

CHURCH PREEN, HUGHLEY AND KENLEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in Church Preen Village Hall
on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.45pm

Minutes

Present: Councillor M Roberts, Councillor M Morris; Councillor K Pugh; Councillor R Roycroft. Councillor B Willberry. Also present Mrs J Simmons and RFO, Councillor Wild and two members of the public.

1-22 WELCOME

Chairman Roycroft welcomed all present to the meeting and went through fire evacuation procedures.

2-22 APOLOGIES

No apologies received.

3.22 CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Thanked Parish Councillors for their support and guidance over the past year. Fairly unchallenging year, Highways have been the main issue but we are getting some of the issues sorted. Only recently getting back to pre-Covid times.

4.22 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Clerk asked for nominations for the new Chairman. The following were agreed.

Chairman	Parish Councillor Roycroft Proposed by Parish Councillor Pugh Seconded by Parish Councillor Roberts
Vice Chairman	Parish Councillor Morris Proposed by Parish Councillor Pugh Seconded by Parish Councillor Roberts
Snow Warden	Parish Councillor Willberry Proposed by Parish Councillor Roycroft Seconded by Parish Councillor Pugh
Flood Warden	Parish Councillor Roberts Proposed by Parish Councillor Roycroft Seconded by Parish Councillor Pugh
Power Warden	Parish Councillor Roycroft Proposed by Parish Councillor Morris Seconded by Parish Councillor Pugh

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5.22 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE (CHAIRMAN)

Declaration of Acceptance of Office signed by Chairman and Vice Chairman.

6.22 ANNUAL REPORTS

Councillor Wild's Report had been circulated previously and is attached to these minutes.

The main points are below – last year they promised three things:

- 1. Local housing for local people - when our housing company (Cornovii) build houses they're offered to local people first. Cornovii are delivering on this promise.*
- 2. Secondly, we promised that we would put £40 million into the Highways Capital Programme, we've now increased that to £60 million and*
- 3. We promised a third wheelie bin which will take all your plastics, cans and glass and stop it blowing all over the road. For those of you that have registered they will be delivered over the summer months. If you haven't already registered for your third bin, then you can still do so but it won't be delivered until the autumn.*

Shropshire has 100+ individual hosts registered on the Foundry system which make up 155 offers of accommodation, we have started DBS checks and we have also started the triaging of the property offers.

Over 75% of our net budget spent on social care, i.e., Adult's or Children's Services and yet only 3% of the population actually benefit from these services. On average, each year our adult social care bill goes up by £12M. This year our care providers (residential and domiciliary care) are also in financial difficulties, and we are having to increase their payments. Therefore, our already high costs will be even higher.

Council Tax rebate of £150 should have been received if in Bands A-D

Recently our Children's Services retained its Good OFSTED rating which very pleased with. We have also won many awards, we've had more awards for our housing services, we had awards for our children services and we had awards for adult social services it will shock you but we have even won awards for highways especially the work that we are doing to try and make our highways repair programme carbon neutral.

Quite a few Highways issues sorted. The damage caused by Airband made has been sorted out. Drains working better than they were.

7.22 RISK ASSESSMENTS REVIEWED

General Risk Assessment agreed. and signed by Chairman

Financial Risk Assessment agreed and signed by Chairman

Proposed by Councillor Roycroft and seconded by Councillor Willberry

8.22 STANDING ORDERS REVIEWED

Reviewed and agreed by all members present.

9.22 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 20.10

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Shropshire Council Annual Report 2021/2022

Last May we promised three things:

1. Local housing for local people - when our housing company (Cornovii) build houses they're offered to local people first. Cornovii are delivering on this promise.
2. Secondly, we promised that we would put £40 million into the Highways Capital Programme, we've now increased that to £60 million and
3. We promised a third wheelie bin which will take all your plastics, cans and glass and stop it blowing all over the road. For those of you that have registered they will be delivered over the summer months. If you haven't already registered for your third bin, then you can still do so but it won't be delivered until the autumn.

Covid and Ukraine

I am extremely grateful to the staff at Shropshire Council who continue to manage our Covid situation. Many officers were doing one job one day and doing something completely different the next, some staff have not yet returned to their original roles.

However, the last two years has taken its toll on the staff and for some staff they've had no break whatsoever because as Covid has become more manageable unfortunately we find ourselves in the middle of a humanitarian crisis. We are trying to arrange for as many Ukrainian people and families to come to Shropshire as possible. I am sure you can imagine that there is a lot of pressure on our staff to ensure that all the safety checks are put in place, it's a responsibility we must take incredibly seriously.

