

ADDERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Adderley Parish

Held at Adderley Village Hall

on Wednesday 10th April 2024, starting at 7.00 pm

1. Welcome: Cllr Coulon welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Chairman's Report – Cllr Coulon

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to attend this, your Parish Meeting, from which I hope you will gain some insight as to what the Parish Council has been doing on your behalf.

Firstly, I wish to thank all the Councillors, our Unitary Authority Councillor and especially our Parish Clerk, Jane, for all their hard work and their efforts during the past year.

We have had several successes and a few issues to resolve on behalf of the Parishioners by whom we are elected.

During the year we have given a financial grant to St Peter's Church for the upkeep of the Grave-Yard, and a further grant has been agreed to the "Village Planters" for the Spring & Summer flowers, we also purchased some extra "Tubs" for them. I am sure you will agree that they do a great job in keeping the village bright with the flowers, money was also given for the Village Christmas Tree and lights.

We continue to be responsible for the upkeep of the Children's Playground, which was refurbished last year, and which will again, we hope, be heavily used this summer. We also continue to maintain and service the Village Defibrillator at the Village Hall, replacing the batteries and "Paddles" as and when required and used. We ran a Defib/CPR Course earlier this year to train villagers in its use.

We are also responsible for the upkeep of the Village "Bus Stop/Village library", soon to be decorated ready for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

Our ongoing work has included continuing with the Village Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, thanks to Cllr Evans and the very successful ongoing production of the Three Parish's Neighbourhood Plan, with thanks to Cllr Nash, which I am glad to report is near completion.

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, latest news is that the lights between Adderley and Audlem has been resolved, and some Traffic calming measures at the village entrances will also be introduced, at some time along with the 20mph speed limited outside the school.

We have also completed our normal and statutory business of maintaining a watch on the highways and byways of the village (pot holes being a prime example), ensuring the street lights work, Dog Poo Bins are emptied and Grit Bins filled.

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 at RAF Shawbury.

This alongside keeping the village tidy with hedge and grass cutting.

We also continue to provide the Parish Welcome Packs which we send to every new householder of the Parish when they arrive.

Overall, another busy year with several 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.

As we move into the next "Parish" year we will strive to continue with our statutory duties as well as look at ways to improve our Parish and its infrastructure.

But 2025 will be a challenge for us as several Councillors are standing down and we need replacements. If anyone is interested, please speak to Jane who can give you the details of the duties and time commitment. It is a very worthwhile "job" and shows your interest in the Parish.

3. Agreement of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 11th April 2023

The Parish Clerk 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.

4. Shropshire Council Report, Prees Ward – Cllr Wynn

Unfortunately, Cllr Wynn was unable to attend the meeting but he had emailed his report which the Parish Clerk read out:

Good evening to you all, sorry I cannot be there in person.

Can I start with talking about the financial situation of the council. Last year we had to save £52 million from our budget and the coming year we must save £64 million which is going to be a struggle, there will be cuts and charges for certain things and there will be redundancies made over the council.

The finances are already cut to the bone, under proposals set out in the budget will see more visual changes than residents have been seen to date. Council tax will rise and charges will be introduced for your green bins. Our main cost to the council is adult and social care and public health, this is around 80% of the council's budget which goes up year on year by 10% but we as a council cannot put the rates up any more than 4.95% so you can understand the conundrum that we find ourselves in.

Active travel around schools continues with the work we are doing to implement the 20 miles an hour zones outside schools.

The council has continued to deliver a wide range of facilities and activities across Shropshire. With outdoor recreation sites, leisure facilities, libraries, theatres, museums, armed forces support and more is very easy to forget how much we provide and are involved with.

Shropshire Council continues to support the homes for Ukraine project as the Russians invasion stretches into its third Year.

Car parking has been in the headlines recently as we need to increase charges to help us pay for investment in both the parking team and the car park infrastructure.

I must say it is quite a depressing situation we find ourselves in but hopefully we will be able to come through this dreadful time. Sorry I cannot be more positive and give you any good news such but hope you have a good evening. Kind regards Paul

5. Update from Three Parish Plan – Cllr Nash

Cllr Nash advised the meeting that the Three Parish Neighbourhood Plan had been completed and put forwarded to the Examiner for Inspection. Shropshire Council had emailed to say that although the Examiner had now sent through her report, and there was nothing further for the Steering Group to do, there were a couple of issues that Shropshire Council needed to take forward. The email advice read:

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement - The examiner stated: I would advise the QB / LPA to redraft the SEA Screening Statement to reflect the submission version of the NP and clarify the position of the three relevant statutory bodies. At that juncture I would be happy to review the matter and expect to be able to confirm that the Plan meets the legal requirements of the EU's SEA Directive and conclude that in respect of this EU obligation, the Plan is compliant.

Action: The SC Ecology Team are currently reviewing and updating the SEA Screening Statement to ensure that it is compliant. It will then be sent to the Examiner for review.

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Statement - The examiner stated: an updated Screening Assessment Statement should be presented. I would be happy to review this and then be able to conclude that the NP meets the legal requirements of the EU Regulations and that, in this respect, the Plan is compliant.

Action: The SC Neighbourhood Planning Team are now reviewing and updating the HRA Screening Statement to ensure that it is compliant. It will then be sent to the Examiner for review.

