

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sheriffhales Village Hall

at 7.30pm on Thursday 14th April 2016

## MINUTES

1 **Chairman's welcome and announcements** – The Chair welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Maddocks, Cllr A Jackson.

2 **Community Presentations**

Presentations were received from the following, details of presentations recorded in appendices:

School – Mrs K Hudson (appendix A)

Parish Magazine – Mrs C MacWhannell (Appendix B)

Bowling Club – Mr B Rudolph (Appendix C)

Parish Plan – Cllr A MacWhannell (Appendix D) – parish plans on display boards at meeting for public review and discussion.

Village Hall Committee – Mr P Kind (Appendix E)

The Chair thanked everyone for their presentations and expressed how informative he had found each of them.

3 **Minutes** – It was **RESOLVED** to approve and the Chair to sign the minutes dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 as a true record.

4 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Cllr G Tonkinson asked for it to be recorded that Mrs A Chalkley had played a pivotal role in securing funds for the playing field and wanted to record his gratitude. All Councillors **AGREED**.

5 **Parish Council Report**

Chairman - Cllr Peter Bonsall had prepared a speech which is attached as appendix F.

6 **Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations**

The Parish would like to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. An application from Pippa Hodgetts has been received requesting some financial assistance from the parish council for an event she is organising over the weekend 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 and 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2016. The Chair said that discussions to contribute £500 to celebrating the Queen's birthday had taken place and asked if there had been any other applications for funding, none were raised at this point. The Chair advised that it will be discussed fully along with any other applications at the next parish council meeting where a affirmative decision would be made.

7 **Civic Service** – The Chair reported that the Civic Service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 was a great success and the date for the next Civic Service is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2016 at 3pm in St Mary’s Church, Sheriffhales followed by afternoon tea in the Village Hall arranged by the WI. All are very welcome.

8 **Questions arising from the public relevant to the reports or with regards to the parish**

Defibrillator

A resident asked if the Parish Council had taken any further action with regards to obtaining an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for the village. It was suggested that there should be more than one across the parish. Councillors confirmed that discussions had taken place over the past year however there were concerns not for the cost of equipment but training and managing responders. Cllr G Tonkinson re-iterated that there was a power supply by the Penfold where the Christmas tree lights are. It was **AGREED** to add to next parish council meeting where options could be reviewed again.

Footpaths (Weston Heath)

Cllr G Tonkinson brought it to the attention of the meeting that the footpaths at Weston Heath need to be assessed and tidied up. Cllr A MacWhannell said footpaths are itemised on parish plan. It was **AGREED** to add to next parish council meeting.

Lock on Playing Field Gate

At parish council meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 it was raised that the lock had been forcibly removed without knowledge or consent. Chris Harding who cuts the grass could not access the field to undertake his work and has asked for a new key to gate. It was **AGREED** so that access to field would not be restricted any further, a substantial lock would be purchased, Mr P Kind volunteered to buy lock and get keys cut for key holders. The matter arising regarding apprehending the suspects will be discussed further at next parish council meeting with a view to contacting them for a re-imbusement or advising the police.

Road Issues

All the following issued were referred to Kevin Turley at the meeting.

- a) Pothole Evergreens There is a pothole which has been filled numerous times but still keeps re-occurring
- b) A5 - Drainage Issue Cllr J Jones raised concerns over cracks in the road on the A5
- c) Visibility Mirror the Rock One mirror is broken and another mirror could be sited at top of junction to improve visibility.

Communications

A resident raised the issue of communication within the parish and questioned the most effective ways of reaching the whole community. The Parish Council are in the process of setting up a website and whilst that does not reach everyone, other methods such as notice boards and the parish magazine address the technology gap. It is appreciated that there would still be a small percentage who would not engage in these methods of communication. It was suggested that a letter drop to all parishioners would be the most effective way of reaching everyone should there be a requirement to cascade important / urgent information to all.

One resident said she would like to know who the Councillors are. Cllr John Horne broke the ice by standing up and introducing himself. Contact details of councillors would be on website and there is the opportunity for the public to attend parish council meetings.

### Road Safety

Concerns were raised that the road safety consultation and decisions made were not representative of the community consensus. Cllr G Tonkinson felt that the parish have been denied a full 20mph consultation with Shropshire County Council. However other councillors believed this was not the case and that the best interests of the parish were paramount. It was **AGREED** to add item onto next parish council agenda for further discussion.

