320,000 people in Shropshire meaning that almost 97% of the population are not accessing social care services; but they are accessing other services of the Council such as highways, transport, public protection, leisure, parks and open countryside. These areas, acutely visible to us all, are the very areas that will see their funding reduced, to enable our limited resources to be diverted to social care. To almost 97% of local taxpayers this presents a simple and unfortunate outcome: they pay more money to the local authority in Council Tax, fees and charges yet receive reduced services. There is form of receipt at the end of this report to help demonstrate just what your Council tax pays for.

## LOCAL PLAN

A full draft version of the Local Plan comprising both site allocations and Development Management policies will be taken to Cabinet in May 2020. This draft version will be consulted upon for six weeks in June/July. This is likely to be your final opportunity to provide written comments on the Local Plan. The Final Draft Local Plan will go before Shropshire's Full Council in September in order to seek agreement to submit the plan to the Government for Examination. Assuming Council agree to this, the Local Plan will be submitted in October and the Examination in Public (EiP) will commence. It is anticipated the EiP will take at least a year, and assuming a successful outcome, the Council anticipates adopting the Local Plan in early 2022.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Shropshire Council has always been concerned about the environment and have adopted many schemes and practices to reduce our carbon footprint prior to declaring a Climate Emergency on 16th May 2019.

Since that time we have established a Climate Change Task and Finish Group, employed additional staff and created a Climate Action Partnership of stakeholders and the wider community, to partner with the Council to provide advice, support and encouragement to public, business and charitable organisations to adopt similar policies and practices across the county.

Shropshire is already very proactive in renewable energy generation. In 2019, Government Feed-in Tariff (FITs) data showed that Shropshire was ranked 5th nationally for installed renewable energy capacity, largely as the result of significant installed solar PV and anaerobic digestion facilities. Shropshire is home to the largest amount of installed capacity of anaerobic digestion, in all amounting to around 16 MW or over 5% of the total UK installed capacity.

Shropshire Council recently responded to the Government's 'Future Homes' consultation on potential changes to the Building Regulations to the effect that Government needs to significantly improve the performance of new building if we are to be able to respond to the challenge of climate change.

In December 2019 the Council approved a £6.5m programme to convert all the remaining street lighting to LED, which will generate further significant financial and carbon savings.

Our waste management contract with Veolia also delivers a strong positive outcome, with a net carbon negative performance of around minus 22,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, largely as the result of our excellent recycling performance which places Shropshire Council in the Top Ten Unitary Councils for its recycling performance.

You will have read about the "plant a tree" schemes that are taking place across the UK. Shropshire Council will be reintroducing its free tree scheme in the near future.

Whilst Shropshire Council can ensure that it reduces its own carbon footprint it is more difficult to ensure that the County as a whole follows suit. Our role is to lead by example. However, we all have a part to play in reducing the carbon footprint and there are a lot of actions that we can take as consumers. Shropshire Council will soon be launching the new Climate Change website and this site will feature some simple positive tips that anyone can take (regardless of means) to reduce our overall footprint. I have included a few of these tips and ideas at the end of this report.

Shropshire Council want to be carbon neutral by 2035 and lead by example.

## SOCIAL CARE

Our Adult and Children's Social Care budgets continue to show sharp increases year on year.

In the last three years the Council is now starting to experience budgetary pressures within children's social care.

The expected green paper for Adult Social Care which was delayed by Brexit has now been shelved completely and following the general election in December we are promised that a cross party panel will come up with an entirely new scheme for Adult Social Care in the next 12 months.

In the meantime, 55% of your council tax is spent on Adult & Children's social care. To put this into some sort of perspective only 3% of the population receive Adult Social Care from Shropshire Council and yet it currently costs 62% of Shropshire Council's net budget. In 2015/16 the percentage of the net budget was 44%, which represents a growth of £37M in just four years. This is unsustainable and we continue to lobby at the highest level for immediate help and significant change.

