

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sheriffhales Village Hall

at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 April 2015

MINUTES

- 1 **Chairman's welcome and announcements** – The Chair welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 2 **Apologies** – Cllr Maddocks
- 3 **Minutes** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve and the Chair to sign the minutes dated 8 May 2014 as a true record.
- 4 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 5 **Chairman's Report** –

Since May 2014 and April 2015 the Parish Council has met 8 times and discussed 14 planning applications. One of the planning applications was the solar farm that caused a lot of public participation and was refused by Shropshire Council Planning Committee.

On the 30 December 2014, Peter Young resigned from the Parish Council after many years of dedicated service. This led to a casual vacancy and at the March Parish Council meeting Dr Alan MacWhannell was co-opted onto the Parish Council.

In May of last year we had Shropshire Council, Ben Walker, speak at the Parish Council meeting on the new fibre broadband project that is up and running now in many areas including Sheriffhales. If you are interested in obtaining this fibre broadband you will have to speak to your broadband provider for further information.

In June 2014 we once again held our Gardening Competition. This had been organised and run by Cllr Mrs Janet Jones and there was a presentation to all winners before the Parish Council Meeting in the September.

Our main achievement this year was to obtain a loan to purchase the Sheriffhales Playing Field from the trustees.

You may remember that at the beginning of 2014 the Parish Council sort the support of the community and obtained signatories to purchase the Playing Field from the trustees to stop them selling to a developer.

In January of this year the Parish Council applied to the Secretary of State for permission to obtain a loan to purchase the playing field. The permission was granted and the Parish Council then obtained a loan from the Public Works Loan Board for £65,000 for a fixed rate of 2.85% over a period of 30 years. The Parish Council contributed £10,000 making a total of £75,000 to purchase the playing field from the Trustees. Thanks go to Shropshire Council Legal Team who had worked on behalf of the Parish Council to obtain a completion date by the end of this February.

The Sheriffhales Playing Field is now the responsibility of the Parish Council and we hope that over the years and with funding we can further develop the field for the community and future generations.

Precept – The Parish Council over the next 30 years will have to increase their precept to take into account the repayment of the loan for the Playing Field. Financial Year 2015-16 shows an increase of £3,500 for the repayment of the loan that equates to £53.46 Band D per household.

This year has been just as busy as the previous years' especially with the planning applications and the purchase of Sheriffhales Playing Field. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, past and present for all their support in my term as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Chairman - Cllr Peter Bonsall

- 6 **Finance Report** – After discussion it was **AGREED** that there should be separate line for Purchase the Playing Field on the Receipts and Payment. Peter War reported that for a number of years the money from the V Festival was donated to the Church. Cllr Pulker informed the meeting that a letter was sent from the Parish Council to the V Festival specifically asking for a donation towards the purchasing of the Playing Field. Cllr Tonkinson informed the meeting that in the past the money from the V Festival had not only been donation to the Church, but to various organisations. Shropshire Cllr Turley suggested that the Parish Council ask residents what they would like the V Festival money to go towards. The Chair asked if this could be put on the next Parish Council agenda to be discussed. Cllr MacWhannell asked if any money was spent on the footpaths this year. The Chair informed Cllr MacWhannell that no money had been spent on the footpaths.
- 7 **Police Report** – The Clerk reported that she had tried to contact Local Police Officer, Nick Allbutt, but she did not receive a response. Cllr Turley reported that LPO Allbutt had retired and said to try and contact Sergeant Bailey to find out who the Local Police Officer was for Sheriffhales area.
- 8 **Civic Service** – The Chair reported that the Civic Service on Sunday 8 June 2014 was a great success and the date for the next Civic Service was on Sunday 17 May at 3pm in St Mary's Church, Sheriffhales at 3pm followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall arranged by the WI. All are very welcome.
- 9 **Sheriffhales Playing Field** – A resident asked if the Chair could write a more in depth report on the playing field for the newsletter. The Chair reported that all the minutes go onto the website and all residents are more than welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings and contribute to the meeting. Cllr Turley asked if there were any fundraising events planned for the playing field. The Chair reported, not at the moment. The residents asked if the Parish Council would communicate with the residents to find out what they would like happen to the playing fields. Cllr Tonkinson reported that when the Parish Council leased the playing field, not much could be done to it, but now that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council we need to raise funds to perhaps build a changing room etc. Also, we need to ensure the children are kept safe and to perhaps keep dogs off the field.

10 **Public Opportunity to Speak –**

Resident - Annemarie Jones asked if the Parish Council could arrange to have an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for the village. The Clerk reported that she was already looking into this and awaiting a response to see if the village can have one. Training will need to be carried out and also it will need a power source. Cllr Horn reported that there was a power supply by the Penfold where the Christmas tree lights are. The Clerk suggested that the Parish Council wait to see if the village can obtain an AED and then the power supply can be discussed at a Parish Council meeting.

Resident - Janet Jones informed the members that she had undertaken a lot of fundraising over the years and would be happy to help the Parish Council in any fundraising events.

Cllr Webb reported that the Parish Plan is still in the need of more work before it can be discussed further.

The Chair reported that the Solar Farm planning application has been submitted for 43 instead of the 110 acres in the last application. He asked the Clerk to see if the Parish Council can have an extension so it can be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Resident – Annemarie Jones asked if the bus service could be reinstated. Cllr Turley explained that due to the cuts and little use of this bus service, it was not financial viable to run a bus service through Sheriffhales. Cllr Tonkinson suggested that perhaps the Parish Council could look at a community car service. The Parish Council to discuss this at their next meeting.

Cllr Tonkinson reported that the Annual Parish Meeting was an opportunity for groups and organisations to give reports. Cllr Turley reported that these reports from organisations came out at the Civic Service each years.

The Chair thanked all for coming to the Annual Parish Meeting and closed the meeting at 8.20pm.