### Solar Farm

Funds are to be awarded to the Parish (not parish council) for Renewable Energy projects from the second phase currently estimated at £23,000 per annum for a period of 20 years. An independent committee has been set up to manage funds received and will invite applications for projects that are sustainable/ eco viable. The committee are due to meet June 2016 where criteria for projects will be clarified to ensure terms and conditions of funds are met, before formal applications are sought. Updates from the committee will be published via the parish magazine, a website is being developed and minutes from meetings will be available.

It was evident that "Community" is the key word in everything we do and plan for the future.

The Chair thanked all for coming to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked the WI for providing refreshments.

Meeting closed at 9:15PM.

### Sheriffhales Primary School

Presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting from Kate Hanson, Headteacher.

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

#### Context

There are currently 76 pupils on the school roll. Our numbers have remained consistently between 70 -80 for several years now. We are expecting 8 new admissions to reception next year (from September 2016) and have just had 5 new children start the school. The sustainability of the school – in terms of pupil numbers – looks good based on the current and historical data.

However off the pupils on roll, only 36% are actually from Sheriffhales with the remainder of our intake being made up from the surrounding areas. These predominantly include Albrighton, Muxton, Priorslee, St Georges, Weston-under-lizard, Moreton, Shifnal and Newport. It is important that the school continues to attract beyond Sheriffhales for this reason. Our school genuinely survives through our reputation and the massive importance of word of mouth. We particularly see this when we break down our admissions further: we have 56 families at the school of which just 19 are based in Sheriffhales. More significantly, of these only 5 'Sheriffhales' families in the school have children under seven. Many of the Sheriffhales families have children who are now growing up. The positive factor in all of this is that we continue to have high interest in the school with more families travelling to have their children educated with us.

We have just appointed a new head teacher to be in place from September 2016 – Mrs Sarah Hodgson. We are a small but committed staff including 1 staff member who lives in the village. We also have volunteers from the village (parents and non-parents). We always welcome any members from the community who would like to become more involved with us as volunteers or, when there are vacancies, as governors.

#### Our Aims

- We try our best in every lesson
- We try to be kind and helpful
- We take pride in our work
- We try and accomplish whatever we start
- We take on responsibility, looking after ourselves and our friends
- We use the eight secrets of success to help us grow as independent learners

#### Strengths

Our pupils feel safe and are happy. Families often choose us because of the 'family' feeling the school has as well as the beautiful, village environment. We aim to make the educational experience personal to every individual child – everyone knows every child really well because we're small and this is our selling point. Our pupils attend well (currently 96% attendance) and their behaviour is good. Our next Ofsted inspection is due but last report was good. We have few exclusions and have had none since January. We pride ourselves on being inclusive – SEND pupils attend the school and there is a lot of expertise in dealing with a range of needs. Some parents specifically choose a small school so that particular needs can be supported. Ofsted recognised this by saying, 'an unrelenting commitment to removing barriers to learning helps ensure that pupils, especially those whose circumstances make them potentially vulnerable, are cared for and nurtured exceptionally well.'

We're adaptable – having mixed age classes means that the school structure changes from year to year and this naturally leads to flexible thinking. We also value the whole curriculum. We have close links with Idsall secondary school and are part of their school sports partnership. This helps us to access a range of sports events and competitions. We strive to include as many educational visits and visitors into the curriculum as possible. Some pupils receive music lessons including drums, keyboard, strings and singing. We may be small but we try to have big visions. Larger schools may have to have fixed timetables – we can move with the needs of the children more easily.

We value our community and recognise that we are a significant part of the village and we want to support and develop our role within the village however we can. Currently we work with the church enjoying 'Open the book' assemblies, visits from Rev Chris and we try to use the church for our Easter and harvest services. We also walk in and around the village so that all of the children benefit from this wonderful location and understand more about Sheriffhales. We've recently been to the solar farm, and we've explored issues such as traffic, farming, wildlife conservation in the past. We would like to express our thanks to the landowners who make this possible.

We get good academic results. Our percentages vary year on year because of the individual nature of the children. In addition we only appear on league tables some of the time (other years there are not enough pupils). However, the vast majority of our pupils make good or more than good progress from their starting points. Last year all of our leavers made good progress and many of the children achieved beyond national results – particularly in reading.

#### Challenges

Political context – following the budget announcement relating to schools becoming academies by 2020. Thus at some point there is the increasing likelihood of Sheriffhales becoming part of a multi-academy chain or possibly existing as a free school. It is difficult to know whether such a change would bring advantages or increased challenges. One of the questions for schools such as Sheriffhales relates to whether a large chain of schools would effectively swallow up a small school. How do we ensure that we continue to provide a type of education that many families want? On the other hand being part of a chain may provide greater financial protection and opportunities. It is clear that local authority support will cease to exist and so, as a school, we will lose our 'protective cushion' and will have to continue to become increasingly business minded.

