

**Cressage, Harley and Sheinton PC**  
**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**at Cressage Village Hall at 6.45pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Tipper (Chairman), Shropshire Cllr. Wild, 12 members of the public

**Clerk:** Mrs. R. Turner

**APM 1/18      Welcome**

The chair welcomed all present.

**APM 2/18      Apologies for absence**

None.

**APM 3/18      Minutes of parish meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

It was resolved to approve the minutes and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

**APM 4/18      Matters arising**

None.

**APM 5/18      Parish Council Report**

The past year has been dominated by Shropshire Council's decision to undertake a Local Plan Review. This is likely to have a significant effect on housing development in Cressage over the next five years and beyond. Cressage now designated as an area of Open Countryside and is likely to become a Community Hub. There is a considerable amount of detailed information relating to this on Shropshire Council's website.

As part of this review the planning department will consult with both residents and parish council undertake site visits and advise on a development boundary and appropriate housing needs. An initial consultation period was established and this ended earlier this year. Details of designated hubs will be announced later this year. The parish council has been engaged in two fronts regarding this consultation. Firstly, three of our members have been working on the 2018 Parish Plan. Their final task was to publish an Action Plan. This has been adopted by the parish council. The required actions relating to housing and development are now part of a planning strategy we will continue to pursue.

Secondly, the full council have submitted a comprehensive response to the review which included the 2018 Parish Plan and Action Plan. We have met with officers from the authority relating to this issue and as chairman I have attended two sessions on the Local Plan Review at the invitation of Shropshire Council. An initial public meeting has taken place, and Shropshire Councillor Claire Wild, myself and our clerk, Rebecca Turner, had a lengthy meeting with planning officer Liam Cowden at the Shirehall. On this occasion we were able to present an overview of Cressage as a settlement, examine development boundaries, discuss development capacity and possible site allocations and also spend some time considering infrastructure challenges. In April of this year Liam joined us for a walking tour of the village to examine at first hand the issues raised.

One specific area Liam was able to view was the general state of disrepair and dereliction that is now The Eagles Site. During the last twelve months there have been two applications to develop the site. Both were opposed by the Parish Council and subsequently rejected by Shropshire Council. The parish council has spent a considerable amount of time examining these and on one occasion had to call an extraordinary meeting exclusively designated to this issue. We have regularly lobbied appropriate

departments with our concerns and been supported by Councillor Claire Wild. Initially on examining the second set of plans we were pleased to see a footpath had been included. Enquires as to how genuine this might be were set in motion. Similar enquiries were also made by a local resident and the editor of Village Life. The various responses published in a recent edition adequately illustrate the unacceptable confusion over a basic safety issue. It is extremely frustrating to us that this “eyesore” at the centre of Cressage is set to remain so and there appears to be no way the community who suffer it can seek redress.

Speeding remains a concern throughout the parish. It was highlighted in the Parish Plan as being of particular concern in Harley and Cressage. Residents of Station Rd in Cressage attended several meetings to highlight this issue and speed survey was organised. The resulting data indicated no significant speeding issues on Station Rd. As a follow up to this the parish council met with Ian Walshaw, Highways Manager for Shropshire Council to put forward concerns relating to road safety and highway maintenance. Although we have yet to receive the programme of planned maintenance for highways the parish council has identified the maximum of five sites as community led concerns. These are also highlighted in the actions requested for consideration in the Parish Plan and include:

- The road junctions surrounding the war memorial on the A458, their poor visibility, indistinct road markings, and degrading road surfaces.
- The Severn Way junction with the A458, speeding and visibility impeded by B.T. control boxes.
- The narrowing of the A458 and lack of pavements to the left of the Severn Way junction.
- Parking issues on Sheinton Road.

These will be reviewed and if necessary re-submitted on a regular basis.

I would like to thank all those who helped produce the Parish Plan 2018. The plan and its recommended actions are supported by the parish council and a progress review is featured on meetings every 3 months. The Plan has been distributed to relevant departments of Shropshire Council. We have a limited amount of funding available to support projects proposed in the Parish Plan and would welcome proposals from groups or individuals. This year we responded to a request from Cressage Village Hall Committee to contribute to the costs of re-decoration of the hall following its refurbishment. The sum of £2,000 was awarded.

Finance remains a challenging issue. We have continued to keep the Parish Precept to the same charge as last year despite having to face cuts in our maintenance grant. Play and recreation Areas have been maintained well and the council was congratulated again on the quality of recent repairs. Long term issues such as upgrading of equipment and large scale fencing replacement may soon need a more immediate focus and will require funding. The Parish Council is responsible for street lighting in Cressage, excluding that on the A458, and this is becoming problematic as replacement parts particularly bulbs are now obsolete and difficult to locate due to the age of the lamps. In the near future, we will have to examine ways of a staged or complete replacement of all units in the village again incurring a considerable cost.

