



Oswestry Rural Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT
2021/2022

Chairman's Report

Following local elections in May 2021, we found ourselves short of six councillors since some decided not to stand for another term. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them for the service they gave to the community during their time as councillors and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Due to the coronavirus still being a problem at that time and having to return to face-to-face meetings after holding virtual meetings for over 12 months, it was June before we co-opted six councillors to make up our team of 15. Unfortunately, soon afterwards we suffered a further loss following the sudden and sad death of Tony Milner who passed away on 21 August 2021. Tony had represented the Maesbury with Aston ward for 8 years having joined the council in July 2013. We have to thank Tony for being instrumental in assisting the parish council to have Spiggots Bridge at Coed-y-Rae Lane in Maesbury awarded Listed Building Grade II status in July 2020. The vacancy caused by his passing has now been filled.

Due to the introduction of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations in 2018 we decided to have a new website which conforms to these regulations. The changeover from our old website to the new one is now complete, and it is constantly being updated and reviewed so that information is current and relevant.

The council has established two working groups, the Road Safety Working Group and the Trefarclawdd Cemetery Working Group. The Road Safety Working Group is responsible for dealing with road safety issues and over the past year has been working closely with residents at Coed-Y-Go and Shropshire Council in an attempt to introduce a speed limit as the road through this hamlet is very narrow. The Trefarclawdd Cemetery Working Group is exploring options for improving the cemetery and ensuring there is adequate burial space for future interments.

Whilst the council cannot lawfully hold virtual meetings and is now meeting face-to-face, we are trialling hybrid meetings so that members of the public can watch our deliberations on Zoom. However, those who are not able to attend our meetings, either in person or on Zoom, can read the minutes from our meetings which are always published on our website.

I will close this year's report by thanking my fellow councillors for their commitment and dedication in making decisions that benefit our local community and I look forward to seeing the council's ambitions come into fruition.

Cllr. Paul Milner
Chairman May 2021 to May 2022

Budget 2021/2022

The budget for the last fiscal year was £36,244 and the precept was £35,114. Total gross expenditure was £38,739 and income received was £53,007 including £44,330 in Neighbourhood Funds from Shropshire Council which can be spent anywhere in the parish to improve the locality.

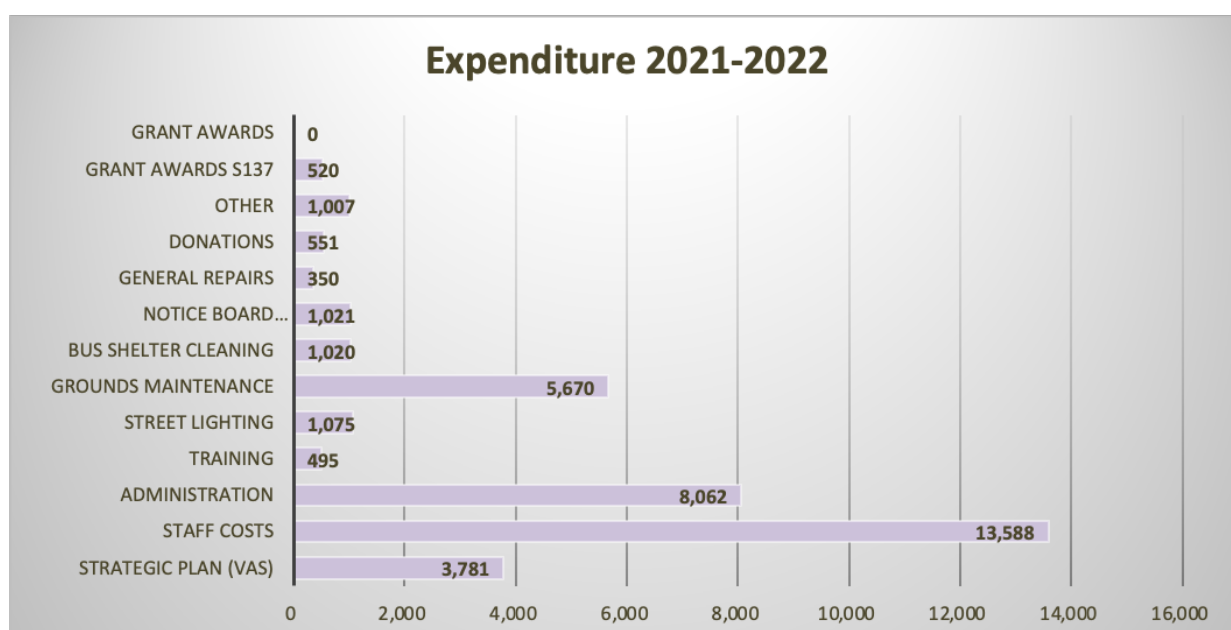
Balances at 31 March 2022 were £253,215. These balances are held in reserves as follows:

- ❖ Neighbourhood Fund reserves - £146,485
- ❖ Allocated general reserves - £9,775
- ❖ Unallocated general reserves - £96,955

£61,500 of Neighbourhood Funds is allocated for various projects and £84,985 is unallocated.

The chart below shows our net expenditure from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Further information is available on our [website](#) or by application to the Clerk.



During the year we gave a grant of £500 to QUBE, a voluntary organisation that provides hot meals for vulnerable members of the community. Last year they were particularly busy providing a service that had been reduced following the closure of day centres due to COVID. This award was made in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972, S137, which gives the Parish Council power to award funds to worthy causes and voluntary organisations.