As with all schools at the moment, finances are difficult. However it is as of yet unclear about how we will fair under the government's proposed fairer funding ideas for 2019 onwards – will Shropshire finally be fairly funded?

Our premises – whilst we are housed in a wonderful old building, maintaining it costs money. The LA will repair where necessary but only if a problem appears first. Moving forward, this may be where the school can benefit in the longer term future from its community such as with money generated from the solar farm.

Isolation – we are incredibly fortunate in our surroundings but this also provides educational challenges. Our children live in lovely environments but this can mean that they don't always get to see the bigger world picture. For some of our children the 'city' is a very vague concept and as a school we have to tackle misunderstandings including issues relating to different races and religions. We ensure our pupils visit different places of worship and have recently begun developing links with an inner-city Birmingham school.

## Sheriffhales Parish Magazine

Presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting from Caroline MacWhannell.

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

We produce 10 editions per year. We charge £5 per year for paper copy, free to e-mail.

It costs £20 to advertise.

The magazine is non- profit making, run and delivered by volunteers.

Printed by Sheriffhales school. Initially printed in B & W – now in colour.

Usual size 8 sheets ie 16 pages.

Number of paper subscribers	120
Number of e-mail subscribers	75
Postal subscribers	3
Number of regular advertisers	20
Number of deliverers	10

There are currently 195 households in the parish so the distribution covers a great percentage of the resident.

### Deliverers

Mona Malt

Jill Blakemore

Annis Tonkinson

Mary Jones

Olive Leath

Sheila Eden

Janet Bruckshaw

Gill Whettall

Jane Banks

Sylvia Farmer

A great thank you was given to all involved in making the magazine the success it has become.

It was requested that should there be any comments, ideas for articles to note it down on post-it on table at back hall tonight or contact the magazine directly at [sheriffparishmag@gmail.com](mailto:sheriffparishmag@gmail.com)

## **Sheriffhales Indoor Short Mat Bowling Club**

Presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting from Bryant Rudolph, Club Chairman.

14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Mr. Chairman, Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen

Why short mat? Because the mat length is a minimum of 40ft (12.2m) and a maximum of 45ft (13.75m).

I will now read you a very brief history and explanation of the sport.

Short mat bowling was brought across the water to England from Northern Ireland in 1967 by George Dix. George was captivated by the game from his first experience and saw the potential of the game as an activity to be offered to members of sports and social clubs in England. In 1969 a local league was formed in Northern Staffordshire and South Cheshire. From these humble beginnings the English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA) was formed in 1984 after inaugural meeting held Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March and the first actual meeting of the Association was held at the Rists Cable and Wireless Sports and Social club, Lower Milehouse Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1984. One of the biggest benefits of short mat bowling is its flexibility. The equipment is portable and only needs an area large enough to take a mat 6 feet wide and 45 feet long. It is played in village halls, community centres, social clubs and leisure centres. The game is played by all ages, sexes and abilities who can all compete together.

The game is played in broadly the same way and provides the same enjoyment and has the same attractions as lawn bowls and indeed many players participate in both games. The bowls themselves and the smooth soled heel less footwear are the same as those used outdoors. The object is for each player in a singles game or each team (in a pairs, triple or fours) to gain as many shots as possible by getting their bowls nearer to the jack than their opponent and so, outscore them.

So what now of our own Club here in Sheriffhales? Are we successful? We were first formed in October 1994 so last year we celebrated 21 years of our existence. That I think speaks for itself.

We meet each Monday in the village hall from 7:30pm for two hours except bank holidays, Christmas and New Year. The only other time we fail to meet is due to bad weather.

We have two mats but can only accommodate 10 players per mat so our maximum number has to be limited to 20 members. Each prospective member is allowed two games free of charge and after that, if they wish to join, they pay £10 per year and £1.50 per week. We have our own set of rules which prospective members read and sign before joining. We also have our own committee consisting of chairman, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. We hold our AGM each March and play our inter-club competitions during April followed by a presentation evening where trophies are awarded to the winners and runners up. We are a non-competitive club, purely a social club playing for our own enjoyment and satisfaction so we do not play in any bowls league.

We do have our own insurance taken out with English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA). After a rather considerable financial layout in past years to buy our own mats, woods and associated equipment we are now self financing in the day to day running of the club but I must stress that from time to time we still need to seek financial assistance in the purchasing of extra essential equipment. We are currently seeking to purchase two new jacks, four chalk puffers and a

new score board, the present score board having seen better days, being made by the late Arthur Hawkins 21 years ago!

