

LOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Report April 2020 – March 2021

1. Elections 2021

Three members of the Parish Council stood down in May 2021 and the Parish Council extends its thanks and appreciation to Stephen Geary, Rob Stokes and Sarah Witherspoon for their contribution to the parish during their terms of office. The Parish Council welcomes Cllr. Tricia Sharpe who was elected on 6th May.

2. Financial

The Council received a satisfactory Auditors report for the financial year 2019/2020. The results of the audit can be viewed online. Documents for 2020/21 are posted on the website and available to view.

3. Highways

Our parish plan identified speeding as an issue particularly in Burlton. Speed signs were finally installed in Loppington and Burlton in January 2021.

4. Planning

The Parish Council responded to 15 applications during 2020.

5. Parish Plan

Rural Community Council for Shropshire, a charity which supports local groups and organisations attended the Parish Council meeting in November 2019. RCC gave a presentation explaining the community engagement process and what can be offered by the organization to support parish councils with particular reference to the parish plan procedure. Support with the initial process, such as advice with structure and recruitment of a steering group and structuring of questionnaires are free of charge as the charity is funded by DEFRA grants. Design of questions, freepost, online survey forms and analysis is charged for.

6. SPEN

Permission was granted to Scottish Power in March 2020 for the installation of power lines from Oswestry to Whitchurch. SPEN are currently constructing the new 132,000 volt wood pole line, continuing along the route corridor from the Babbinswood area towards Rednal and Hordley. 50 poles have been installed, with a further 126 to be installed. Wiring of the line is scheduled to commence from mid-June.

The civil works at both Oswestry and Wem substations, with the new grid transformer remaining on schedule to arrive at Wem in September.

SPEN are in the final stages of confirming the construction phase for the 132,000 volt cable works, which is being installed between Henley Drive/Cabin Lane, Oswestry and the A483/A5. Work is scheduled to commence on this phase from late July with the duration being up to 8 weeks. During this time, the work area will be cordoned off in stages, for example 100m to 200m lengths to complete the required works.

7. Parish Amenities

The Council of course much appreciates 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.

8. Public Relations

The Council continues to support the Village News and holds public participation sessions during its Parish Council meetings.

The Council thanks David Edge who has continued via his Neighbourhood Watch contacts, to support the community through his weekly newsletter/update during the temporary absence of the Village News magazine.

David was the first to respond to the pandemic along with Jeff & Bron Beard; Rachel Mee and Caroline Lay with the Covid 19 help and support group. The Parish Council, and I am sure on behalf of many of the parishes residents, extends its grateful thanks to David, Jeff, Bron, Rachel and Caroline and all its volunteers for their dedication and support over the past 14 months.

9. Meetings and Consultations

It goes without saying Covid-19 restricted many activities in 2020. Parish Councils were authorised to dis-apply the requirement to hold its Annual General Meeting in May 2020 and its Annual Parish Meeting in March this year; and further authorised to hold ordinary council meetings remotely up 6th May 2021. On this basis the Parish Council has not held the APM in March as the country was still in lockdown and continued its ordinary meetings via Zoom in 2021.

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

Reported crime in the area is low. Crime map and reported crime can be viewed on the West Mercia police website.