

## **Shuttington & Alvecote Parish Council Annual Meeting – Chairs Report 2022-2023**

Welcome everybody and thank you very much for taking the time to join us.

Over the past year your Parish Council volunteers and other valuable members of our community have constantly been working hard behind the scenes trying it's best to enhance our villages appearance, adding to it's facilities as well as ensuring external forces do not negatively impact on our lives.

As we meet today, we are on the brink of local elections, which shall take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Most of the Parish Councillors here today are already re-elected as it was an uncontested election and were successfully approved for nomination, although this year we shall say goodbye from the Council to one of our most committed and valuable members after many years service. Mike Smith, came on board this time around in April of 2017, however prior to that our records indicate that he became a PC first in around 1987 and received recognition of 20 years service in 2007. Therefore the gratitude of Parish Councils past and present cannot be over stated. No doubt there shall be something in the pipeline to commemorate that appreciation more adequately. Mike who instigated the Parish Historical Archive drive continues to work on that and it is hoped to have some form of display available at the Coronation Events.

As of this moment, I am still in the unenviable position of Council Chair, however all that could change as we have our Annual Meeting soon whereby it's all gloves off to take over this esteemed and highly paid role.....

Your Councillors as of this moment are, with responsibility for Shuttington are Brian Frost (VC), Andy White, Mike Smith and myself, and those with responsibility for Alvecote are Claire Holloway and Leita Sly. There is a vacancy with the imminent departure of Mike should anyone wish to consider putting themselves forward. It is necessary and appropriate to extend my thanks personally and on behalf of our community to all the Councillors, without whom we would not have a Parish Council and therefore would not have any control over what happens on our doorstep. It has not been a year without challenges but we are still here and have overcome.

Our thanks also go to Anita Allsopp, who has executed her role as Clerk and RFO in a sterling manner. Sadly, Anita will be stepping down from this role in the forthcoming months to focus on the pleasures that retirement bring and we wish her the very best when that time comes.

Craig Tracey, also a Parish resident remains our Member of Parliament for North Warwickshire & Bedworth.

Additional thanks for their ongoing support must be extended to our current Borough Councillors Dave Humphreys and Marian Humphreys who is also a County Councillor. They both continue to work tirelessly on our behalf when called upon.

Procedural & Profile – The Field users continue to enjoy security of tenure with their extended contracts. The hiring of the Field is an essential source of income for the Parish Council and we are grateful for their continued support which is a two way street.

The Council shall continue to ensure that the services it provides meets their needs and beyond. The infamous Cadent Gas Governor lease was finally completed with a 20 year lease and rent reviews 5 yearly. We were initially asked to agree to a 99 year lease, however, it was considered inappropriate to ascend to this level tying the hands of future Councils when the world of energy supply and source is becoming more uncertain

The Parish Council Facebook site currently has 237 followers and continues to highlight appropriate information regionally and locally which we may think is of interest or use to those that use the social media site. It is not a discussion forum and is unlikely to become one due simply to the amount of time such sites need to be managed; therefore, we would still like to encourage all parishioners to send their thoughts, ideas and comments on all matters which affect the Parish through to the Clerk or any of the Councillors preferably by email or if not by telephone. Their details are on the notice boards and website.

In addition, the website continues to be updated regularly with the agenda and minutes of the meetings.

The Village Voice magazine continues to provide important information on village activities especially with regard to the Churches in our locale. Claire Holloway continues to have the Parishes gratitude for the hard work that goes into it.

Finances – The revenue for the Hall continues to come from renting out and now enjoys a thriving plethora of activities from Dance groups, Archery, dog training and private hire events.

