



Oswestry Rural Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The following is a report from Cllr. Paul Milner, Chairman from May 2018 to May 2019.

"When I was elected as Chairman in May last year I was also appointed to represent the Parish Council on the Trefonen Playing Field Group and it's been good to learn of the good work that they do.

During the year we have seen some councillor resignations and we have welcomed new councillors to take their place. It's good to have new blood within the Council and we are all working together for the good of our community. Unfortunately, one of these vacancies was due to the sudden death of Tony Cheetham which was a very sad occasion for all of us. Not only is he a sad loss to the Council but also to the community.

We have seen Speed Activated Signs installed in Morda Road which is helping to reduce speeding although we are disappointed that the Weston Speed Reduction Scheme has been delayed.

We have transferred green spaces which we are now maintaining. We have also made improvements to Trefarclawdd cemetery.

We undertook quite a large task last year when we carried out a Housing Needs Survey. Thank you to all those who took part in this important survey. The survey revealed that countryside status for the parish was strongly supported as well as identifying areas for development. We now hope to work with Shropshire Council to help deliver affordable homes within the parish in accordance with the views expressed in the Housing Needs Survey.

We have agreed a new maintenance/repair schedule for all our notice boards in the parish and we are now seeking quotes to either repair or replace them.

We have awarded £2,500 in grants to local community groups and we are grateful to them for all the good work that they do within our community. We have also been awarded £1,500 from Shropshire Council which will go towards our costs for the maintenance of green spaces within our parish.

I have enjoyed the past 12 months as Chairman and I wish our newly appointed Chairman, Cllr. Peter Richardson a happy and successful year."

*Cllr. Paul Milner
May 2019*

PARISH COUNCILLORS

15 Councillors represent 5 wards as follows:

Maesbury with Aston Ward

Martin Jones
07989 036708

Tony Milner
01691 610742

Peter Richardson (Chairman)
01691 679932

Morda with Sweeney Ward

Janet Barlow
01691 658134

Les Maguire
07595 589429

Phil May (Deputy Chairman)
01691 829064

Paul Milner
01691 657863

Robert Milton
01691 676110

Rhydygroesau with Llanforda Ward

Peter Davies
01691 52853

Shirley Jones
01691 652836

Sychtyn Ward

Elliot Roberts-Jones
01691 652843

Trefonen with Treflach Ward

Pam Broomby
01691 653479

Bob Kimber
01691 679646

John Davies
01691 657977

Vacancy

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

2019

30 July at Trefonen Village Hall

27 August at Trefonen Village Hall

24 September at Rhydygroesau Village Hall

29 October at Trefonen Village Hall

26 November at Morda Village Hall

17 December at Morda Village Hall

2020

28 January at Morda Village Hall

25 February at Morda Village Hall

24 March at Trefonen Village Hall

28 April at Trefonen Village Hall

26 May at Morda Village Hall (This is the Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Annual Parish Meeting

Next year's Annual Parish Meeting, which is for electors of the parish, will take place on 19 May 2020 at Morda Village Hall. The minutes from the last meeting that took place on 21 May 2019 are available to view on our website at:

<https://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk/annual-parish-meeting/>

