

Cressage, Harley & Sheinton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Cressage Village Hall Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.00 pm

In attendance: Cllrs Kal Parkash, Laura Christmas, Victoria Todd, Rob Davies, Matt Murray, John Esp, Shropshire Councillor Claire Wild, six members of the public, and the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey)

1. Welcome and Opening Comments

Cllr Victoria Todd welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

There were none at this time

3. To approve the minutes of previous meetings – 10th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting of 10th May 2022 were accepted as a true record

4. Parish Council Report

The Chairman of Parish Council (Cllr Victoria Todd) had prepared a written report that highlighted the following items of note from the last year:

- Cressage Bridge work has been scheduled but the surface remains a concern
- Smart Water kits have been distributed
- Additional play equipment has been sought for the Under 11s play area
- Providing youth services had been looked into, but unfortunately, a lack of volunteers meant that this could not be progressed
- Residents' views have been sought regarding the Eagles development. The Parish Council is concerned at the lack of footpath provision and overcrowding on the site and exit onto Sheinton Road junction.
- Other Parish Councils were invited to a breakfast meeting about the A458 and road safety concerns, along with representatives of Highways and the police. It was agreed to meet up again in the summer.
- A meeting took place with Cllr Claire Wild and representative from the school, nursery and medical practice, looking at ways of improving the parking situation along the length of Sheinton Road

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- A 0% precept was set for this financial year, with consideration given to the current economic challenges faced by residents

Cllr Todd thanked the Parish Councillors for their support over the year

5. Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Cllr Claire Wild thanked the Parish Council for working with her over the year, they are committed Councillors working for their community.

Traffic on Sheinton Road has been an issue, with car parking being the main issue in this respect. Cllr Wild thanked the school, who had a representative at the meeting, for their work on helping to improve the situation. Small steps and collaborative working are needed, for example, in co-ordinating events that may increase the number of cars parking in the area, and putting up signs to make it clear that events are on, such as Covid vaccine clinics.

The contract for the Arriva bus will be up shortly, Cllr Wild said that she would like to see the service continue along the Severn Way route, particularly with consideration of convenience to older residents, but noted that there are problems with the time it takes the bus to get through Sheinton Road. This has caused delays to the scheduled timetable and there had been suggestions of altering the route. Discussions are ongoing.

Cllr Wild suggested that the engineer who will be in charge of repairs to Cressage Bridge be invited to a future Parish Council meeting. November is the likely month for repairs.

The meeting addressing speeding and road safety issues on the A458 was successful; it will be part of an ongoing conversation with the police and highways, hopefully the collaboration will make an improvement.

6. Reports from Village Organisations

A report was given from the head teacher of the school:

School numbers have been sustained, there are 135 children and the number will be the same next year. The balance of where children are from is changing, a recently conducted traffic survey placed 45% of children from Cressage village, and 55% travelling in from outlying villages. School transport services, including bus and taxis, are currently full. It is difficult to commission more.

The children's nursery, Nursery World, is an independent organisation. It is registered for 30 children, with a waiting list.

Year 6 held a pensioners tea party at Christmas that had a good take up. Younger children held a Coronation Tea Party for parents. The National Trust has been working with the children on a project about outdoor play. It feels like there has been good community involvement.

Thanks were given to villagers who have helped with the school grounds, there will be another help out session on the Saturday following the meeting, and volunteers were requested.

A timeline has been put down on the corridor of the school, this links in with the local area including information about the Wrekin. There will be a colour run in the week following the meeting. There is a lot of positivity, but transport is an issue to work on. Size is also an issue. An increased need for classroom space has meant that some rooms have been lost, including the library. Rising transport costs are a challenge, it is now £275 to take a coach to the swimming pool at William Brookes. Being a village school is a disadvantage in respect of transport costs.

Thanks was given to everyone who has supported the school.

7. Open forum where members of the public may raise any subject for the exchange of information and general discussion.

i) Meeting invitations

A member of the public suggested returning to written invitations being sent out to organisations for presentations to the Annual Parish Meeting, for example: the Village Hall Committee, Village Life, the W.I, the Social Club, the Gardening Club, Nursery World.

ii) Road Safety at the Eagles Junction

A member of the public raised his concerns about the junction by the Eagles, and noted that there had been two incidents in the past fortnight. He said that the walls of the site need to be taken down, and redesigned. There is no wide vision on the junction. How many accidents did there need to be before something was done about it?

Cllr Victoria Todd said that as part of the plans for the development, walls were going to be removed, however, we are still waiting for the development plans to be decided upon. Cllr Claire Wild agreed about the danger of the junction, but said that Shropshire Council had no power over the wall, and could only decide upon the planning application. She noted that the former Eagles building is currently back on the market.

iii) Cressage Bridge

A member of the public said that the surface of Cressage Bridge is a concern, as is the implication of possible road diversions over it. Cllr Claire Wild said that she would chase up Highways regarding potholes that needed fixing on the bridge. Subsidence on the road will be fixed at the same time as the bridge. The Ironbridge Development and possible road diversions would need consideration.

iv) Speeding and Road Safety

A member of the public said there had been two speed cameras in the last fortnight. On the Sunday preceding the meeting, motorbikes had been going through at a pace. Cllr Claire Wild said that motorbikes should be prioritised and that she had raised this at the A458 road safety meeting.

A member of the public raised his concern about road safety on Severn Way, and sometimes on Sheinton Road. There are no traffic calming measures in the village. He would like to see the Parish Council involved in a scheme to slow down traffic in the village so that small children can use their bikes. It might be useful to see what other villages are doing, such as Longden and Conover, and to work with Shropshire Council

v) Footpaths complaint

A local farmer raised a complaint about a kissing gate being put on a footpath between Wood Lane and Shaw Lane. A kissing gate won't keep the cows in, a stile would be preferable. However, he has been told that he would have to fund the alternative of a stile. Where the land is a ploughed field this is not a problem and a kissing gate is OK. Cllr Claire Wild requested that he send her an email about this issue and said that she would be following this up to find a solution.