

NSPC chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Introduction and Welcome

APM is legal requirement but not a Parish Council Meeting. I am willing to chair, but if anyone else would like to take the chair I would be pleased to stand down.

It is opportunity to hear reports from Parish organisations and is open to everyone to contribute or question the council.

First a reminder that all PC agendas, minutes and documents are on the PC website. The website will have to change in the future to a [.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) address and Chris Bargman, who created and hosts the existing [.org.uk](https://www.org.uk) site, would like to cease as host, so the two changes will come together at some time.

Michael T will cover the work done on the roads and the work still needed. Unitary Cllr David Davies understands our concerns and has helped to push the work on. Thank You.

The Ford remains one of our biggest concerns. After the Asda van incident in February, we installed extra signage, but it needs to be carefully worded to avoid liability. Shropshire council have recently installed new depth gauges and removed ours! The sign on the Bank Top side of the Ford is misleading as it underestimates the depth of the water by at least 6".

Parking on the road outside Belle Vue Garage, has been a cause for concern in recent years. It is good to know that they have negotiated a lease on Mawley Oak Garage which will hopefully improve the situation.

There is a new Noticeboard, thanks to James and Roger for help with construction and installation.

Both the Parish WhatsApp Groups are working well and are very helpful. Reminder to keep the posts on The Crimewatch one confined to criminal or suspicious activity only.

After a well attended meeting with the Police in February last year, another meeting in July resulted in a low turnout and attendees nearly outnumbered the police! Does this indicate less concern about crime? Hopefully we can arrange occasional meetings in the future to maintain personal contact with the Police.

Shropshire Council are in a dire financial state and they would like Town and Parish Councils to take on more responsibilities. Some larger Town Councils are embracing the opportunity, for smaller councils it is not so easy. Neen Savage, with CS4 classification and no likelihood of significant housing or development has no funds and it doesn't seem right for parishioners to pay council to Shropshire and then have to pay again for local services through a rise in precepts. We will wait and monitor the situation for the moment.

Two annual litter picking weeks went well. This year, everywhere was spoken for before the week officially started. Thanks to everyone who took part and those who pick up regularly as well.

At this meeting last year we were short of one councillor. Thanks to Alison Price for agreeing to join the council. Thanks to my fellow councillors for their hard work and commitment, and doing their bit, over and above turning up for council meetings. We try to do what we can for the community during the year.

Finally thanks to our clerk, Dot, for all her hard work, wise advice and guidance over the year - we are very lucky to have her.