So there you have some of the detail, now to the commercial!

We currently have 17 members and need 20 so if any of you should fancy your chances of becoming the next County, British, European or even World Indoor short mat bowls champion do come and join us!

Thank you for listening.

**APPENDIX D – available on request from clerk**



## **Sheriffhales Village Hall**

Presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting from Pat Kind, Village Hall  
Chairman

Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

We are due to hold our annual general meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The committee constitution is due to be reviewed and decided at meeting.

During the past year the hall floor has been renewed.

The main project under consideration at present is to extend the village hall to include an extra room with a bar / refreshments area. It is hoped that by having the extension it will encourage the community to come together. The village hall will be more accessible for coffee mornings, social evenings and other events.

## Sheriffhales Parish Council

Parish Council Report by The Chair Peter Bonsall

Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors on the Parish Council. We have been a team of 9 Councillors throughout the year and consistently sat for each of the six or more meetings.

It is an honour to chair these meetings and always interesting to debate the matters facing our Parish.

All our time is given freely and in the pursuit of looking after of beautiful Parish for future generations.

Sadly, Councillor Anne Jackson has been ill for much of this period and we all wish her well in her recovery.

We have dealt with numerous planning applications over the last year with the vast majority being approved where appropriate. As the Shropshire Core Strategy has been adopted, Sheriffhales has remained a CS5 category Parish, therefore the scope and type of development is limited.

The most contentious application has been the Solar Farm project from Lightsource. The original large scale project was ultimately rejected at Committee and rejected.

However, the smaller scale project, although rejected at Parish Council level, was ultimately approved by Shropshire Council and the first phase installed by the end of June this year.

No major housing projects were approved during the year and the majority of new building has taken place at the Lilleshall sports Centre.

Our Playing fields were secured under the Fields in Trust scheme to remain a public facility. During the year we secured the access route from Church Lane too.

Unfortunately, no progress on a replacement Post Office or Shop has been made.

During the year, we received several presentations on a wide and varied set of subjects, from a village Defibrillator through to one from Crucial Crew, which we support with donations yearly. All of which were insightful and interesting.

On matters of infrastructure, we saw the works at Burlington junction carried out to a reasonable standard. We also are in the process of addressing traffic calming with Shropshire Council through the village. Options have been discussed and Public opinion sought. A final scheme being approved and we await the implementation in 2016.

We also welcomed the wider high speed broadband during the year, in fact I personally enjoy speeds of over 40mb down and over 10mb up. Unfortunately, this does not spread throughout the Parish with some parts that are connected to Staffordshire cabinets still waiting for broadband.

Our Clerk Anne Chalkley decided to leave us this year, the baton being taken up by Carol Binnington in September. Unfortunately, through illness, Carol's stay with us was short lived and we had to recruit again early this year. We are pleased to welcome Jo Fellows as our 'new', new clerk and hope that she will enjoy many years with us in the future.

Progress has been made during the year on our Parish Plan and with monies received from Shropshire Council for this purpose. We are working towards completing this project and submitting around September of this year.

We ask for contributions to this document from all sectors to add towards the completeness of the plan for the future.

Fiscally, due to the Solar Farm, we have been fortunate to receive significant monies to the Parish coffers. The deed of benefit arising from the solar farm was given legal scrutiny and signed as acceptable in December 2015. As a result, the Parish Council has received a first payment of £15,000 in February and expects a second payment from Lightsource when phase 2 is connected in June 2016 of £9,600.

As a result, our has been kept at a constant level. We have had additional funds from the V Festival and, as noted earlier, from Shropshire Council for completing the Parish Plan.

Further funds are to be awarded to the Parish (not Parish Council) for Renewable energy projects from the second phase currently estimated at £23,000 per annum for a period of 20 years. As already advised, a separate independent Committee comprising of most sectors of the Parish has been formed to consider eligible projects and award monies accordingly. The first meeting of this Committee was in March with two representatives of the Parish Council sitting.

Our loan for the playing fields has reduced to around £63,600 with the first year's payments and our coffers are in funds to the sum of approximately £40,000 at year end.

Detailed accounts for our year are in preparation at the moment for submission and publication as previous years.

Projects for allocation of the funds at hand will be debated by the Parish Council forthwith and in collaboration with the will of the Parish.

"And finally", (in memory of the late Ronnie Corbett!) we ask that members of the Parish come along to our regular bi monthly meetings over the next year to voice their concern, add their voices to issues and hopefully contribute to the many projects at hand for our Parish.

Thank you.