

Annual Parish Meeting May 5th 2022

We have had quite a busy time on the Parish Council this year, but fortunately we have been able to meet face to face all year which has been good.

It has been a busy year for planning applications, some fairly small, involving trees and hedges and a number relating to housing, some small, some large, but all given due consideration.

Last June a new councillor was elected to our Parish Council, Graham Williams, so he has now been working with us for nearly a year.

A number of things have been achieved since our last Annual Meeting. The parked car and other bits and pieces have now been moved from the area in front of the Crown Garage making it tidier.

A new initiative was taken at Munslow Summer Fete to try and raise the profile of our Parish Council. A display board giving details about the Council was put up and we had councillors there to answer any questions. It was I think quite successful.

The new VAS sign was installed at the north end of Aston Munslow at the end of August. More information about that and the speeding concerns along the B4368 will be given under item 7 on the Agenda.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission wrote and asked that if we have War Graves in our parish, would we like a small plaque to attach to the gate of the Burial Ground. This is to make it clearer for people to recognise where there are war graves. We agreed as we have three war graves in Munslow. So at some time before too long we should receive it. Be on the lookout.

As we do each year, a wreath was laid at the War Memorial on behalf of Munslow Parish on Remembrance Sunday last November.

Last month, we put in a strong objection to the raising of car parking charges in our local towns. We who live in rural villages have no option but to use our cars to get to town.

Last month we planted an oak tree to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We applied to Shropshire Council under, The Queen's Green Canopy, and they supplied us with the tree and a plaque. Millichope Park kindly gave us permission to plant it on their land by a public footpath in The Deans. If you follow the track past the church, go through the gate, you will see it on the left as you begin to walk up the hill. *It can be viewed on the QGC map.*

We have again not raised the Parish Precept. This is in consideration of any financial difficulties that people might be experiencing due to Covid and now the war in Ukraine.

We have recently set up a Facebook page for the Parish Council, but it is still in its early stages.

Lastly, MPC is here to serve this community and I remind you that we do have a 15min public session at the start of our monthly meetings where you can bring any concerns or ideas that you might have. Thank You.

SPEEDING on B4368

As you are all aware there is a big problem regarding the speeding of traffic along the B4368, affecting not only our parish but all the other parishes through the Corvedale. Munslow parish have been working very hard over the last couple of years to try and find some solutions to this problem which would have the effect of slowing down the traffic. Four of our Councillors worked hard writing up a report which covered the many different ways which have and are being used to calm traffic through villages in different parts of the country.

Having already been in contact with Shropshire Council voicing our concerns about speeding through our parish, we sent our report to Shropshire Highways asking for a meeting to be set up on site to discuss this urgent problem and find some solutions. In August last year we finally met up with Nick Newton the then new chief engineer. He was very sympathetic to our concerns and commented on the well written report. He agreed to try and find funding for a commissioned route study along the whole length of the B4368 and B4378. This he has managed to do and the route study was due to be completed by the end of March this year. This of course was delayed and we were then told that it wouldn't be completed until mid April.

In the meantime Munslow Parish set up a meeting with some councillors from all the other parishes along the Corvedale. This was in November. We informed them of what we had done so far and will be meeting together again once we get the report of the road study. I am sure you have all been aware of the black strips across the road fairly recently, so things are happening.

I had a reply from Nick Newton yesterday and his words were:-

"The Traffic data ATCs have been collected and the report is nearing completion as I understand but I don't know when it will be released but believe its imminent

Once I have a copy we can discuss the next steps going forward"

So we eagerly await the next steps forward!

* Read out Nick Newton's take on the Route Study

SPEED WATCH

Another initiative which was started a number of years ago was the Speed Watch Team working in Munslow. We had hoped to operate in Aston Munslow as well, but were told by West Mercia Police that because Shropshire council had not done sufficient road engineering in Aston Munslow when they dropped the speed down from 40 to 30mph in 2009 that we were not able to operate the speed watch team there. We were advised to get some traffic calming engineering done and they suggested a VAS sign. This we have done and were given a grant covering the cost by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The VAS sign was in operation by the end of August last year.

The Speedwatch Team working in Munslow was seeing an increased number of vehicles breaking the speed limit and crossing double white lines. West Mercia have been very supportive of the team and have increased the number of times that they have had either cars or police motor bikes on the site. Recently the Police advised our team that it was too dangerous for them to continue to operate in Munslow but that they would increase the frequency of police officers monitoring the situation on site. A new initiative by the West Mercia Police to slow down the traffic in Munslow should be in operation shortly and then hopefully, we will be allowed to restart our Speed Watch teams.

after a trial period

20'S PLENTY FOR US

You may have heard of the initiative "20's Plenty for Us" a National Campaign. There are a number of counties throughout England that have this scheme working, but Shropshire Council ~~do not seem keen on the idea.~~ ^{are not moving very quickly with} I attended a presentation given by "20's Plenty for Shropshire" Campaign Manager. This group is requesting Shropshire Council to implement 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Shropshire where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads where full consideration of the needs of road users allows a higher limit.

Locally Ludlow and Church Stretton already support its aims.

Munslow Council discussed this at our last council meeting and agreed that as we are working hard to slow the traffic in our area, we really felt we should also give our support to this campaign. The more support local councils give to it the more Shropshire Council are likely to take notice. and take some action.

