

Clerk's Progress Report – March-May 2020

Implications of Coronavirus on Parish Council

The March and April Parish Council meetings could not be held following Government restrictions due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The May meeting is being held remotely by Zoom and those who are unable to access the internet will have the opportunity to participate by telephone. Members of the press and public are welcome to join the meeting but can only speak during the Public Participation session. All reports are being sent out prior to the meeting, will not be read verbally in full but will be published within the Minutes as usual.

The Annual Parish Meeting planned for Wednesday 29th April could not take place but may be held later in the year.

We will continue to follow Government guidance and may not be able to hold Parish Council meetings in person for several months but will hold meetings in other formats. The Council continues to function with Councillors and the Clerk available by telephone or email as usual.

Audit

We have been selected for intermediate review for the 2019/20 reporting year as part of the required 5% sample of those who would otherwise be subject to a basic review, unless we intend, and meet the eligibility criteria, to certify the Parish Council as exempt from a limited assurance review. In this circumstance, we only need to submit a copy of the certificate of exemption to the external auditor.

Highways

The Clerk continues to monitor, report and follow up highways issues.

Flood damage – a wooden footbridge has washed down the river and is wedged just above the Ford. A footbridge washed out near Reaside has been reported to the Footpath Access Team. A fallen tree below Walfords Bridge is leaning across the river onto Pike Common river bank.

Environmental Maintenance Grant – the Clerk has chased up last year's money and applied for £1,500 for this current year as well but Shropshire Council will not accept work that has been done by volunteers as match funding, it must be a financial contribution.

The Litter Pick on Sunday 29th March was cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions but there will be one planned for this autumn. Thank you to those who regularly litter pick throughout the year. The 'litter' sign for the bin at the Ford has been re-ordered.

Confirmation has been sought on whether the Footpath Map has been updated with all the changes to the Rights of Way around Overwood. When available, two copies of the updated map have been requested, one for our reference and one for public display.

The Lamp Post poppies were ordered and have arrived. They will be put on display later in the year for Remembrance.

Broadband to Parish Hall

A pole has now been installed in the Parish Hall grounds. BT have emailed to say installation work should be carried out on 19th June.

Place Plan

The Clerk has asked Vicky Turner to correct the Place Plan to show that CIL Local funding was possible for the Ford drainage project.

Dorothy McBride
Parish Clerk
27.05.20