During the year we had to designate two sub-committees to manage issues that required urgent detailed attention outside the regular meeting framework. The first was set up to re-examine an alcohol and live music licence application by Cressage Village Hall Committee which the parish council initially opposed. Any objections were subsequently withdrawn following certain guarantees regarding lettings and provision of a review system involving parish council and Cressage Village Hall Committee. The second sub-committee was established to set up the process of selecting candidates for interview for the position of Clerk to the Council, completing the interview process and making the appointment.

In 2017 our longstanding clerk Derek Shaw announced his decision to retire at the end of the financial year in April 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Derek for his help and support during my tenure as chair of the council and for his commitment to both council and community alike. Mrs Rebecca Turner has now been appointed as our clerk and we look forward to working with her.

## APM 6/18 Finance Report

The RFO summarised the council accounts for 2017/18.

<b>Budget report &amp; bank reconciliation End year 2017/18</b>		
<b>Cressage, Harley &amp; Sheinton Parish Council</b>		
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Budget 2017/18</b>	<b>Actual 31.3.18</b>
Precept	£15,970.00	£15,970.00
Environmental Maintenance Grant	£3,000.00	£2,262.96
Transparency Grant	£0.00	£1,295.04
Neighbourhood Fund (CIL)	£0.00	£4,018.12
VAT refund	£250.00	£483.89
Pavilion hire	£0.00	£90.00
Credit of cancelled cheque	£0.00	£20.00
Overpayment to D Shaw (salary)	£0.00	£25.84
Bank Interest	£2.00	£3.65
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£19,222.00</b>	<b>£24,169.50</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>Budget 2017-18</b>	<b>Actual 31.3.18</b>
<b>Administrative &amp; Establishment Costs:</b>		
Clerk's Salary	In admin	£5,835.53
Mileage	In admin	£0.00
Admin	£6,640.00	£1,754.56
Facilities	£2,500.00	£581.31
Grounds / minor highways	£13,540.00	£9,324.12
Lighting	£2,080.00	£1,475.95
Insurance	£1,800.00	£1,808.98
Parish Plan	£0.00	£807.18
S137 (Village Hall Grant)	£0.00	£2,000.00
VAT	£0.00	£344.61
<b>GRAND TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£26,560.00</b>	<b>£23,932.24</b>
<b>BANK RECONCILIATION</b>		
Balance b/fwd from 31st March 2017		£26,535.34
less payments		£23,932.24
add receipts		£24,169.50
<b>BALANCE AS PER CASHBOOK</b>		<b>£26,772.60</b>
Represented by bank balances	Current a/c	£19,396.23
	Savings a/c	£7,396.37
	<b>Total balances</b>	<b>£26,792.60</b>
Less unrepresented cheques & SO		
	2108	£10.00
	2114	£10.00
		<b>£20.00</b>
Add uncredited receipts		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>RECONCILED BALANCE</b>		<b>£26,772.60</b>

## APM 7/18 Other Reports

### a) Police

Latest monthly report as follows:

Assault:	Theft: 2	Burglary Other:
Vehicle Crime:	Criminal Damage:	Burglary Dwelling:
Other:	Road Traffic Incident: 4	Road Collision: 1
ASB Personal:	ASB Environmental:	ASB Nuisance: 2

### b) Churches

Rev. Sarah Hare gave a report from The Wenlock Team of Parishes for Christ Church, Cressage, St Mary's Church, Harley and St Peter and St Paul's Church, Sheinton.

#### **Christ Church, Cressage**

In January 2017, Bishop Alistair Magowan led a public meeting to discuss the future of Christ Church, Cressage which was attended by 25 people from Cressage and the surrounding villages. The Church currently has no Church Wardens, PCC or Treasurer making it very difficult to function as a regular worshipping community. No Church Officers have been forthcoming and following this meeting in January we have had to pursue the route to potential closure for the church. Finance is an ongoing struggle and not helped by £850 worth of snow damage to the trees in the Churchyard in December 2017.

In 2011 a grant was awarded from Historic England for the roof and this grant runs for a further 3 years. Within this, we have to have the church open for 40 days a year and hold 6 services each year. We have had services in January, February and March and a service on Easter Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas Eve for Christingle and Christ Church C of E School have also held end of term services in the school during 2017. In February 2018 we had a visit from the Church Buildings Council who have produced a report about the church and its assets and we now await further guidance from Hereford Diocese and the Church Commissioners.