DEFIBRILLATOR

For a number of years now Munslow council has been looking into getting a defibrillator in our Parish. Then the pandemic came and work on it came to a halt.

We are now looking into this again. The most likely site would be in the telephone box outside The Crown. We have had permission from Mr & Mrs Arnold to use this.

Our next job is to source the defibrillator and find an electrician to connect it for us. The latter probably being the most difficult.

We would be interested in hearing any comments that you might have on any of these subjects.

Corvedale Division

Annual Report to Parishes 2021/22

Shropshire Unitary Councillor

Cecilia Motley

It is a relief to be finally emerging from the Covid pandemic which has had such a disruptive effect on so many in our community over the last two years. Let us hope we can all withstand any future outbreaks and I hope everyone who is eligible is taking up the offer of another booster jab.

It has really been a strange year; first covid and then the horrific events in Ukraine, together with unexpected fuel cost increases and climbing inflation. Shropshire Council is working hard to roll out the Government's Council Tax rebate programme of £150 to eligible households with approximately £10m rebated across 65,000 households throughout the county.

The Council has been supporting the Homes for Ukraine programme and we have set up a 'one stop shop' web page: [Homes for Ukraine | Shropshire](#). To date 434 Ukrainian individuals are due to come to Shropshire with 155 individuals having already arrived. Our housing officers have been working to organise payments, DBS checks, property checks and safeguarding checks as well as seeking school places and GP practices through the CCG. Corvedale residents and parishes are opening their homes to Ukrainian guests as well. A hub to welcome Ukrainian nationals has been set up in Shrewsbury and Ludlow is also working to set up a similar reception centre.

We haven't had much luck with Government funding over the year. The local government financial settlement was disappointing as, having promised a three-year funding programme it reverted to a one year rollover budget. The settlement still failed to recognise the huge burden that is placed on large rural authorities like ours by the demands of social care. Over the period of the covid pandemic the number of children requiring our care has increased to over 600. Despite the government's introduction in April of the National Insurance surcharge to pay for health and social care we know that very little of the funding raised will be heading into local authority social care services. Once again this puts our finances under serious strain.

The first two rounds of the Levelling Up Fund did not help Shropshire either. We put in bids (strongly supported by our MPs) for three excellent projects, including one in Craven Arms. All of them were rejected. We then applied for the big public transport fund, the Bus Strategy Improvement Plan. We believed we had put in an excellent and imaginative application to enable us to run a truly county-wide public transport service and - along with all our neighbouring rural authority areas – were once again rejected. Since then together with our Passenger Transport manager I had the opportunity of meeting the Transport Minister to explain our plans to her and she has strongly encouraged us to reapply in the next funding round which comes in July. Hopefully we will be third time lucky.

Another Government initiative which is likely to affect us is County Deals, whereby local authorities are encouraged to work closely together and potentially elect a mayor or governor to represent them, as in the city regions. We are unsure of the benefits of this in Shropshire as we are such a large county already, but we will certainly look at options for how to do this at maximum benefit to the county.

Closer to home one of my portfolio responsibilities is the Community Governance Review, involving the Town and Parish Councils reviewing their boundaries and considering the case either for merging with neighbouring parish councils or for straightening out anomalies in some of the boundaries. The other is a more official review by the Local Government Boundary Commission, asking us to make recommendations for changes to the Council's Divisional Boundaries. The timing on this is strictly controlled – we must start the review process in October 2022 to be completed and signed off by Parliament in 2023. No pressure there then! It means that we will have to stop work on the Governance Review to concentrate on the divisional boundaries but by then we should have a good idea of where the areas of difficulty lie. Nevertheless, it will take a lot of time in the ensuing months. I am really grateful to all the Corvedale parishes for looking very closely at this and coming up with some constructive suggestions for their own boundaries.

Corvedale parishes have been working hard on plans for traffic calming measures over the last year including getting VAS signs set up and considering particular calming measures to slow traffic speeds on our very busy B roads, which are so often used as diversionary routes when the A49 is under repair/resurfacing etc. The Cabinet is meeting with the Police and Crime

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Commissioner and the new Chief Constable later in May and I will take the opportunity to press the case for funding for traffic calming measures for the parishes since this is such a widespread problem.

On the subject of highways, I hope you have seen improvements in the work to reduce the pothole problem in the county. We now have a full complement of local traffic engineers and a new way of reporting problems – Fix My Street – is being rolled out which is a far speedier and more responsive tool than the My Shropshire app which was extremely slow. There is also more resource going into sorting out the many clogged and damaged road drains which cause localised flooding and damage to the roads and lanes.

Once again this year the Corvedale has done a great job in mitigating flooding through the Flood Action Groups and I am delighted to have been asked to act as the flood champion for the south of Shropshire. I have since recruited Dan Thomas, Member for Much Wenlock as another champion for the south east of the county.

Finally, the new recycling wheelie bin with a purple top is being rolled out now in the south of the county. If you haven't already applied, there is still time to do so on the Council website. This bin will take all the bottles, plastic, tins etc which currently go into the recycling boxes. The blue bag will still take newspapers and cardboard. You don't have to return your old recycling boxes. I'm going to use mine to grow tomatoes...

As ever, please don't hesitate to let me know if you have a problem with the Council services that I cazzn help with.

Cllr Cecilia Motley

Corvedale Division Councillor, Shropshire Council

Portfolio Holder Communities, Place, Culture Leisure Tourism & Transport

May 2022