

LOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – Annual Report April 2015 – March 2016

The Parish Council continue to hold its meetings including the AGM bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month.

1. Highways

The Parish Council maintains an agreement with the Highway Authority for grass cutting on unclassified roadside verges in the Parish.

2. Planning

Shropshire Council is obliged to consult the Parish Council regarding planning applications in Loppington. The Parish Council responded to 15 applications during 2015.

3. Community Benefit Fund

The construction of a solar farm at Charity Farm, Burlton has commenced. There is an offer of a Community Benefit Fund to the Parish Council for installation of rooftop solar panels on building/s of their choice, or alternatively, identified community projects particularly those which promote sustainable energy and uses. The fund is a considerable sum, being £600 per MW installed capacity annually for a period of 20 years. The Parish Council understand that the final amount will be notified and the first payment made on connection of the solar energy to the grid. The matter is before the Annual Parish Council meeting this evening.

4. Community Infrastructure Levy

The Parish Council received £1,111.00 from the Community Infrastructure Levy during the last financial year and has a 5year period to spend the money. Projects are developed with community consultation. Shropshire Council *“Suggests that the ...Parish Council uses the Place Plan process to identify infrastructure priorities as a means of meeting the requirement to consult the local community, adjacent Town and Parish Councils and Shropshire Council on infrastructure priorities”* There was a suggestion that CIL could be used to upgrade footpaths on Brown Heath Moss which would benefit both us and the neighbouring parish of Cockshutt.

There has also been a suggestion for a play space in Burlton Village as a result of prospective funding being available to the Parish. LPC welcome any ideas and suggestions from the community which they might take forward.

5. Connecting Shropshire

Cabinet upgrades have been completed in the Wem area and Loppington Village is now connected to the fibre network. Unfortunately, not all of the Parish is connected, we believe due to the positioning of exchange cabinets, mainly the area around Noneley. The Connecting Shropshire website is updated regularly so that any resident can see the progress of work in relation to individual telephone lines.

6. LPC online

Following the introduction of the Transparency Code the Council is required to publish certain documents online. At the same time Shropshire Council is discontinuing the ShropNet service therefore the Parish Council needed to make alternative arrangements. To facilitate this the Council were able to apply for and has received grant funding to purchase equipment and acquire a new website. So embracing the 21st C, LPC are now the proud owners of a laptop, scanner and a new website : loppingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. We have received one request for history pages on the site. When we consider the responses to the Parish Plan in respect of Tourism there seems to be an emphasis that, whilst not an obvious tourist destination, that we welcome and encourage visitors to the area; therefore, history and visitor information would be a fitting addition to our website. Further information will be added in due course. Please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see.

7. Parish Amenities

The Council wishes to express its appreciation and thanks all those volunteers and organisations who have helped maintain Council property including the War Memorial, Pump, Tan Pit, Burlton Bus Shelter and Notice boards, and kept public areas clean and tidy by repainting, planting, grass cutting, weeding and general maintenance.

Work to the Tan Pit continues including working parties organised by Meres and Mosses with a view to maintaining this as a wildlife area.

The Council has contributed towards the upkeep of St. Michael's Churchyard and supported AED volunteers.

8. Public Relations

The Council continues to publish council matters and issues in the Village News and holds public participation sessions during its Parish Council meetings. The Clerk continues to add to the website. Agendas and Minutes can be viewed online.

9. Meetings and Consultations

Members of the Parish Council have continued to represent the Parish on Shropshire Association of Local Councils and Shropshire Area Committee of the Association. Members represent the Parish on Shropshire Council Wem and Shawbury Local Area Committee and Clive medical practice patient group. The Parish Council thanks Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams for his continued help and support as our elected representative on Shropshire Council.

10. Crime and Safety

The Council thanks David Edge who has continued the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for the Parish. Reported crime in the area is low. Crime map and reported crime can be viewed on the West Mercia police website.

11. Financial

The Council received a satisfactory Auditors report for the financial year 2014/2015. The results of the audit can be viewed online. The audit for 2015/2016 is in the process of being submitted to Mazars our external auditors. Documents will be posted on the noticeboards and available to view once the audit has been completed.

12. And Finally

LPC couldn't end this report without acknowledging the loss of Steve. In the last couple of months all that can be said has been. As the Council commences its final year before the local elections in 2017, welcomes a new chairman, or possibly a former chairman re-invented ! and with the prospect of new funding and new projects for a number of years to come, we hope he, Steve, would be proud and that we do our utmost to play our part in this Parish in the future.

L.J. McCormack May 2016