

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL RUSHBURY PARISH MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2024 AT 7:30PM AT RUSHBURY VILLAGE HALL

1. WELCOME

Dr C Stevenson, Chairman of the Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2024.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mr A Richards and Shropshire Councillor Mrs C Motley.

3. PRESENT

Dr C Stevenson (Chair), Clerk N Green, Councillor's Mr M Lowndes, Mr A Dixon, Mr E Riley, Mr M Pye (Wainwright Trust).

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING 17 APRIL 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 17 April 2023 were noted and will be circulated.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr C Stevenson, Parish Council Chairman, highlighted some key events from the previous year.

- It was noted that in the past year Mr M Pye and Mr T Flashman had resigned from the Council and that Mrs A Henderson had been disqualified.
It was also noted that Mr R Madeley and Mr E Riley had been co-opted to the Council.
There are currently two open vacancies.
- It was noted that the Plough Inn had been successfully nominated as an Asset of Community Value.
- The Chairman thanked Councillor A Richards for his assistance as Vice Chair.
- It was noted that the previous Clerk Mr C McClean had resigned and been replaced by Mr N Green.
- It was noted that during the year a Chestnut tree had been planted to mark the Coronation of King Charles.
- It was commented on that Broadband continued to be developed in the area. This included recent works in the Lushcott area.
- It was noted that the Place Plan had not been progressed because the PC was awaiting information from Shropshire Council. This will be an item for the 2024/25 period.

- It was noted that there had been a number of boundary reviews during the year.
- It was noted that the local MP Phillip Dunn was not standing for re-election after many years of representing the area.
- Dr Stevenson commented that there had been discussion about a merger with Eaton and Hope Bowdler Council. He stated that there had been a useful meeting to try and establish ways of working together.
- Dr Stevenson stated that historical documents relating to the PC have been sent to Shropshire archives for review and retention if required. Any documents not required will be returned to the PC and go to the local historical group.
- It was noted a new agreement for the grounds maintenance had been completed with SLB Grounds Maintenance.
- An item for the coming year will be to consider the ownership of land around the Village Hall, in particular the ball court.
- It was noted that a Parish Survey had been completed. Councillor Lowndes explained that the survey completed in October had identified a number of issues. These included road safety, road condition, crime and broadband. As a result a number of actions had been identified. In particular a grant had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner to purchase two electronic speed signs that will be installed in Longville and Wall (hopefully by the end of June). Discussions will also take place with Shropshire Council regarding speed reduction through Rushbury.

6. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report from Councillor Mrs C Motley is appended to the Minutes.

7. WAINWRIGHT TRUST REPORT

Mr M Pye presented a report on behalf of the trustees. The report is appended to the Minutes.

8. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

No one was present from the Village Hall.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

Financial Report

Mr N Green advised the following for the financial year 2023-2024.

Opening Balance at 1 April 2023	£6,567.62
Receipts	£11,477.19

Payments	£7,888.24
Closing Balance at 31 March 2023	£10,156.57.

General Reserves £6,425.17 and Allocated £3,731.4

10. PLANS FOR 2024/25

The Parish Council will implement the speed signs as advised by Councillor Lowndes and consider speed control measures in Rushbury. Efforts to progress the Place Plan will also be considered.

11. PARISHIONERS' BUSINESS / QUESTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

No points or questions were raised.

Dr C Stevenson thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8:15pm.

.....
Chairman	Date

**Report from the Wainwright Trust to Rushbury Parish Council
Friday 17 May 2024**

The Wainwright Trust* exists to help with the external maintenance and upkeep of Rushbury School’s original buildings and outdoor areas. It also provides funds for services not normally provided by the local authority. In addition, the trust has a role in ensuring that the school maintains constructive links with the Church and upholds a Christian ethos and values. The trust is able to provide support for parishioners (Eaton and Rushbury) in need. An annual notice about this is placed in an edition of *The Honeypot* parish magazine. Most of the trust’s income comes from the lease of the school buildings and grounds to Shropshire Council.