As mentioned earlier, the revenue stream into the Parish Council from the rental of the field and Cadent has been secured for the next few years. During the past year there have been various expenditures, some unexpected, which has deemed it necessary to dip into the small amount of spare funds which the PC held. At the end of the financial year 2023 those residual funds were significantly depleted and with anticipating the needs of the PC funding for this next year, it was reluctantly agreed that the precept needed to be increased from £8000 to £10000. Although the cost per household within the Parish is very much dependent upon their Council Tax band and personal circumstances, it does average out at an increase of 17p per week per property making the average household contribution 87p per week per property which we hope represents excellent value for money.

Playing Field & Hall – As most shall hopefully have seen, the playground is now up and running and open for all ages on the Village playing field. This was the result of an enormous amount of work on behalf of many people, not only the organisers but also all those that fundraised and donated. It was kindly formally opened on 21<sup>st</sup> March by local football celebrity Marc Albrighton for which we extend our many thanks. It is a testament to our community spirit which has achieved this and shall be a valuable facility for generations to come.

The Hall is very much in demand with regular hirers. A reasonable amount of enquiries for bookings are being received on a regular basis. A newly laid patio area, complete with festoon lights has been added to the outside space of the hall facing the field. x3 6 seater picnic benches have been purchased and are soon to be added to the patio area. An additional x2 benches have

been earmarked for an area just outside the entrance to the playground which should be in place in the near future. The floor and corridors have recently been refurbished along with some new internal doors. New window dressings have been added to the hall. A full compliment of new, blue upholstered chairs have recently been purchased.

A Christmas lunch for the over 65's in the village was held at the Hall November 2022 and paid for by the Supper Club which was formed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. The lunch was very well received and appreciated by all of those who attended.

Margaret Frost - Booking Secretary	Gaynor Barber
Brian Frost - Vice Chair	Sandra Beck
Sam Hall – Chair	Jayne Cooper
Adrian Hall	Andrew White

Anita Allsopp - Secretary (non-committee member)

There are several events already in the pipeline for the Hall and Field. On 20<sup>th</sup> May there is a live band playing, on 16<sup>th</sup> July on the Field is the Village Fete, On 14<sup>th</sup> October a Quiz night with planned Ploughmans dinner is on the card and the Christmas Bazaar and light switch on on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Please keep a look out on social media, the leaflets through your doors and the notice boards for further updates. The Hall is of course also used for the much welcome Coffee mornings which are held in the morning on the first Monday of the month from 10.30 – 12.30. We encourage anyone to attend and to enjoy a drink and cake and of course catch up on Parish banter and gossip.

Alvecote – The past year has seen a very stable atmosphere in the village. Incidents of unwanted or illegal activities have been very isolated and predominantly domestic in nature. The Defibrillator was moved from the Samuel Barlow onto Alvecote Lane. It was not an easy project as we were not granted permission for a wall mounting or to use the electricity supply from the County Council. However, it is there, battery powered and as well as the defibrillator in Shuttington, is looked after with much appreciation by Liz Odber.

Policing – Our Policing contingents continue to be PC Mike Redman and PCSO Simeon Hodson heading up the SNT. I shall be handing over to them shortly. PC Mike Redman was thankfully reinstated in the locale in August of last year following protestations of his re-assignment to elsewhere from the PC. They continue to be a proactive and essential part of our community. There have been several significant successes in both villages regarding the disruption of drug dealing to the extent whereby in some months there has been no reported activity. In addition, ASB has also diminished significantly. Although a small Parish shall never be free of crime, it is clear that the Police team have had a substantial and positive impact in this area.

Carol Cotterill (a Parish resident) continues to be the Rural Crime Officer and a constant support to our local community

The Police would like to reiterate the need for calling 101 to report ANY incidents of anti-social and criminal behaviour (unless there is a serious crime in action or person/s are in immediate danger), in addition to reporting online.

Planning – The construction of the new housing estate to the left of the village hall is on the brink of works commencing. The PC have been engaging relentlessly over the past few years and especially in the past few months, in order to get the parishioners voices heard regarding access, traffic and much more. We have had some levels of success in this although not anywhere near as much as we would have liked as those decisions were taken at a higher level of local government. We have secured a proper entrance access from the estate onto the footpath in front of the hall in order to negate the new estate occupants from having to cross over this busy road twice. We shall still be pushing for some level of controlled crossing in front of the Hall.

