

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

On the 29th November 2022, we had a very interesting meeting. The objective of this report is to advise who was able to come and what was discussed.

Who attended

Three specific people were invited to add into our usual meeting and any member of the village was of course also invited:

- Sarah Pochin has been several times – she is our local councillor in Cheshire East Council.
- Edward Timpson, our MP, was invited but could not come as he was to be down in Westminster. Lynn Riley came instead as she is a member of his team and used to be a Councillor in Cheshire West Council.
- Antoinette Sandbach used to be our MP until 2019.

There were 14 residents of Church Minshull also present.

The six members of our Parish Council were all at the meeting, Jacqui Groos, Nigel Lewis, Tim Boote, Mark Smith, Brian Charlesworth and me, Bob Schiller.

Initial Presentation

There were five matters which I presented:

1.Parish Council progression

- Supply of sandbags to try and help anyone if they were getting flooded
- Improvements to our local footpaths, including a dog poo bin
- The plan for a defibrillator to be placed on the Village Hall external wall.
- In 2020 we had a neighbourhood Development Plan approved by Cheshire East and local residents with the aim that appropriate conditions would be sustained.
- We are also working with the Village Hall Committee to rebuild the Hall as it is expected to collapse at the end of another 7 years. Cheshire East have also been asked to review the plan but expect to take about a year before they can do it. We had tried to allow our use of the land around the telephone exchange but were told not to by BT and could not do so. But Edward Timpson had said he would find out why. He has not told us yet.

2.Highways issues

- In 2016 speed controls were agreed and approved by Cheshire East but were dropped. We understand that a few years ago 6000

vehicles passed through the village daily. Due to the closure at Leighton Hospital this is now worse. Our expectation is that as HS2 work gets going near us that will again increase.

- We have repeatedly discussed this and following the meeting, Sarah Pochin has agreed to get a review done in time for our next Parish Council meeting including the local highways officer. Some suggestions made by residents and members of the Parish Council include:
 - Speed restrictions (20, 30, 40 and 50 mph restrictions are proposed as have been done by Cheshire West)
 - Traffic lights
 - Weight restrictions on the bridges
 - Acoustic Cameras are being considered by the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Several issues have been noted:
 - Pavement damage due to lorries driving onto the pavements
 - Damage to wheels/tyres caused at the chicane as someone driving out too fast causing someone to avoid an accident who was driving in
 - Houses shaking due to the lorries passing through

3.Flooding

- Based on the report from Church Minshull Parish Council issued about 18 months ago, Edward Timpson responded very positively and passed the report on to Cheshire East and the Secretary of State for DEFRA. A reply was received from the Under Secretary of State who referred our case directly back to the Regional Environment Agency, however no further supportive responses have been received from Ed Timpson's team, or the Environment Agency to date
- Antoinette Sandbach recommended some independent websites to refer to. But she also noted that the Environment Agency should look after flooding issues.
- Lynn Riley advised us that Edward Timpson liaised with the Environment Agency as well but no response has been sent to us.

4.River Pollution

- I reviewed The River Trust website and noted that the River Weaver was not the only river in England and Wales that is polluted.
- United Utilities allowed that to happen 109 times in 2021 for a total of 1982 hours.
- Cheshire East's website noted that their Minerals and Waste Plan was set to cover the period from 2021 to 2041, but has obviously not been implemented yet.

5.Further progress

- Sarah Pochin has started to sort out the Highways Issues with the local highways officer and has agreed that she would look to get a

review meeting in place with the highways officer before the next Parish Council meeting.

- Antoinette Sandbach sent me an email recommending actions regarding the flooding concerns.
- I passed on my statements to Lynn Riley at her request as she said she would discuss our concerns with Edward Timpson. I haven't heard anything yet.

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