It was a privilege to hold the annual service of Remembrance in church and then to go to the war memorial. I am very grateful to all those in the Cressage community who helped me in organising this service and making this safe including Church members, community volunteers and our local police.

We have excellent links with Christ Church C of E School and I am a Foundation Governor in the school. I go in to do assemblies weekly and also am part of the Open the Book team of volunteers that act out Bible stories in school every week. We have recently started going in to Childrensworld where we have a volunteer who does Godly Play with the children. We started Messy Church in the school in May which now meets once a month on Sunday afternoon. This is a gathering of all ages and it has been great fun to be part of this and to watch this taking shape.

The new housing development alongside the church allows as part of the building plan for church parking and we are currently applying for a Faculty for a path to be built from the parking in to the Churchyard which will give us better access to the church.

I am grateful to all those who keep the church running at present through cleaning, playing for services, opening up to meet the roof grant conditions and other jobs that are required – thank you.

### **St Mary's Church, Harley**

The start of 2017 saw St Mary's Church, Harley closed as a lot of interior work was done to the church to maintain the building and to improve it as a place of worship. The church re-opened in April 2017 with a wonderful evening where all those with links to the church were invited to celebrate the work that had been done. Bishop Alistair Magowan led a short act of worship to rededicate the church after the redecoration and restoration of the church.

The church community and church officers work very hard to continue the pattern of services from Family breakfast, Eucharist and Evensong service each month. Members of the church are involved in Borderlands rural chaplaincy and are running a new project of holding a breakfast with drinks and opportunities to chat for our local farmers and this project is valued in our farming communities. Several events have happened through the year from Sunday lunches, coffee mornings, Maundy Thursday Lord's Supper, Open Gardens, Nativity service and Festival of Light.

The church officers and the congregations work very hard at making the church welcoming to all and I am very grateful for all their hard work.

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

The PCC of St Peter and St Paul's Sheinton are a small group of people, but they work very hard to keep the church going, to welcome all who come to the church for whatever reason and to work with the local community.

The church holds two services a month, a Eucharist and Kid's Church, and during 2017 Kid's Church reached its 5 year anniversary. Some of the older young people have now left, but there seems to be a new generation of children and young people becoming involved and attending this service.

Through the year, Sheinton have had some special services for their annual church festival for St Peter and St Paul when a bake-off was held after the service, they welcomed a pilgrimage walk to one of their services and they held their Christmas Eve Eucharist and Carol Service. I am very grateful to the PCC and Church officers who work so hard to keep the church in good order and to welcome people very readily.

Thank you to all those who work in our churches and support the churches in your parish. We aim to be welcoming to all and to link with the community wherever possible to be a visible presence of God in this place.

## **c) Shropshire Council**

Claire Wild, Shropshire Councillor for the Severn Valley Division, had provided the following report:

### *Budgetary Pressures*

It is now accepted both locally and nationally that Adult Social Care and Looked After Children create major pressures on Council's available budgets. Over 50% of Shropshire Council's annual net budget is spent on Adult Social Care and this figure continues to rise by an average

of £8m year on year. In addition to this, the increased costs (on average £4m year on year) of Looked After Children presents Shropshire Council with a major budgetary problem. This is not just an issue for Shropshire Council. Representatives from Shropshire council (and councils across the UK), along with our MPs are lobbying government to find a formula as we have for schools so that adult social care is funded on a national rather than local basis.

The current Administration of the Council has forecast a balanced budget for the years 2018/19 and 2019/20 but to balance the budget over a five-year term, 2022/23 there is a current budget deficit of £43m.

The Administration of the Council has altered its focus to concentrate on increasing income both within commercial and trading services, but it is inevitable that there will need to be further cuts.

#### *Adult Social Care*

Adult Social Care (ASC) has had a year of challenges and changes. In June we welcomed a sector led improvement peer challenge. The Peer Review team were complimentary about the work of ASC and noted the enthusiasm of the ASC workforce and all stakeholders they engaged with. The Peer Review saw a clear commitment to making a positive difference to the lives of Shropshire residents and achievement was recognised in the Council's approach to partnership and engagement.

Adult Services net budget has increased by £5.8m from 2016/17 to 2017/18, due to the combination of a growing and ageing population, increasingly complex care needs, and increases in care costs. It is well evidenced that the demographic pressures on adult social care will increase further in the longer-term. Shropshire Council's expenditure on adult social care is forecast to increase by £7m next year, and by an average of £8.3m per year over the next 5 years.