Cllr Nash went on to explain that once this work had been done by Shropshire Council, and forwarded to the Examiner, the Plan could be put to a Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting and this would probably be in June as there were no Cabinet meetings in May. The final stage is the referendum which the Shropshire Council election team will advise a date for once the Plan has been agreed at the Cabinet meeting.

6. The Heritage Project - Cllr Nash

Cllr Nash hoped that everyone had received a flyer through their letter box cordially inviting them to celebrate the launch of the Adderley Heritage Trail and the Geoff Butter Collection. He advised the meeting that the website was up and running with over 1,000 records on, and a further 2,000 records to be put on. The Heritage Trail Information Boards were due to be installed: on at the church; by Raven House; on the railway bridge; at the Village Hall; and by the canal on 23rd and 24th April ready for the launch on 27th April. Cllr Nash

praised the hard work of all the Adderley Heritage group for taking forward this huge project forward and making 'Adderley Heritage, a walk through our history' happen.

7. Adderley Church update – Cllr Swindale

Adderley Church Bells' Restoration. We now have all 3 bells in the tower working thanks to the hard work of John Roycroft, Frank Morton and Trevor Boxall, a retired skilled carpenter, from Cox Bank. The bell wheels themselves are six feet in diameter and are in two halves to allow assembly around the bell support. Trevor rose to the challenge of making new spokes and bell wheel assemblies. The main tenor bell wheel has been purchased from a redundant church in Somerset. The third bell was missing the clapper pins so new ones had to be fabricated. All finished off with two new bell ropes, called Sallys, sourced from other redundant churches.

Swift Boxes. The Church in conjunction with Audlem Wildlife and Ecology Group, Andy Davidson, have recently installed nesting boxes for swifts in the church tower. Four boxes have been constructed behind the louvres so they will not be noticeable from the exterior of the church. Swifts like to nest communally and so to initially draw in young birds a sound system playing swift calls has been installed which will hopefully attract young breeding pairs from nearby Market Drayton where swifts have been sighted.

The Churchyard. The school, with the assistance of Andy Davidson (swift boxes), is assembling insect boxes for larvae and solitary bee hatcheries or retreats to place on posts in suitable locations in the churchyard. We will sow some pollen/nectar producing flowers for their benefit and leave some grassy area long to help grasshoppers and other similar bugs.

Faul Singers Concert Saturday 18th of May at 7 pm. The concert will be held in the redundant west end of the church and tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for the under 18s which includes wine, nibbles, and soft drinks. See flyers for more details.

8. Adderley Village Hall update – Mr Ken Greetham

Thanks to Parish Council for management of Village affairs and efficient use of public money. No increase in precept this year! Also, thanks to the volunteers within the village for keeping it tidy and well decorated with flowers.

The village was described by a person regularly passing through as a "Village that cares". Not something that you could say about some communities which we travel through.

Update on the village hall.

History from conveyance in November 1971. The property conveyed shall be held on trust for the purposes of a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of Adderley and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex or of political, religious, or other opinion, and for the use for meetings, lectures, and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for all said inhabitants.

It has been at the centre of the village (physically and metaphorically) for many years. We are purely custodians of it, and it is our responsibility to ensure it is fit for purpose now and for the foreseeable future. The community has really supported the hall for many years. The heritage trail will show its development for the very basic buildings many years ago. The extensions dating back to around 1980 were all provided with the help and support of the residents of Adderley. We have had challenging times when funds were very limited, but today, because of significant voluntary help, (particularly around bar facilities), various fund-raising initiatives and a very successful bowling club, the hall funds are reasonably strong. However, the hall is looking rather tired and we do have issues with the roof.

We are therefore in the early stages of the hall redevelopment project, which will also include work on the bowling pavilion. It will involve grant funding and significant work but it will be interesting and rewarding work.

So, no detail on that but suffice to say we are at a very exciting stage for the hall and the residents of the village. BUT we do need help from the community to ensure that we can keep the hall running and develop it for current and future use.

We only run a small committee but we welcome new blood. Please do not wait to be asked but have a word with me or other committee members if you feel you can offer support, or know somebody who might like to. Our AGM is on 1st July, so please come along and be part of the centre of Adderley, after all, your village needs you!

As a final point, one method of support is the 59ers. £1/week entered a weekly draw which is determined by

the number of the lotto bonus ball. Raised over £20,000 over many years. Only 4 numbers available but a great way of supporting the hall.

Mr Greetham took questions and comments from the attendees relating to grant funding and the suggestion of dropping flyers through letters to encourage residents to attend the Village Hall AGM.

9. Public Session

There were 10 members of the public, along with 5 Councillors, at the Parish Meeting and the following issues were discussed:

- A resident asked if the weeds on the pavement around the Old Post Office could be sprayed and Cllr Coulon advised that this could be done but unfortunately the Parish Council did not have anyone to do this work at present. Cllr Coulon suggested that if anyone knew of someone who could do this spraying, please could they contact the Parish Clerk.
- A resident asked if the pavement down to the church could be cleared as it was getting overgrown and it was agreed that the Clerk will contact the grass cutting contractor to see if he can get this work done.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.50 pm

Proposed and accepted as a true record at the meeting dated 10th April 2024

Signed by the Chairman

