

Chairman's Report for Acton Burnell Group of Parish's May 2017

We have held 6 meetings during the year and 2 extra ordinary meetings all of which were open to the Public and comply with the Standards Board and Code of Conduct Regulations. The internal and external Financial Audits have both successfully been concluded. We have reviewed and adopted the General Risk Assessment and Financial Risk Assessment Documents for the year. The representatives on the Appraisal and Appeals Committees were appointed and the Appraisal Committee met with the Clerk for her Annual appraisal. One point which was raised was that the Clerks 'Working from home allowance' had not been set or paid since Mrs Pardoe had begun as Clerk, but this has now been rectified and payment made in full. The precept has this year been set at a 0% increase for Band D properties.

The extra ordinary meetings were held firstly in June to discuss Pitchford Village Halls application for a Grant towards the new Bio disc septic tank from the Lightsource Charity Fund, which was successfully awarded £5000. The second meeting was to discuss Shrewsbury Homes planning application to increase to number of dwellings on the land to the rear of Stoneleigh from 9 to 11. Mrs Amy Henson from Berry's agent for Shrewsbury Homes attended the meeting to discuss and note the proposals and changes that concerned the Parish Council; the application is still awaiting a decision.

Our meetings were held at Concord College up until November, when the Village Hall became available to use again, and I would like to thank the College very much for welcoming us and for their generous hospitality, and we have made a donation to the Students chosen Charity in lieu of hire fees.

Highways. Acton Burnell cross roads continues to be a Site of Community Concern, and after exhaustive discussions with Mike Davies and his team from the Highways department, the configuration of the X Roads will remain the same and new road markings will be applied with extra room allowed for vehicles to make the Frodesley to Ruckley turn much easier. The general state of the highways in the Parishes is quite poor and because the Shropshire Council has a very limited budget, therefore repairs and replacements have to be prioritised.

Severn Trent have been very active in the parishes replacing water pipes between Frodesley and Acton Burnell and from the Pump House

in Acton Burnell up to Church Preen Holding Tank via Ruckley, Langley and park Gate. The PVC pipes installed in 1979 had become brittle and were constantly leaking. Severn Trent have also replaced and updated the Sewerage Works in Acton Burnell which should be ready to 'test' and begin operations in September. In their early discussions with the Parish Council we thought that the number of users and capacity of the proposed plant was greatly underestimated and too small for future use, so we recommended that they should accommodate a greater population in the village and have a larger unit, which they have done.

In January we met PC David Walton who has taken over responsibility for this area along with CSO's Rob Taylor and Lynne Birch after Dave Harte's retirement.

Planning. There have been 9 'bricks and mortar applications, (someone wants to build or extend a property) and 10 other applications, mainly for tree works in a conservation area or Discharge of Conditions from previous applications. Shropshire Council have asked Parish Councils to comment on their Partial Review of the Local Plan, and our reply or at least the box we ticked was for 'significant growth and spatial option A', which would allow for extra growth in rural areas. The Council has also asked Landowners to identify sites for development in future, but weather either of these consultations gets any further after both sets of elections we shall have to wait and see. The current SAM Dev limits that have been imposed on us and strict enforcements that are allowed for 'Local needs and affordable homes' means that we should look again at our position of being 'Green and open countryside'.

We have applied to the British Heart Foundation for 3 Defibrillator Units but were unsuccessful first time so we applied again and on being told that the Defib unit now had to be cased we have had to apply a 3rd time. We have also taken over the Telephone kiosks in Frodesley and Pitchford after BT has decommissioned them, so providing we can secure a power supply there is a possibility we could site a Defib Unit in each Kiosk and the one in Acton Burnell with Concords permission outside the Shop.

The Parish Council's new website is up and running and we shall be looking at becoming as 'Paperless' as is possible to be at future meetings.

Finally Pitchford Hall after lengthy negotiations is back in the hands of the Nason family and we wish them every success for its restoration and future use.

I would like to thank our Clerk and fellow Councillors for their help and support during the past year especially Mr Eric Plant who has stepped down after 39 years of service to the Parish Council as a member and Chairman. (more of which we come to later.)