



Rural News

The Newsletter for the Oswestry Rural Parish
Issue 6 April 2018

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Rural News

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WELCOME... to the Spring edition of the Parish Newsletter.

Sadly, Cllr Karen Swindells, (Maesbury Ward), has had to stand down so we will be looking for a Councillor and would like to hear from anyone who would like to involve their self supporting the local community. We have welcomed John Davies, representing the Trefonen and Treflach Ward.

On May 22nd the Annual Parish Meeting will be held. The purpose of the meeting is so that the Parish Council can explain what it has been doing over the last year and it enables the electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the Parish. It is not a Parish Council Meeting, but one that offers an opportunity for the local community to participate in.

I am sure a great many of you have differing opinions on the planning review being undertaken by Shropshire Council, and whether you support or disagree with the need to provide new housing, along with importantly where, or if it is even needed in the Parish, planning is always an emotive subject. As a Council we see an equal number of individuals either supporting, or disagreeing with applications, so to enable us to understand what types of housing is, or is not required, in the Parish we need your opinion! A survey is enclosed requesting **your** views. I cannot emphasise how important your return of this survey is to the Council which will enable us understand if or what type of housing is required, and importantly where. I really do urge you to support and inform the Council with 'your' view, and return the survey please.

Robert Milton,
Chair, Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Community Service Award

**The Parish Council and Stonehouse Brewery
are pleased to announce the launch of the 2018 award
which recognises community involvement.**

Thriving communities rely on the dedication of people who fulfil voluntary roles which keep local services going. The aim of the Community Service Award is to acknowledge and give recognition to those who have made a significant contribution to their local community.

Who will you nominate?

Who do **YOU** think deserves to be recognised for their good works locally? **NOW** is your chance to propose an award for a deserving individual or group working voluntarily in the Parish.

How to nominate

You can nominate anyone you consider merits an award for having made a significant contribution to their local community. The person/group must live or work within the Parish boundary. If a nominee is a paid employee with a company/organisation/charity within the Parish there must be evidence that

their efforts add significant contribution to the social well-being of the Parish beyond the requirements within their job description.

Nominations will be accepted by using the nomination form or by a letter or email giving the same information, whichever is easiest for you. Copies of the form can be found on the Parish Council's website: www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk or from pubs, schools and shops in the Parish.

The deadline for nominations for this year's Award is 18 April 2018

How will the winner be chosen?

The Parish Council will select the winner.

Award Ceremony

The Parish Council will select the winner and the Award will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22 May 2018 at Morda Village Hall.

Parish Council Budget 2018/19

By now you will have received the Council Tax Demand from Shropshire Council which includes elements destined for other public bodies including the Parish Council. You will notice that the Parish Council has increased its Precept (the official name for the amount of tax paid through the Council Tax).

Raising the Precept is never an easy decision but having discussed plans for the next financial year over several meetings the Council considered that to fulfil its role it had to raise the Precept by £1,250 to £43,250. The average Band D tax payer's Parish Council component will be £27.27 per annum and equates to 52.5p per week.

Full details of the Budget are available on the website
<https://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk/financial-information/>

Does your Community Group need funds?

The Parish Council has been approached by David Wilson Homes, the developer of Montgomery Place Morda. David Wilson Homes are offering to help community groups with support with fundraising or sponsorship.

If your group could benefit, please contact Catherine Senior on 0116 247 177 or email catherine@unsworthsugd.en.co.uk

Councillor Vacancy

A vacancy on the Parish Council to represent Maesbury with Aston Ward has arisen following the resignation of Karen Swindells.

There is a set process to follow when replacing a Councillor and full details of the process can be found on the Parish Council website or by contacting the Clerk.

Being a councillor is a rewarding form of public service that puts you in a unique position where you can make decisions about local issues and improve the quality of life for people within Oswestry Rural Parish. It gives you the opportunity to help your local community and be part of a dedicated team influencing and providing key services for your area.

