

ADDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Adderley meeting held
at The Village Hall, Adderley on Wednesday 24th April 2019 at 8.00 pm

- 1. Welcome:** Cllr Coulon welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Agreement of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 30th May 2018** – Cllr Coulon reminded everyone that these draft minutes had been on the Adderley Parish website since the meeting and everyone present agreed that they were a true and accurate record of proceedings at that meeting.
- 3. Report from the Chairman – Cllr Coulon**

Firstly, I wish to thank all the Councillors, our Unitary Authority Councillor and especially our Parish Clerk for all their hard work and their efforts during last year. We have had a number of successes and also a number of issues to resolve on behalf of the Parishioners to whom we are responsible.

During the year we have given grants to St Peters Church for the upkeep of the Cemetery, a grant to the Village Bowls Club for refurbishment of their green and a grant to the Village School for new outdoor items. We continue to be responsible for the upkeep of the Children's Play Ground, which is now being heavily used since its reopening and refurbishment.

Our ongoing work has included continuing with the Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, thanks to Cllr Cornwall and also the very successful ongoing production of the Three Parish's Neighbourhood Plan, with thanks to Cllr Nash.

We have had an input into and tried as hard as we can through our "Road Improvement" Sub-Committee to influence the changes that will be happening on the A529, but more later, thanks to Cllrs Wilson, Cornwall and that committee for all their work.

Cllr Mycock has been busy trying to establish better Mobile Signal within the Parish and we have succeeded in getting the Diocese to agree to a mast in the Church Tower, we now have to find a supplier and again more later.

We have also completed our normal and statutory business of maintaining a watch on the highways and byways of the village, ensuring the lights work, indeed we have now changed all of the street lights we have responsibility for (excludes Meadow Bank) from the old system to an LED system which is both more environmentally friendly and cheaper to run.

We have approved or objected to planning applications and maintain a working relationship with all Shropshire Councils sub-groups, NALC and SALC as well as sitting on the Helicopter Noise Committee. This alongside keeping the village tidy with hedges and grass cutting, gutter spraying with weed killer and sand/grit boxes kept full.

Overall a busy year with a number of successes for which I thank all the Councillors who have been responsible for them, and for giving up their spare time with no remuneration or expenses.
- 4. Shropshire Council Report, Prees Ward – Cllr Wynn**

The Clerk read out Cllr Wynn's report as he was unable to attend in person:
Just to start with I would like to apologise for not being there this evening.

Over the last 12 months we have seen a lot happening in this parish and I wish Paul and the Parish Council good luck in their endeavours with the neighbourhood plan going forward, also it's exciting times for the village with the prospect of a new Village Hall and anyway that I can help with the planning process please do not hesitate to ask.

What's been happening with the Shropshire Council? Well with a total budget of just under £600,000m (very limited discretion on how this is spent) it has seen a £61m reduction in funding from central government over the last six years. Adult social care costs increasing 10/15% each year. Our population is ageing 30% above the national average brackets (65+), Band D council tax £41.43 rise of 80p per week, average cost of an out of County placement for a child with complex needs £3500 thousand pounds per week. The 2019/20 Financial year represents the final year of the four-year settlement which was designed by government to give some financial certainty to the local government. No future funding plans have come forward leaving a potential cliff edge for 20–21. There is considerable uncertainty about how local government will be funded, it is anticipated that a provisional settlement will be made in the autumn leaving only a short number of months to allow the

council to set is balanced budget in Feb 20. In the past one of funds were used but the use off one of funds is not sustainable solution. Other mechanisms have been used such as spending freezes and the use of reserves to deliver a balanced budget. Council tax in Shropshire is below the national average, the 3.99% increase (2.99% general 1% social care) will deliver £6.5 million to help offset the costs gross (£12 m) in adult social care and children services which has grown in costs is predicted to grow year-on-year> between 10 million and 15 million. The funding gap is expected to grow to £57 million- 23–24. All services have been required to make savings to deliver the legally required balance budget. The largest has come from public-health 4 million from a 17 million budget, all services which are not mandated are to cease these include smoking cessation, Weight loss services and the possibility of school nursing service in its current form, other examples of cost cutting are: Community enablement offices are no longer in post and there has been a consultation on bus services and park-and-ride with proposed savings of £50,000 P & R and £405,000 from bus subsidies. Some good news. There has been formation of a housing company owned by the council to build housing on council owned land (initially) The council has recognised that there is a need for affordable housing in the county, as the majority of the housing that is being built is the larger 3/4 bed home. Two sites have already been identified one in Clifton Heath and one in Monkmoor, the developments will be a mix of private market and affordable. This is not a new initiative many other authorities are doing it. We have received confirmation of funding for 54 million from central government for the completion of the relief road around Shrewsbury and, importantly for here, also funding has been awarded for the upgrade of the A429.

5. Mobile Signal Committee Report – Cllr Mycock

As Cllr Mycock was unable to attend Cllr Coulon read out the following report:

The issue of a poor or none existent mobile phone signal within the Parish is continuing to be pursued, however things are moving slowly.

Unfortunately, our initial contact with a number of mobile providers hasn't produced any useful progress but we have maintained dialogue with Vodafone who are part of Telefonica.