Adult social care continues to flex and adapt to an ever-changing landscape of challenges; more people with more complex needs, care providers struggling to recruit staff in rural areas and of National Living Wages, and healthcare colleagues working to reorganise hospital-based services. There are considerable uncertainties around future funding initiatives from Government in relation to Adult Social Care and the across the wider health & social care economy. Short term funding initiatives such as the Improved Better Care Fund have brought in welcome funding and enabled a number of exciting initiatives such as 2 carers in a car, but the concern does remain that this is not long-term funding and ASC cannot rely upon it.

#### *Local Plan Review*

Shropshire is in the fortunate position of having a sound local plan and a six-year land supply. The current adopted Local Plan covers the period 2006 to 2026. Consultation took place in late 2017 on the first review of our plan covering the period 2016 – 2036 (an extra 10 years). The Planning Policy Team consulted on the Preferred Scale and Distribution of Growth as part of the ongoing Local Plan Review. Around 650 responses were received including many responses from Town and Parish Councils, local organisations, land owners and developers. The Policy Team are currently reviewing these responses and a Summary document is being prepared and will form part of a Cabinet Report for the 2nd May. This Cabinet Report will also clarify the future timetable for the Local Plan Review.

The next key stage of the Local Plan Review is a public consultation on Preferred Site Allocations in October 2018. This will set out the proposed sites in Shrewsbury, Market Towns, Key Centres and, if necessary, Community Hubs. To inform the choice of preferred sites the Policy Team are currently preparing a number of supporting documents, including the Green Belt Review and a new Landscape Capacity Assessment. We have also started the conversations with the Town and Parish Councils where we are proposing development, and these discussions will help inform the eventual choice of preferred sites.

#### *Environmental Maintenance Grant*

After pressure from rural councillors Cabinet have agreed to reinstate Environmental Maintenance Grants. You should soon receive a letter containing the details of the revised scheme and will be asked to comment. The scheme is limited to a maximum of £1,500 per parish and will need to be match funded 100%. For example, to receive the full grant you will have to spend £3,000 on eligible schemes within your parish. The activity eligible for funding by the Environmental Maintenance Grant will be undertaken on Shropshire Council owned land and assets only.

#### *Kier Contract*

A new partnership responsible for delivering a wide range of highways maintenance and environmental maintenance services in Shropshire began work on 1 April 2018. The Shropshire Highways Alliance is made up of Shropshire Council, WSP – the council's engineering consultant, and Kier – the council's new highways maintenance contractor. From 1 April 2018 Kier will be responsible for highways projects and schemes, pothole repair, gritting, bridge maintenance, grass cutting, drainage, street lighting, emergency responses, vehicle maintenance and more.

It was disappointing that the start of the new contract coincided with further bad weather, however Kier have already employed an additional number of work teams to reduce the backlog of work that was left by the previous contractor (who were disappointing to say the least). The new contract has also seen an additional £1.85m from national government to specifically deal with the many potholes on our roads.

#### *Local Matters*

Locally, planning issues, highway matters and dog fouling are still hot topics for my inbox and I am hopeful that we will be able to find resolutions to some of these matters over the coming months.

Cressage is likely to become a Hub. The good news is that Cressage will then have a defined development boundary around the village, the specific boundary will be discussed and agreed with the Parish Council and the Planning Policy Officer. Harley & Sheinton will not be included and therefore will remain open countryside.

I've very much enjoyed working with you and I will continue to work on your behalf throughout the next year.

- d) **Village Halls**  
No reports.
- e) **WI**  
No report.

**f) Gardening Club**

No report.

**g) Christ Church CE School**

Tracey Cansdale, Headteacher, gave a report:

Thank you for the opportunity of reporting to the Parish Council on the activities of Christ Church Primary School over the last year. We are proud to be a village school serving our local area. At the current time, we have 84 pupils on roll and have 3 classes:

Red Class taught by Mrs Martin for Reception and Year 1

Green Class taught by Mr Kennedy and Mrs Cansdale for Years 2, 3 and 4 Yellow Class taught by Mrs Douch for Years 4, 5 and 6.

We have close links with Childrensworld (Ofsted rated 'Outstanding') who are on-site and provide nursery and wrap-around day care and holiday care. They regularly use the Hall, join in with Worship times and use the Forest School area, as well as attending our weekly 'Stay and Play' session in Red Class.

Ofsted inspected the school in July 2017 and rated us a "Good School". The report is available to read on the Ofsted website, and off our own website:

"Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the leadership of the School. Almost all who responded said they would recommend the school to another parent. Pupils said it is a very caring school. In mixed-age classes pupils often receive bespoke provision according to their individual needs."