## HIGHWAYS

Over the past year Highways and the lack of communication and getting the job done has been a real issue for many residents and Shropshire Councillors alike. Shropshire Council has 3,200 miles of roads to maintain, one third are A & B roads, two thirds are C roads or unclassified. Two thirds of the resources are spent on the A& B roads leaving insufficient funds for our C and unclassified roads. Up until now the road maintenance programme has been based on an asset management system. However, Shropshire

Council are looking at this and wish to work more with local councils and communities as to the allocation of resources for roads in their local area. I welcome this proposed way of working as the Parish Councils have a far more detailed knowledge of priorities in their area however, we cannot escape from the fact that there is simply not enough resources to repair and maintain our current road infrastructure.

The total budget available for highways this year is £30M, with the recent wet weather many roads have been flooded. There is a need to invest in drainage improvements and generally reconfigure our engagement, communications, processes, computer systems and deliver a better quality of work and service to the community. In order to assist the Council with these changes they have employed a consultant, he has been brought in on a six-month contract which, in total, will cost £130,000. So, whilst there maybe criticism, if £130k implements the changes needed to the £30m budget and residents see an improvement in delivery then in my view, it is money well spent.

**c) Cressage Village Hall**

The Village Hall committee continues to manage and maintain the hall providing a valuable community facility for Cressage residents and surrounding areas.

We would like to thank the WI for their continued support, not only with their bookings, but helping us with catering at events, fundraising for the hall and of course their annual spring clean! Thanks go out to Joan and Robert Slater who are roped in at the drop of a hat to help at various events. Also to Paul Aston who supports with getting prizes and keeping an eye on the hall ensuring its in good order.

Bookings have been encouraging this year. Private bookings of parties, meetings and various workshops and our regular users WI, Tai Chi, Table tennis, CGC, Silver movers and the new Shiatsu group have kept the hall financially stable. We appreciate the support of these groups.

Monthly bingo is well attended and provides a steady income for the hall. Our Christmas Fair was again a great success and raised around £1500.

The committee has tried over the last couple of years to put on events for the community to raise funds for the Village Hall. The first Ceilidh event was well supported however the last 3 planned events were cancelled due to lack of support. Weekly coffee mornings also ceased due to low attendance.

As for the future of the village hall???? The committee comprises of 4 members (3 active) who also have jobs and family commitments. We cannot do more than we currently do and are at the point where we are a maintenance committee. We need members of the community to come on board and start to do some fundraising and apply for grants etc to ensure this facility remains at the high standard it currently is.

Future projects will include replacement of the hall floor and resurfacing of the car park. Both projects will cost a lot of money which can only come from fundraising and grants.

Our AGM date will be decided at the next meeting and will be published in the Village Life and on our facebook page. We hope to see many members of the community join us and show their support.

**d) W.I.**

The WI in Cressage meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in Cressage Village Hall. Membership of 36 ladies coming from Much Wenlock, Leighton. Cross Houses and Shrewsbury and Cressage.

We have a varied programme of talks and demonstrations, craft classes and outings and take part in events organised by the County Federation and East Shrewsbury Group. We take part in the Shrewsbury Flower Show and in 2019 swept the board winning more awards than any other WI in the County.

We have a chosen charity each year which, according to the rules of the WI as a charity itself, must be of benefit to our own members and their families. In 2019/20 the group have so far raised £1000 for Lingen Davies Cancer fund and have an ongoing commitment to support Cressage Village Hall.

We offer a warm welcome to visitors to our meetings. A monthly report appears in Village Life together with details of our meetings.

Ruth Oakley, Cressage WI Secretary.

e) **Gardening Club** – no report.

f) **Christ Church CE School**

See separate report uploaded to website.

g) **Pre-School – ChildrensworldUK (CWUK), Cressage**

See f above.

h) **Reports relating to Cressage, Harley and Sheinton Parishes not listed**

### **CHIRSTCHURCH, CRESSAGE**

**Revd. Walker reported.** Christchurch Cressage, although not having a PCC or Churchwardens continues to fulfil its obligation under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme and open 51 days of the year and holds its required six services. My thanks go to the faithful band of volunteers who open and lock the church.

Christchurch is supported by the Wenlock Group of Parishes and the Treasurer of Much Wenlock manages the Cressage accounts.

The question of whether the current building will continue as a public place of worship will be reviewed again in 2021 when the conditions that were placed over the roof grant expire. A full transparent consultation process will take place when the time comes.