Following the last letter from Jeremy Wright, the new Secretary of State for Digital, Media and Sport, we pursued a slightly different approach via the issue of smart meters.

Jeremy Wright stated that smart meters typically use standard mobile phone network services to communicate and that before the end of 2020 at least 99.25% of premises across GB will receive fully functioning gas and electric smart meters. Telefonica have the contract to provide the communication network for the smart meter roll-out.

It is known that some homes in Adderley have had smart meters fitted but instantly removed when it was discovered that the meters could not communicate with the supplier due to no mobile signal being available. We have therefore asked Vodafone if the statement from Jeremy Wright indicates that by the end of 2020 the Parish will receive a mobile phone signal? This question has been passed onto the smart meter section of Vodafone; we await their response.

The last response from Vodafone (Telefonica) was as follows: -

“Smart meters run on the 2G network and to put into perspective we currently we provide coverage to over 97% of the UK population. This will also increase over the next few years under our current investment programme which I mentioned in previous email. “

Unfortunately, this response puts us no further forward and particularly so as the “Smart” meter instillation program appears to be moving very slowly if no completely disintegrating.

On a more optimistic note: -

- 1 The Adderley Church Council has secured approval for the church tower to be used for a mast or other devise which might solve the Parish's problem, if a mobile provider was interested in taking up this opportunity, we await any developments.
- 2 The draft “Market Drayton and surrounding areas Place Plan” contains a list of priority projects which includes improving internet and mobile phone coverage within Shropshire. Paul Nash has suggested that the project should be split in two providing one for mobile signal and one for broadband.
- 3 The Government have approved a Bill requiring mobile providers to share masts. This could reduce cost which might encourage an overall improvement. Cllr Mycock explained to the meeting that along with two other Councillors they had formed a sub-committee to look at the problems relating to bad mobile signal in the parish. Cllr Mycock then delivered a presentation compiled from the data of a resident's questionnaire relating to the problems people had experienced in the different areas of the parish regarding mobile signal. Alex Jackman, from EE, then gave a short presentation about the coverage in the area and what EE, along with the three other main providers, were doing to achieve the Government's target of 95% geographic

coverage by 2022. A discuss took place about the possibility of siting a mast in the church tower and this is something that can be taken forward in the future.

6. Speeding Initiative Committee Report – Cllr Cornwall

Cllr Cornwall gave a Power Point presentation on behalf of the Speed Initiative Sub-committee. Firstly, Cllr Cornwall detailed the progress so far regarding the upgrading of the A429 by Shropshire Highways under the Safer Roads Project. With the aid of maps around the room and in the presentation, Cllr Cornwall showed the meeting what work was due to be undertaken and the current timescales. She explained that she and Cllr Wilson had been to meetings with representatives of both Shropshire Highways and also WSP, the consultant engineers carrying out the work, and they would continue to liaise with these representatives to put the Adderley point of view across although the work to done had already been decided before the Parish Councillors were consulted.

Cllr Cornwall went on to present the data recorded by the Parish’s Speed Monitoring Devise when it was on Green Bank and also outside the Village Hall on A529.

The data showed that in Green Bank although over 94% of vehicles were travelling at less than 30 mph there were still some vehicles doing 40 mph.

Unfortunately, outside the Village Hall, heading towards Audlem, the data showed less than 50% of vehicles travelling at 30 mph and some getting up to 65 mph!

Heading in the opposite direction, so towards Market Drayton, passed the Village Hall was better with 63% of vehicles travelling at 30 mph but two vehicles had been recorded going at 95 mph, which was absolutely terrible for this village road!

Cllr Cornwall assured the meeting that the Speed Initiative Committee would continue to monitor the traffic in the village and pass on this data to Shropshire Highways and also liaise with WSP regarding the work to be carried out on the A529 but she encouraged all residents in the parish to write or email Shropshire Highways with their views and to copy in the Parish Clerk so that the Parish Council could keep a record of this correspondence.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Report – Cllr Nash

Cllr Nash gave a presentation on the progress so far regarding the Three Parishes Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had successfully applied for a grant from Locality which had enabled them to engage the services of both Shropshire Rural Communities Charity and APT. Representatives of these groups had then helped the Steering Group run various Open Forum Events held in all three parishes and a total of almost 100 general questionnaires had been completed. The points raised in the responses to this questionnaire will now be analysed and a comprehensive survey compiled which will be sent, with a postage paid return envelope, to every residence in the three parishes. Other events to engage children, young people and land owners in the parishes will be held over the next few months.

8. Village Hall Report – Ken Greetham

Mr Greetham explained that the Village Committee members had now changed but unfortunately the new Chairman was unable to attend this meeting so had asked him to provide a quick update to everyone present. The New Committee thought that a more comprehensive structural survey needed to be carried out on the present Village Hall so that all options relating to upgrading this building could be considered before any decision to build a new Village Hall was taken. Once this survey had been completed the committee would consult the residents of the Parish.

9. Public Session

There were 18 members of the public at the Parish Meeting but no additional points were raised or discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 pm

Proposed and accepted as a true record at the meeting dated 24th April 2019

Signed by the Chairman