We are also very proud to be awarded the Gold Mark for our Sports provision – this is challenging for small schools as entering competitions is harder with smaller cohorts to pick teams from – but our active pupils and hardworking staff made it possible. Currently, we are all involved in running a mile regularly – some children do this daily and we have 52 children entered for the Shropshire Primary Schools Half Marathon.

'Exploring Opportunities' is one of our five curriculum drivers (things we see as essential) and we have welcomed a wide variety of visitors into school over the last year; from an Egyptologist, Roman soldier, Severn Trent water, Bridgnorth Food Bank, Shrewsbury Ark to the Animal Man. Alongside that, children have been for visits to Carding Mill Valley for a River Study, Stokesay Castle, and we are soon off to the Safari Park.

'Outdoor Education' is another curriculum driver and we have twice-weekly Forest School sessions in the school grounds, as well as planning to build an outdoor classroom on our top field (a wooden building) which will enable more lessons to take place outside.

Our results in last year's KS2 SATS were above the national average and we believe this is down to an engaging curriculum. We encourage interest in our local area like taking part in an Art project involving the names of those who died in World War One from Cressage and Cound and contributing to the Local Plan. As well as taking part in fun events like our annual sponsored run around the village and hosting the Cressage Cup for the 46th year (a football and high five tournament for seven other local schools).



This year has also seen the appointment of Tracey Cansdale as permanent Teaching Head, having been in the Acting position of Head since November 2016. Tracey has been at the school since 2009 and has parents living in the area, so has local connections.

Community involvement in the school is essential. We have volunteer readers and helpers including a committed 'Open the Book' team who lead Worship times weekly. Our Governing Board is active, willing and very giving of its time to ensuring continual improvement. Thank you to all our Governors who volunteer as well as juggling extensive work and family commitments. Thanks also to our PTA. Grandparents are often involved as well as parents in PTA events. The PTA have put on some splendid events, which they hope bring life and fun into the village, such as the Bonfire event and Fayres. Money raised in this way has become ever more essential in this challenging economic climate as the amount the Government allocates for school funding has to stretch to an increasing amount of services. The impact of austerity is felt by children in our community as they and their parents struggle increasingly to access essential health and welfare services and it is left to schools to 'plug the gap'. Shropshire Council have also planned some stringent cuts to the Education Improvement Service that will take effect in April 2019, so these challenging times are set to continue.

In the midst of these times, we remain focused on what is our core purpose: helping children to flourish. We are a Church School and the CofE has as its mission statement for church schools – 'to live life in all its fullness'. We see that as summing up what we are about as a school. We know children need to have excellent literacy and numeracy skills but we also hope that as they learn to play an instrument, perform at the William Brookes Dance Festival, produce a model in Lego Club, learn to swim, sing in our School Choir and take part in our School Councils, they would flourish, grow, and enjoy life.

**h) ChildrensworldUK Pre-school**

No report.

**i) Village Life**

Brian Oakley, one of the two Editors gave a report. The magazine is now 42 years old. It covers wide area beyond the parish and is self-financing. Mr Oakley asked for the parish council to respond to comments from people in Village Life.

**APM 8/18 Parish Plan & Local Plan Review Update**

Cllr. Wild advised that the Local Plan Review will identify land for 3,500 homes rural areas in circa 40 hubs. Likely to be circa 50 to 60 per hub as an average but amount in Cressage not known yet. Sites of less than 10 homes do not have to provide affordable housing. Councillors will work with planning going forward. The chairman and clerk had a site meeting with Liam Cowden of Shropshire Council Planning Policy around the village looking at sites such as The Vicarage and The Eagles. Liam is well aware of infrastructure constraints, such as highways and sewerage.

Cllr. Wild spoke re Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs). NDPs are a development plan best suited for larger scale development so the Head of Planning Policy has advised they are inappropriate for smaller settlements. One step down is a community-led plan which helps to focus what to spend CIL on. Parish Plans are another alternative.

Rev. Stafford asked if the hub would mean a bypass is provided. He raised concerns about safety for pedestrians, including children walking to the church. Cllr. Wild advised this is highly unlikely but development could incorporate traffic calming, secured via Section 106 agreements.

A member of the public asked why The Eagles development was turned down. Cllr. Wild explained that at the present time Cressage is open countryside.

It was agreed that it was important to engage with developers/landowners at an early stage. A member of the public asked why The Eagles access cannot be opened up now. A member of the public offered to ask the owner of The Eagles if he will allow access to the walking route.

**APM 9/18      Open Forum**

Village Life format raised and a dialogue style was requested by the Editor. Cllr. Wild suggested putting in a summary report from the Chairman.

**Meeting closed 7.54pm**

**Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, Cressage Village Hall at 6.45pm**

DRAFT