There are six trustees, which normally includes the parish priest. Current trustees are William Hotchkiss, Andrew Henderson, Anna Child, Liz Welsh and Martin Pye. The current chair of the trust is Martin Pye. The current vacancy will be offered to Rev’d Lisa Harper when she takes up her official duties in the parish.

In the 2023/24 year, the trust:

- provided a small grant to support a local resident's higher education studies
- continued to fund a defibrillator outside the school
- funded new sports equipment for the school.

The accounts for the last audited year (2022-23), and subsequently submitted to the charity commission, are attached. Income from rental was low this year because Shropshire Council was late with rental payments due to a problem at their end. The arrears were subsequently made up in 2023-24 financial year.

All the land 'deemed necessary for the school to function as a school' has now been formally registered with the land registry as being held by the trust. This includes land previously owned by Shropshire Council and some previously unregistered land. The large playing field remains under council ownership. Currently, the school remains under council control as a voluntary controlled school (which means the trust voluntarily gives over control of the school to the council). The trust is the process of renewing the lease to the council for a further twenty years. The terms of the agreement will allow a new tenant to take over the lease should the school convert to an academy.

**There are actually two separate charities: The Jones and Wainwright Educational Foundation and the Rushbury Charity. Both charities share the same trustees and, to most extents and purposes, operate as one organisation with one bank account. However, we complete two separate financial returns to the Charity Commission, as required.*

Rushbury and Wainwright charities 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Rushbury Charity

Opening balance @1 April 2022	£	£0
-------------------------------	---	----

Income

M&G	£	166.38
-----	---	--------

Outgoings

To Wainwright Charity	£	166.38
-----------------------	---	--------

Closing balance @ March 31 2023	£	£0
---------------------------------	---	----

Wainwright Charity

Opening balance @ 1 April 2022	£	9,928.90
--------------------------------	---	----------

Income

From Rushbury charity	£	166.38
-----------------------	---	--------

Rent from SC, fees and investments	£	670.51*
------------------------------------	---	---------

Outgoings

Discretionary study grant	£	200.00
---------------------------	---	--------

Insurance	£	294.13
-----------	---	--------

Rushbury School crucial crew	£	80.00
------------------------------	---	-------

Rushbury School defibrillator grant	£	250.00
-------------------------------------	---	--------

Bank charges	£	60.00
--------------	---	-------

Village hall hire fee	£	10.00
-----------------------	---	-------

Closing balance @ March 31 2023

£9,871.66

Investment holdings

Value of M&G investments @ 31 March 2023	£
Rushbury charity	£6,878.39
Wainwright charity	£139.91
Total	£7,018.30

*SC was late with rental payments in 2022-23. Arrears have now been made up in 2023-24 financial year.

Corvedale Division Annual Report

May 2023 – April 2024

Comprising the parishes of Abdon & Heath, Acton Scott (Parish Meeting), Clee St Margaret, Culmington, Diddlebury, Eaton under Heywood/Hope Bowdler, Munslow, Rushbury, Stanton Lacy, Stoke St Milborough

Finance

Throughout the financial year Shropshire Council has been struggling with an historic debt of £50m, due to the huge increase in demand post-Covid for Children and Adult Social care, together with high costs of providing housing for homeless people and demand for school transport for SEND children. Shropshire is not alone in this; over the last year and into 2024 we have seen a large number of local authorities effectively declare themselves bankrupt because they could not cope with post-Covid demand and the impact of inflation and ever-rising costs on service delivery. Birmingham and Nottingham were the most high profile of these. Such bankruptcy declarations are requested under a Section 114 notice which then means the Government send in a team to go through finances and balance the books, often through draconian measures such as selling off capital assets and closing all non statutory services such as libraries and leisure centres.

Shropshire Council was determined to avoid this and set stringent savings targets, particularly in Social Care, which were not only realised but actually exceeded. The Directorate succeeded in reorganising services and using new technology to support people in their homes by concentrating on increasing domiciliary care services and a prevention programme to help keep our elderly population well and out of hospital. By the end of the 23/24 financial year we had achieved massive savings of £22m. No resting on our laurels though as we are faced with another financial mountain to climb in the 2024/5 financial year, and I will be reporting on our progress as we tackle this huge new challenge

Local Government Boundary Review

This was finally completed and has left some electoral divisions somewhat changed, especially around Shrewsbury which has seen a large increase in population since 2009. In order to make sense of changes to divisions we've had to alter some of the parish boundaries. This has required detailed work from our legal team to get the changes incorporated (and some polling districts redrawn) in time for the forthcoming General Election.

