

LOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

Report April 2022 – March 2023

1. Parish Councillors

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies following the resignation of Cllr. Butters in July 2022, the Parish Council extends its grateful thanks for the years of service by Cllr. Butters. The Parish Council also welcomed new members Cllrs. Rupert Bearne and John Street.

The Parish Council meets bi-monthly, in January, March, May, July, September and November on the second Tuesday of the month.

2. Financial

The Council received a satisfactory Auditors report for the financial year 2021/2022. The results of the audit can be viewed online.

<http://loppingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/finance-2021-2022/>

Our thanks go to David Edge for the internal audit work.

3. Highways & Traffic Concerns

The Local Highway Authority has been making strides to communicate their programme of works more effectively. A list of surface dressing road works due to take place in 2023/24 programme of works can be found on Shropshire Council website.

Shropshire Council is now linked to fix my street and anyone can report highway concerns at <https://shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/report-a-highways-fault-or-concern/> . Anyone who does not have access to online services residents may contact the clerk or any councillor who will report your concerns for you.

The Parish Council investigated the possibility of Community Speed Watch in the villages. A survey was carried out by West Mercia Police and analysed data from the VAS signs. The application for CSW was refused; Loppington was not deemed to be a suitable location as it did not satisfy CSW requirements.

4. Planning

The Parish Council responded to 18 applications during 2022. 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. The Parish Council understands that this proposal will not now go ahead.

5. Parish Plan

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

Unfortunately, Community Resource no longer offers a Neighbourhood Plan support service. The Parish Council will be sourcing alternative help and looking for volunteers to assist with review of its Parish Plan which is now several years old.

6. Electricity Infrastructure

Permission was granted to Scottish Power in March 2020 for the installation of power lines from Oswestry to Whitchurch and which affected Loppington Parish. That development has now been completed and is operational.

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.

The Council installed a WWI bench at the Tan Pit. An ecological survey has been commissioned to take place this spring to assess the area, and with a view to establishing a regime to maintain the area for its wildlife value.

The Parish Council are holding custodians of the Village Hall lease which has now been extended to 50 years to allow the Village Hall Committee to consider investing in upgrades and works to the building to improve its carbon footprint.

8. Public Relations

The Council continues to support the Village News and disseminate information via this publication and its own website.

The Parish Council was formally invited by the High Sheriff of Shropshire to attend the reading of the Proclamation of King Charles III in Shrewsbury Quarry on 11th September. The Parish was represented by the Chair and Vice Chair Cllrs. Mima Hume-Miller and Tracey Barton respectively.

The Parish Council was also invited by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire to a service of thanksgiving and re-dedication to mark the unveiling of the Covid-19 commemorative sculpture at Shrewsbury Abbey on Sunday, 29th May 2022.

David Edge was nominated, and attended, to represent the Covid Help group of volunteers at a Garden Party hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire in June.

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

9. Community Fund

a. Newtown Community Recreation Association

The Parish Council are pleased to have supported NCRA charity with its project to provide and maintain a community park and associated facilities in Newtown, Shropshire. The current project was conversion of the picnic area associated with the play field to additional car parking space and installing fencing and landscaping for the benefit of Newtown and surrounding areas including Loppington Parish.

b. Community Festivals

The Parish Council erected Christmas trees in the village in December 2022 and supported the Village Hall Committee with its Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June.

10. Loppington Neighbourhood Watch and Community Messaging.

Loppington NHW and Community Messaging is registered with National NHW but due technical difficulties only some members are currently registered. David edge is currently working on this and in the meantime continuing as local coordinator and communicating issues via the weekly NHW newsletter contact list.

11. 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/>

West Mercia Police aim to work with parishes via their Local Policing Charter.

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>