The Community of Cressage still have access to a Priest and The Revd Matthew Stafford and the Ministry Team of Wenlock are still very much available if individuals or families need pastoral care and when requests are made for Baptisms, Weddings and Funeral. Home Communion are available to the housebound on request.

Our Messy Church at Christchurch CofE School on the 3rd Sunday of the Month continues to go from strength to strength supported by a very dedicated group of Lay Volunteers.

Open the Book in School takes place on a Monday and again a very committed Team ensures that happens every Monday during Term time.

Thanks to a very enthusiastic group of volunteers the graveyard is maintained by Friends of Cressage Graveyard and Caring for God's Acre. The unfinished path and disabled access following the adjacent development is being pursued by the Diocese of Hereford. Repairs to the roof tiles, gutters and internal nave wall are to take place in the Spring.

The Anglican Church has not abandoned Cressage, but we are all having to accept that we are needing to go about the mission and ministry in a different kind of way.

### **KEY UPCOMING DATES:**

## **CHRISTCHURCH CRESSAGE - OPENING DATES 2020/2021 (51 DAYS)**

### **EASTER (13 Days)**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April

### **PENTECOST**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May-Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June (7 Days)

### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING (8 Days)**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September -Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

### **REMEMBRANCE (7 Days)**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November

### **CHRISTMAS (18 Days)**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020

(Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day)

### **SERVICE TIMES 2020**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7pm Compline and Reflection

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am Holy Communion for Easter Day

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 9.30am Holy Communion for Pentecost

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am Harvest Festival

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 10am Remembrance Service

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 6.30pm Christingle and Carols

### **St Peter and St Paul, Sheinton**

Sheinton Church holds two monthly services which are attended by small but committed congregations. Kids Church is held on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm and is a lay-led service aimed at primary and lower secondary school age children. A Eucharist service is held at 11am on the fourth Sunday of each month. We also hold special services for Easter, our Patronal Festival (in June), Harvest, Christingle and Christmas Eve. These festival services replace the regular service that would have taken place on that Sunday. Our Quinquennial survey was carried in October 2019 and the subsequent report has highlighted areas in and around the Church for attention and repair. Many will have noticed that the panels on the bell tower are in a sorry state. We have started discussions with the Hereford Diocesan Office and the architects who carried out the survey and have high hopes that we will be able to find some funding over the course of the next year to help repair the tower and the roof, which is also in need of some attention. Inside the church, the blue paint on the east wall was flaking off in patches and was discoloured in others. We had a visit from the makers of the paint used in the 2013 redecoration, Keim Paints, who have suggested solutions for solving these issues and these will be being put into effect over the next few months. We have also been successful in raising money to purchase a new noticeboard in the porch; replace the lights in church, which we hope will reduce our electricity bills; and the generosity of our Christmas Eve congregation has helped buy the first of some comfortable pew runners, which now grace the front seats either side of the main aisle. The PCC hold regular maintenance days to keep the outside of the Church as tidy as possible. We would like to thank everyone who came along to our autumn 2019 maintenance day. We achieved so much with their help in just a few hours, but there is always something more to be done; the Yew tree collapse during Storm Dennis is our latest headache! The improvements and the ongoing maintenance would not be possible without the continued support of those in the village and the surrounding areas and the PCC would like to publicly thank all of them for their time and effort.

**APM 8/20      Open forum where members of the public may raise any subject for the exchange of information and general discussion.**

Church – query re maintenance of path. Was in PCC report. Church supposed to install ramp for disabled access.

Parking outside Raby Cottages – at back of cottages is a road – can residents be encouraged to park there? Chair explained issue is that on Sheinton Rd are no yellow lines so all that can be done is to ask the residents but cannot enforce it. Member of public said have to leave min width of 8ft 6, causes problems for large vehicles. A458 constant water flowing – noted that there is a blocked drain.

Renewable energy suppliers – did PC manage to get this for pavilion? Clerk said his had not bene done as yet and the contract expires middle of the year. It was suggested that the council look into Bulb via British Gas as a company.

Smartwater – resident disappointed the PC didn't join the scheme as it would be a collective deterrent. The PC hadn't joined due to the cost and query re whether it was only a deterrent if goods actually found. Possibility of people paying for the full cost of the kits. The PC could re-look into it again.

**Meeting closed 8.02pm**