The Corvedale was one of the divisions to be enlarged by the inclusion of Cardington parish. The LGBCE were insistent that each division should have around 3,500 residents and despite its extensive geography Corvedale fell short of this. The introduction of Cardington has rebalanced the numbers and we look forward to welcoming the residents of Cardington parish in 2025 after the Local Government elections in May 2025..

There are some minor changes to parish boundaries within the divisions which have been asked for by the parishes. These will be dealt with by the Council's internal Community Governance Review committee after the 2025 Election.

Flooding

We have endured the wettest winter on record. Many villages in the Corvedale have suffered from overflowing watercourses, and the speed of runoff from the hills and fields which can continue for days after the rain has stopped. We have endured clogged drains, lanes scoured out by fast running water, bridges undermined and flooding in areas which are normally unaffected. Our highways team are doing their best but can be plagued by pothole repairs being washed away in the next downpour. Parish councils with a lengthsman have done a sterling job digging out clogged ditches and

clearing grids, drains etc. Although FixMyStreet works reasonably well, the rural parishes still seem to be low on the list when it comes to road repairs, due to the inaccessibility of some of the rural roads. If we could expand the lengthsman scheme and set up mutually supportive communication with our highways depots I feel the scheme would work much better for the rural areas.

I will be working on this in the coming year.

Adult Social Care/Public Health

I have held this portfolio since 2022. It is complex and wide-ranging and involves close working with health partners through the NHS Integrated Care Board and the Shropshire & Telford Acute Trust covering Shropshire & Telford Hospitals.

Caring for vulnerable adults is one of the Council's most important statutory duties, whether those with learning disabilities or mental health issues between the ages of 18 – 65 or our 65+ residents. We have a duty of care to ensure people are safe and properly looked after, either in their own homes, with domiciliary care support or in residential care or nursing homes. We work closely alongside partners from health, the voluntary and private sectors to deliver the most appropriate support to ensure people can remain in the heart of their communities for as long as possible.

Providing care for both adults and children is by far the most expensive service provided by the Council, absorbing 77% of the Council's overall budget. Shropshire is a very rural county and care delivery costs are higher in rural areas than in the towns. Costs are rising every year as our population grows and our residents develop increasingly complex health needs. We have also taken action in the past year to inject extra funding into the domiciliary care market, which is working very well.

2024/25 will be even more challenging financially than last year for social care. We know that most people are much happier living in their own homes than in a care home. We are devising a variety of technologies to help people stay safe and well in their homes. These include technology in the home which checks on the elderly and vulnerable to ensure they have eaten, taken their medication etc. The virtual ward scheme is growing; this enables sick people to be cared for remotely through constant oversight via computer link and physical interventions by a doctor or nurse when required.

On the Public Health side we have been working closely with our Health partners through the Health & Wellbeing Board, which I co-chair with the CEO of the Integrated Care Board. The HWB Board has done great work in highlighting issues of access to healthcare, encouraging the social prescribing programme and supporting community based health hubs which are being rolled out throughout the county to help people access support without having to travel long distances. Other public health campaigns include stopping child vaping, working to reduce suicide levels particularly amongst the rural community, and developing a healthier weight strategy. We're also working on formulating a rural healthcare programme. This is one of my particular interests and I am pleased to see that it is being picked up by the Health Service. Public Health also funds the Health and Wellbeing Bus which visits the farmers' markets regularly and offers free healthchecks and health advice. This has proved to be a great asset and popular with the farmers.

Finally: looking ahead, there is obviously a General Election looming this year, followed by Local Government Elections in May 2025. Shropshire Council will spend the year ahead defying the Section 114 notice by continuing to innovate, cut costs and serve our population as best we can in difficult circumstances.

Cecilia Motley

Shropshire Councillor, Corvedale Division

Portfolio Holder, Adult Social Care & Public Health