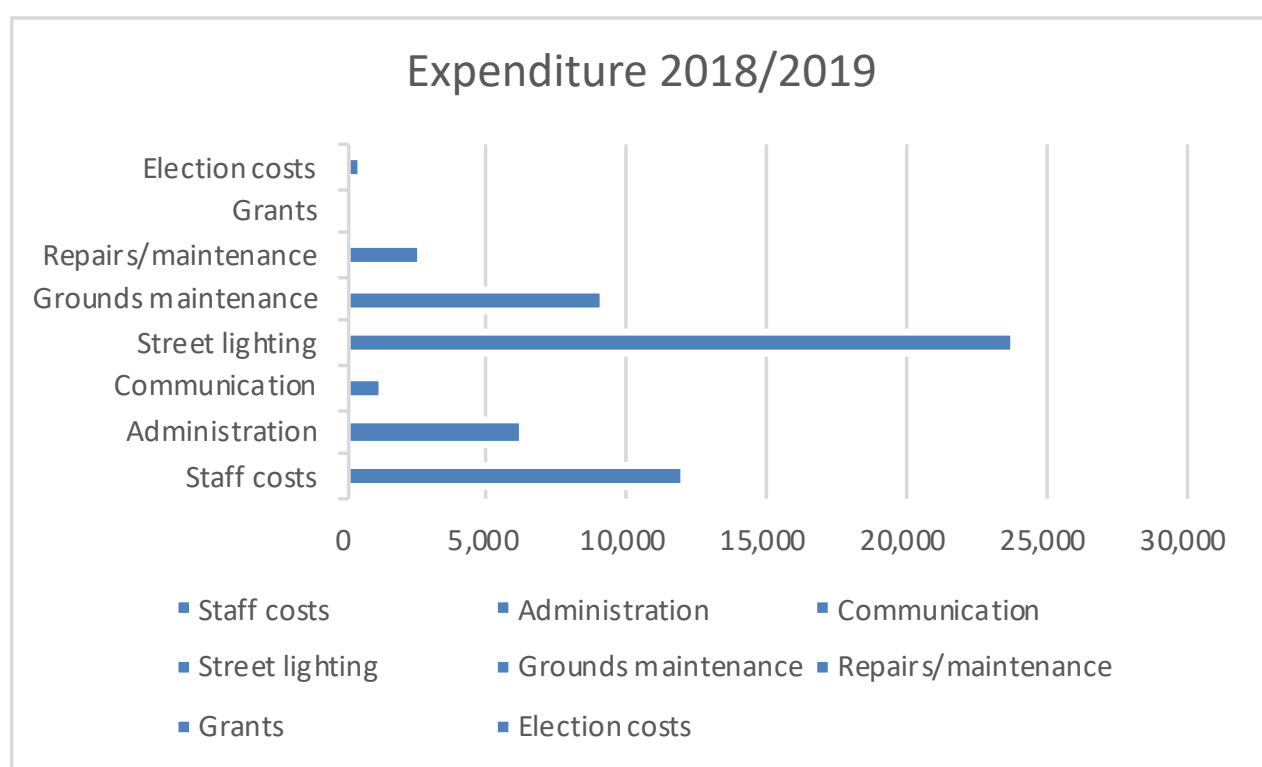
At the last Parish Meeting those present received a presentation from the Trefonen Heritage Group who outlined their purpose and their achievements. Also present was Val Smout who was chosen by the Parish Council to receive the Tony Cheetham Community Service Award 2019, and local community groups who received grants awarded by the Parish Council. Details of these grant awards can be found on page 3. The meeting ended with an Open Forum where members of the public raised concerns with the Parish Council.

Oswestry Rural Parish Council
Working with and for the local community

Budget 2018/2019

The budget for the last fiscal year was £45,225 and the precept was £43,250. Total expenditure was £62,225.90 and income received was £1,242.97. We also received £48,485.59 in Neighbourhood Funds from Shropshire Council which can be spent anywhere in the parish to improve the locality. Last year we used £19,134 from Neighbourhood Funds to upgrade the street lighting in the parish.

The chart below shows where money was spent. Further information is available on our website at: <https://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk/financial-information/> or by application to the Clerk.



Our expenditure includes £2,500 in grant awards which was given to local groups as follows:

APPLICANT	AWARD £
Knockin & Kinnerley Cricket Club	595.00
Trefonen and Treflach P3 Group (portable hedge cutter)	120.00
Trefonen and Treflach P3 Group (artistic signs to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Offa's Dyke Association)	595.00
Morton Playing Field Association (towards the cost of a defibrillator)	595.00
Shropshire Bums on Tums (towards administration costs)	595.00

What we've done over the last fiscal year

A Housing Needs Survey was completed which asked all households in the parish to complete a questionnaire with their views on what housing is required in the parish. 1,893 questionnaires were posted to households in April 2018 and 283 responses were returned. This equates to 15% of the households in the parish. Thank you to all those who responded. The full Survey analysis is available on the Parish Council's website at: <https://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk/housing-needs-survey-2018/>

The overwhelming view is that the parish should retain its Countryside Status with some affordable housing where a local need has been identified and confirmed. The Parish Council has consequently opposed potential housing development in response to Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review.

Sadly, last year we lost one of our councillors, Tony Cheetham, who died in December 2018. We have now named our annual community award in his honour and Val Smout won this year's Tony Cheetham Community Service Award which is sponsored by Stonehouse Brewery. Congratulations Val.

We have made improvements to Trefarclawdd cemetery and we continue to maintain several green spaces within the parish. We have also responded to Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review and several planning applications within the parish. You can see our responses on Shropshire Council's online Planning Portal. We have been extremely disappointed that Black Country Ironworks has been allowed to carry out its business without planning permission, although this has just been granted. However, conditions are attached which includes making improvements to the site entrance and exit onto the busy A5.

We are still pursuing taking over green spaces from Shropshire Council but due to restructuring of personnel at Shropshire Council this has been delayed.

BEING A COUNCILLOR

For various reasons we have had a few councillor resignations since the last local elections in 2017, which leads to a casual vacancy, one of which exists at the time of writing.

Councillors do a number of things including overseeing the council's business, helping to improve green spaces and facilities the community enjoys. They actively help shape future service provision and other public services.

Other than meeting the requirements to be eligible to become a councillor you do not have to have any other qualifications. All you need is to be passionate about making Oswestry Rural a better place to live and work and strive towards that goal. Whilst training is available it is not compulsory but is extremely beneficial. If you want to help make a difference, further details are available from the Clerk.

Clerk to the Council - Sharon Clayton BA (Hons) Fellow ILCM
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clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