Shropshire has 100+ individual hosts registered on the Foundry system which make up 155 offers of accommodation, we have started DBS checks and we have also started the triaging of the property offers. The schools team continue to liaise with head teachers. The setting up of community hubs is well and truly up and running now and is being led by Amanda Jones from Shropshire Supports Refugees and Chris Childs from Energize.

Further information can be found on the Council's website here [Homes for Ukraine | Shropshire Council](#) and key links can also be found at

['Homes for Ukraine' scheme launches - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Homes for Ukraine scheme: frequently asked questions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Budget

I think it's fair to say that most of the Council's time over the last year was spent trying to ensure we produced a balanced budget for the 2022/23 financial year. This work also included looking ahead to 23/24. It is worth repeating the issues, we spend over 75% of our net budget on social care, i.e.,

Church Preen, Hughley & Kenley Parish Council
jayne.simmons@cphk-pc.co.uk
June 2021
J Simmons Clerk & RFO

Signed.....

Dated:

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Adult's or Children's Services and yet only 3% of the population actually benefit from these services. On average, each year our adult social care bill goes up by £12M. This year our care providers (residential and domiciliary care) are also in financial difficulties, and we are having to increase their payments. Therefore, our already high costs will be even higher.

The Government's social care scheme, which they launched last year and came into effect last week, whereby extra national insurance payments go towards social care will not help us. For the first three years only a fraction of this money will come to local government, the majority will go to the NHS. Over Covid we also saw a significant increase in the number of looked after children coming into our system. Despite our current financial circumstances, we have invested further in prevention measures. Preventing children coming into our system has to be the best thing, it's better for the child, it's better for families and ultimately it is more cost effective. We have an excellent record with fostering and adoption, this leaves us with the very complex cases. These young people can be extremely expensive to place, very often out of county. We have one young person whose placement costs are over £1M per year. For local government this is unsustainable.

Shropshire Council's net budget for 21/22 was £208M of which £163,500M was for Social Care leaving £44.5M for everything else. At least half of the £44.5M is spent on the Waste Contract. So, the remaining £22.5M covers everything from Libraries to Pest Control, Highways to Environmental Health and it is this area that gets squeezed every time to social care costs increase.

You have also heard me talking about fair funding. Providing services in a rural area is far more expensive than providing them in urban areas. You will be aware that we did not receive a Bus Back Better grant, we don't deny that it will be more difficult to deliver services in rural areas but that is exactly why we needed that money because it does cost more to deliver bus services in the rural area and for many of our residents it is not about improving a service it is about keeping or initiating a service.

Council Tax Rebate

Earlier this year the government announced that all Council Taxpayers living in properties Band A to D will be eligible for a £150.00 Council Tax Rebate. If you already pay for your council tax via direct debit you do not need to do anything the £150.00 will be credited to your bank. If you do not pay by direct debit, you will be written to with further instructions as to how to claim the rebate.

It's Not All Depressing News

It's not all doom and gloom, Shropshire Council has some extremely high performing service areas

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and Adult Social Care is one of those services. We regularly receive visits from other Councils keen to learn from us.

Recently our Children's Services retained its Good OFSTED rating. Bearing in mind that this is two years of which we have been in a pandemic, we were absolutely delighted, and I pay tribute to how hard the staff, especially our social workers, worked throughout the pandemic.

We have also won many awards, we've had more awards for our housing services, we had awards for our children services and we had awards for adult social services it will shock you but we have even won awards for highways especially the work that we are doing to try and make our highways repair programme carbon neutral.

Climate Change

In terms of climate change there has been good progress made this year. The Cabinet and Executive Management team have undertaken and passed carbon literacy training, and this will be rolled out to more members and staff over the coming months and all cabinet and council reports have to make a significant effort to look at how our policies impact on climate change. We are one of the top councils for producing our own green energy and this year we will be opening another solar farm and extending another. Shropshire Council is only directly responsible for a very small percentage of Shropshire's overall carbon footprint, but we can certainly do what we can to encourage others and currently there is work being undertaken on our procurement policies and procedures.

Local Matters

Airband

Airband have been working within the Parishes for the last year and many residents have now been connected. There were quite a few a few during the installation period but these have now been resolved.

Speeding traffic.

Speeding continues to be a problem and we are working with the Police on this.

Roads.

Thanks to the Chairs hard work we have resolved some of the drainage issues in Kenley. The Council are now using Fix my Street to report any highways issues.

Claire Wild,
Shropshire Councillor for the Severn Valley Division

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Signed.....

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