

**The Annual Parish Meeting of Culmington held on Tuesday 11th
May 2021 at 7.00pm in
Culmington Village Hall**

MINUTES

1.0 Apologies for Absence: None

2.0 Notice Convening the Meeting

In accordance with Statute, the notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the Council's Notice Boards and elsewhere throughout the Parish.

3.0 Annual Report of the Parish Council and other groups/committees for the year 2018/19

- a) **Chairman of the Parish Council: Cllr Steele** (Full report available on parish website or by contacting the Clerk) During the pandemic the PC has continued to operate via zoom. There were no Annual Meetings last year so the Chairman and Vice Chairman continued their duties and would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Heather Coonick is now Clerk replacing Jayne Disley, who I would like to thank for her hard work and support. I would also like to thank Cllr Motley, the Unitary Councillor but am saddened to have lost Mr Dennis Jubb who was the Emergency Planning Representative.

Mr Gary Trim, Environmental Maintenance Officer has been active throughout the year but has decided not to continue in his role, so we now have the challenge of finding a new EMO. Jeff Williams, our voluntary footpath coordinator has done an excellent job with the help of many local people. The footpaths in the parish have never been in better repair.

The Flood Action Group, chaired by Hugh Disley, continues to monitor drains and report problems to the relevant agencies. Slow the Flow program is being monitored for effectiveness. The Parish Council has been working with Shropshire Council to try to alleviate the flooding issues on Seifton Lane. Sadly, the scheme for a bypass pipe to allow more water to flow down the brook has fallen by the wayside, but the PC will continue to work with Shropshire council to desilt the brook during the coming Summer in the hope this will reduce the flooding on Seifton Lane.

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Village Hall on the 1st Tuesdays of every month except August and December. Parishioners are invited to attend and raise concerns. Condensed minutes are available in Ripples and fully on the website.

- b) **Shropshire Council: Cllr Motley** (Full report available on parish website or by contacting the Clerk) Shropshire Council: Cllr Motley thanked those who voted to return her on May 6. She is delighted to represent this unique and beautiful part of South Shropshire and wished to reassure residents that she is available to help with any problems they may have with Shropshire Council. The last four years has been a difficult time for local government especially having to deal with the Covid crisis. She is disappointed that the government is still unable to give a timetable for sorting out social care. Shropshire has come out of the Covid crisis

relatively well although the strain on care services has been severe and the public health directorate did a fantastic job. The Rural Services network has had a productive lockdown. During the election campaign she was pleased to meet people who praised the success of the vaccination roll-out but were concerned about the state of rural roads. She described the election count as a surreal experience due to Covid restrictions.

- c) **Village Hall: Cllr Mear** reported that due to Coronavirus the hall had been closed since March 2020 and many planned events had been cancelled. At the AGM last year it was decided to keep the hall closed before the 2nd lockdown. During the closure the hall has been completely redecorated by Mike Phasey who is also a committee member and CCTV has been installed. Thanks to Carol Byng and Jeff Williams the hall has received two grants so the accounts are healthy. There are lots of booking once the hall reopens in early July starting with a walk to the Tally Ho, however the Flower Show is on hold this year. Cllr Mear thanked all of the committee for their work during a trying year.
- d) **Flood Action Group:** (Full report on Parish Website or by contacting the Clerk.) The pandemic has made a big impact on the group, but with the help of the National Flood Forum they have been able to meet via zoom. The February 2020 floods were a significant event for Culmington with some homes flooded again. The 'Slow the Flow' project had its biggest test yet and the perception is that it could not cope with the exceptional amount of water during that flood. In April 2020 the National Flood Forum began holding nationwide zoom meetings which are useful. A Shropshire Flood Forum has been formed and Peter Lynes and Jayne Disley have represented the local group. Shropshire Council and the Environment Agency have attended the local meetings to discuss the recent flooding. Unfortunately, Shropshire was not successful in their recent bid for funding from the Innovation Fund but the NFM project will be continuing although no funding has been allocated yet.
- e) **Culmington Footpath Group:** (Map of works on the Parish Website or by contacting the clerk) **Jeff Williams** went through the footpaths and bridleways the group has worked on over last two years. Shropshire Council have only one person working on this in South Shropshire so although materials are available it takes some time to get them. Cllr Steele thanked the group for their work.

4.0 **Open Forum:**

A member of the public wished to raise that the footpath over the ford on Seifton Lane is uneven and causes a trip hazard. The clerk stated that this had been reported to Shropshire Council last year. There was also concern over the hedge growing into the path. Cllr Pike and Jeff Williams will take a look and do whatever they can to improve the situation. Cllr Motley asked the Clerk to let her know of outstanding reports.

5.0 **Closure:** The meeting closed at 7.50 pm