Regarding the Robeys Lane development, there is no further news or update on that which we have available to share with you.

Traffic Safety – The speed and intensity of traffic flow through both villages is always at the top of the list of concerns whenever the PC speaks to people. It always shall be, like for many other rural settlements, be a topic for debate at how we reduce the speed and volume of vehicles through these quiet areas. During this past year, the PC has done extensive research and has made many proposals to the County in these matters. Even when we have hit brick walls, we have and are continuing to push. One of those is a very clear redirection of traffic coming from and to the Ashby Road by way of utilising Polesworth Road/Polesworth Lane at Hangmans Corner. Currently traffic to Amington and Tamworth is directed through Shuttington. We are wanting that changed. In addition, we are pushing to have the default direction at the bottom of the Hill in Shuttington changed so that traffic continues along Polesworth Road, then left at Polesworth Lane to get to The Ashby Road/M42 jnc11/Newton. etc.

Bearing all this in mind, we are also in consultation with the construction people for the new estate in the village to ensure the traffic flow does not attempt the Main road route.

Keeping on the construction traffic flow subject, as you may have seen, there is a solar farm being built off Laundry Lane. In addition, which does not necessarily impact our Parish, there is also a solar farm planned for Clifton Campville, although recent information has come to light that that parocualr project has been put on hold. The PC is in touch with both of these companies in order to try and ensure no construction traffic shall impede either Alvecote or Shuttington. We are hoping that the Hall and/or PC can tap into the generosity of one of those companies in getting assistance for solar panels for the Village Hall and perhaps even for the domestic benefit of Parishioners.

Emergency Plan – The local Emergency Plan is still being reviewed and shall be completed, one day....

Unitary Authority – No further action has taken place regarding this which has been passed down to us locals. However there are murmurings regarding still having a unitary council with devolved powers at local levels. If that confuses you, then join the club. We shall keep our eyes and ears open.

Parish projects – The Milner Drive Wildflower Meadow is now in it's second year of childhood. With some unexpected and unpredictable results due to mother nature during its inaugural year, this second year is hoping to bring to the village what was anticipated. As the pond has a secure fencing around it now, the decision to remove the grid was taken as this was having a negative affect on the ponds wildlife. Our continued thanks go especially to Claire Holloway, Liz Odber and their team of helpers, both professional and enthusiasts.

You will hopefully have all see the new notice boards in both villages. The new and much bigger and accessible boards can now include so much more information that everyone can hopefully access. Information on all the PC activities, public meetings, policing information and Hall contacts and events are all there and we encourage you to peruse as often as you can in order to keep informed.

The pathway between Coronation Crescent and Church Lane continues to be on our list of things to do. It is not as a result of apathy which has stunted the progress, more so identifying ownership and responsibility. We are hoping for that to come through shortly and then it will probably necessitate obtaining a grant to do the necessary works.

We have also embarked upon renewing or refreshing the bus stop shelter in Alvecote. Obtaining a new one would result in having to find well over £5000. However, we are now looking at the option of having it fully refurbished by the company that actually installed it in the first place, at a more manageable cost. This shall also require grant funding.

In closing this Annual Open Meeting, we extend our very best to you all. continued well wishes to all for your wellbeing. As always, each and every Parish Meeting is open to everyone to ask questions, raise concerns or simply have a listen. The dates of those, together with the agendas and minutes of the previous meeting are put up on the notice boards, website and PC FB site. We do encourage you to email or telephone in advance if possible any subjects you want to raise in order for us to do any research if necessary and offer answers at those meetings. As hopefully warmer weather is about to engulf us, we hope that you enjoy the coming season and indeed the next 12 months.

Thank you