

## LOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Annual Parish Meeting

Report April 2021 – March 2022

#### **1. Parish Councillors**

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies following the 2021 elections to which it will recruit via co-option.

#### **2. Financial**

The Council received a satisfactory Auditors report for the financial year 2020/2021. The results of the audit can be viewed online. Documents for 2020/21 are posted on the website and available to view.

#### **3. Highways & Traffic Concerns**

The Parish Council investigated the possibility of Community Speed Watch (CSW) within Loppington Village. A survey was carried out by West Mercia Police, who administer the scheme, earlier this year. Unfortunately, the scheme was not approved. Taking into account the VAS data provided for both Loppington and Burlton together with West Mercia own survey, speed violations for both areas were below the threshold which would justify intervention via such a scheme and no suitable location could be identified which would meet the requirements for carrying out CSW.

#### **4. Planning**

The Parish Council responded to 12 applications during 2021. Along with the Shropshire Councillor, the Parish Council also responded to an informal consultation regarding the installation of a radio base station & mast to facilitate the government rollout of smart meters. To date no formal planning application has been submitted.

#### **5. Parish Plan**

A project which unfortunately was placed on hold due to Covid.

The 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.

#### **6. Electricity Infrastructure**

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 from Oswestry through to Whitchurch.

SP Energy Networks report:

*“Overhead Line: The remaining works include the final connections and pre-commissioning of the overhead line, which is scheduled to continue during the first quarter of 2022. In addition, we continue to engage landowners to secure the outstanding land rights through voluntary agreement, as well as discuss and agree any required permissions with the relevant stakeholders.*

*Underground Cable (Henley Wood and A5 areas): We have completed the installation and pre-commissioning of the cable from the existing substation at Oswestry, through Henley Wood and under the A5 to the first pole position. We are in the process of demobilising from that area, however, continue to work with the local community to safeguard public access along our work area.*

*Civils Work (Wem): These works remain ongoing as we move to the final handover stage of the new building, whereby the internal electrical works will commence.*

*Substation Electrical Works: The external electrical works continue, with preparation being made for the installation of the new switchgear at both Oswestry and Wem and for the new transformer grid transformer at Wem. These works will continue through to March 2022, whereby we will commence the final commissioning works from April 2022.”*

## **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.

A team of volunteers has now been established to maintain the Tan Pit as a wildlife area. The team, with some input from Shropshire Wildlife Trust, has already carried out some winter pond clearance; although our next step is to commission an ecology survey to establish a maintenance regime and assess and maintain the wildlife value.

## **8. Public Relations**

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

Although we have said this before, David Edge 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 2 years.

## **9. Meetings and Consultations**

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 2021; and further authorised to hold ordinary council meetings remotely up to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, which it did successfully prior to the elections. The Parish Council is now permanently back to bi-monthly open meetings in person in Loppington Village Hall.

The Parish Council thanks Shropshire Councillor Brian Williams for his continued help and support as our elected representative on Shropshire Council.

## **10. Community Fund**

### **a. Book of Memories**

During the past two years a hard working team of volunteers led by the editorial team, Ruth Comerford, Barry Hawkins, Tony Parry, Jeff & Bron Beard and Bob & Rowena Deards realised a long term goal to produce a book recording the everyday life of the residents of the Parish. Loppington Parish Council was pleased to support this venture with the printing of the book in 2021.

### **b. Community Festivals**

The Parish Council was pleased to contribute Christmas trees to the Winter Walk which has been a great success in 2020 & 2021

## **11. Loppington Neighbourhood Watch and Community Messaging.**

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme was initiated many years ago by Loppington Parish Council.

The Parish Council applied in 2004 for a grant towards set up costs, in the region of £300 - £500. A condition of grant was the scheme be affiliated to North Shropshire NHW and the fund was held by Loppington Parish Council and accounted for in its accounts.

Membership to NS NHW was at that time £2 per household pa. The grant was used encourage membership by offering it free for the first year to parishioners who joined and by subsidising membership fees in subsequent years and printing costs until it was expended. Payments were at that time made by cheque to NS NHW from the LPC account. Since then the scheme has been self-funding.

The current administrator and co-ordinator of the scheme is David Edge. Having managed the scheme for many years David is now standing down from the role.

The Parish Council, and surely those residents who are members of the scheme & recipients of David's weekly updates, extend sincere & grateful thanks to David for his years of dedicated work. The Parish Council also thanks Matt Rice, who has kindly agreed to take on the job as co-ordinator in David's place.

## **12. Crime and Safety**

West Mercia launched Neighbourhood Matters which aims to engage with local communities, and enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with the local policing team. For more information visit

<https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

Reported crime in the area is low. Crime map and reported crime can be viewed on the West Mercia police website. <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/west-mercia-police/wem/?tab=CrimeMap>