

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The latest online Council meeting was held on January 6th. when a range of issues were considered including:

The Council Budget for 2021 – 2022.

Members had been forwarded a copy of proposed budget which had been prepared by the Clerk and already discussed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Following consideration of some items and an agreed recommendation that the grant to each Village Hall should be increased to £2,000, the budget was approved.

In spite of anticipated inflationary increases it was unanimously agreed not to seek an increase in the precept which could have resulted in an increase in the Community Tax.

Full details of the budget can be found on the Councils web site.

Highways:

It was noted that following letters of complaint to Shropshire Council's Leader and C.E.O about the lack of action over reported problems, there had been positive responses to some of the issues that had been raised, although there were still a few outstanding. It had been hoped that these would have been resolved following the break for Christmas and the New Year but with the new 'lock down' regulations it was felt that there would be a further delay.

The Clerk reported that the need for the construction of a footpath alongside the old Red Castle car park had been added to the Parish Place Plan but there were difficulties in securing CIL (Local) funding for the project

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the CEO again, thanking him for his actions but pointing out the difficulty in getting responses for certain officers who may well be working from home or furloughed

Correspondence:

Over seventy items of correspondence from a variety of sources had been received by the Clerk and passed to Members since the previous meeting. These were considered and where necessary replies had been made or were approved at the meeting.

Planning Applications:

A total of eight applications for development had been received and most of these were for extensions to existing properties. Details had been forwarded to Members for consideration and appropriate responses made. A new application for development at Harmer Hill Reservoir for conversion to form holiday let accommodation had been considered and responded to .The Council had indicated that it was not adverse to the proposal, providing all the current development on the site had been removed before approval was granted.

Meeting Dates:

The programme of dates was approved with the hope that later in the year they would be held as normal in the Village Halls – details can be found on the Council web site.

The Clerk reminded Members that the March meeting would be the final one for the current Council with elections planned for early May to elect the new Council.

Other Issues:

Members reported various issues related to pot holes and it was noted that increased heavy goods traffic on Lower Road, Harmer Hill was causing the edges of the road to break away.

It was also noted that volunteers were coming together to provide help for those seriously affected by the new 'lockdown' regulations.