

**MINUTES OF THE POTT SHRIGLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON 9th May 2022**

Present Councillor	M Wray (Chair)
Councillors	D Basford P Boulton J Goodman A Greenwood
Parish Clerk	Mrs. J Burton
Public	two members of the parish

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs. Barlow Walsh, Chong

**2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

All matters from the last meeting had been dealt with during the year.

**4. FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk presented the meeting with copies of the Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet for 2021-2022 and explained the following points.

**Income**

There was a decrease of £629 in the income received this year. This was due to:

Interest was again reduced because of low rates nationally and only £29 was added to the Council's building Society account.

No purchases were made so there was no VAT to claim and last year's figure was exceptional because of the expensive repair to the gas lamp.

The average number of footpath maps was sold, last year's figure being high because of the insurance claim for the loss of a full box.

**Expenditure**

There was an increase of expenditure of £813 this year. This was mainly due to increased spending on enhancing the village. A security post was installed to prevent unauthorised access of vehicles at a cost of £278 and £78 was paid for materials to enable Cllr. Basford to move the bench to a more appropriate position. Cllr. Basford mowed the Village Green on several occasions with £87 being paid for petrol and mower parts. He also created a larger guard for the oak tree and a new guard for Mrs. Burton's hornbeam incurring costs of £68 with a plaque costing £62.

The Council also paid £235 for the Christmas Tree which was installed in a new position in the churchyard. The rent for the Village Hall, was increased with inflation to £275. Last year there was no payment because the meetings were held online.

A saving of £135 was made by ending the contract for maintaining the SID and not renewing the subscription to Cheshire Community Action which the Council felt delivered no further benefit.

At the end of the year the excess of income over expenditure was £231. In order to continue to make enhancements to the village and to cover the increases likely to occur, the Council decided to increase the precept to £4,200

## **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **General**

This is the first face to face Annual meeting for three years due to Covid. In early 2020 the Council went for a number of months without any form of meeting and was forced to hold remote zoom meetings during 2020 and 2021 due to the restrictions. It's the first time in nearly 130 years that the Parish Council were unable to hold face to face meetings in the Village Hall.

As a result of the restrictions the Parish Council undertook fewer initiatives and projects than it has in previous years. There have however been a small number of initiatives mainly led and undertaken by Cllr Basford in providing a more substantial base for the bench on the Village Green, a tree planting including construction of a deer guard and fitting of a removable security post to prevent vehicular access and to improve security to the Cricket Club.

With the agreement of Church and the hard work once again by Cllr Basford the Christmas tree for 2021 was relocated to the Church corner. This received positive comments from many and is hoped to be a new permanent location for the tree in future years.

The Parish Spring Clean was held just a few weeks ago on a Saturday morning in early April. The usual amount of roadside refuse was collected and disposed of using the equipment now owned by the Council which reduces our reliance on CEC.

Thanks to Cllr. Boulton for continued regular attendance at the NECCP North East Cheshire Community Partnership meetings during the year.

### **School**

The school now has an increasing number of pupils and despite the difficulties created due to the pandemic continues to be professionally steered by Headteacher Joanne Bromley.

### **Highways & Policing**

The level of road maintenance, provided by CEC Highways including pot hole repair, road gully emptying, verge cutting and footpath sweeping continues to deteriorate, with more and more of the road gullies in a blocked or semi blocked condition, leading to rivers running down and across the highway in heavy rainfall and leading to the threat of property flooding during times of heavy rain.

The SID Speed Indicating Devices have proved to be unreliable and have a relatively short life before becoming uneconomic to repair. The Council has therefore withdrawn from the scheme it was in with neighbouring parishes. The reason was compounded by the fact that the accuracy of the traffic counting function was also highly questionable.

The Poynton Relief Road which joins up with the A555 airport road is now nearing completion with the "black top" shortly to go down and although the Parish pressed for mitigation measures to reduce the traffic volume/improve safety through the South end of the Parish, the local authority did very little to help. It remains to be seen what impact the opening of the short spur will have on routing higher numbers of long distance commuter traffic through Pott Shrigley.

### **Planning.**

The planning situation has deteriorated into a sorry state of affairs with both planning Authorities who cover the parish in a dire state, appearing to be unable to function properly as a planning authority. With ever increasing pressures from development, due mainly to our country's economy now being based upon ever increasing property prices, this doesn't bode well for the future. The main victim in all this will inevitably be Pott Shrigley Parish.

Finally, many thanks to all the Councillors for their meeting attendance and work throughout the year, and to Joyce for all her hard work in keeping pace with remote meetings and other rapidly changing procedures

created as a result of the pandemic.

**PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS**

Mr. Wainwright asked why his planning application for a new agricultural building had not been decided for almost a year. He was told that once the Council had submitted its comments, it had no control over the decision making process and that he should contact the PDNPA to find out.

The meeting closed at 8pm.