The councillor's role takes in:

- Representing the parish ward
- Decision making
- Policy and strategy review and development
- Community leadership and engagement.

Community leadership is at the heart of modern local government and councils are taking on new responsibilities. They are working in partnership with other organisations, including Shropshire Council and the voluntary and community sector, to improve services and the quality of life for citizens.

For more information please contact any of the Councillors or the Clerk. Contact details are on the back page.

A483 Road Works

Residents will be aware of the major roadworks that are taking place at the Maesbury crossroads on A483. During the first week of the road works, drivers of all size of vehicles, avoided the traffic control at the junction and official diversions and used the roads lanes around Weston and Maesbury.

The Parish Council, supported by Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow immediately contacted Shropshire Council, Highways England and Highways England's contractors Kier. Action has been taken with additional signage being installed and temporary weight restrictions put in place on Weston Road and Chain Lane, Maesbury.

Highways issues generally

During the long, cold and wet winter potholes are appearing, re-appearing and growing.... The Parish Council would encourage residents to report all highways issues as soon as they are aware of them. Contact Shropshire Council on 0345 678 9006 or through the website <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/roads-and-highways/report-a-fault-or-concern/>

2018 Annual Parish Meeting

A parish meeting is a meeting of the local government electors of a parish and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss parish affairs. There must be one parish meeting each year and is called the Annual Parish Meeting.

This year's Oswestry Rural Parish Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 May at Morda Village Hall.

The Parish Council organises the meeting and will be putting together an agenda with informative/current items for electors. There will also be an opportunity for electors to discuss issues together and with Parish Councillors during the Parish Debate session. If there are any particular items you would like considered please contact your local Ward Councillor or the Clerk. Contact details are on the back page

Full information about Parish Meetings can be found on the Council website:
<https://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk/parish-meetings-what-are-they/>

Shropshire Council Local Plan Review

The Parish Council has used Rural News to keep residents up to date with Shropshire Council review of its Planning Policies. In November we advised Shropshire Council was consulting on its 'Preferred Options' which included allocating the villages of Morda and Trefonen as development 'Hubs'.

The Parish Council questioned the assessment process which identified 'Hubs' and replied as follows: The Parish Council noted that the assessment of services and facilities, broadband, employment and public transport appears to be carried out through a desk-top analysis rather than the actual availability of those services and facilities etc to the community. The Council therefore considers the methodology to be flawed. For example: A post office for Morda has been included in the assessment. There is not a post office in Morda. The public house in Morda is only open on a restricted basis. Morda's Village Hall is not fit for purpose, and unable to support its increased population with a modern community facility. The Chapel is not open for worship as often as other C of E churches. Trefonen's score includes an element of double counting. Once corrected, Trefonen should not be classed as a Community Hub.

It is considered that Parish Council should have been consulted as to the availability of services etc rather than the assumption of their existence in the settlements concerned. Shropshire Council is requested to discuss the services available in Morda and Trefonen with the Parish Council and come to an agreed position.

Shropshire Council has recently issued an update on overall progress of the Review and also the response to the last consultation:

Around 650 responses were received including many responses from town and parish councils, local organisations, land owners and developers. The Planning Policy team is currently reviewing these responses and will be preparing a summary of the main issues raised that will be published in April. This summary document along with an update to the overall timeframe for the Local Plan Review will be taken to Shropshire Council's Cabinet in April.

The Parish Council will continue to keep residents informed.

Local Council Award Scheme

Oswestry Rural Parish Council has been awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Award. The Scheme has 3 levels, Foundation, Quality and Quality Gold. All local councils want to serve their local communities and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there. The Award Scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector following assessment by their peers.

On January 4, the Chair, Cllr Robert Milton and the Clerk, Carole Warner met with an Accreditation Board at Shirehall. The Panel reported "The Accreditation Panel would like to thank you both for attending the meeting and for your help in answering questions raised. The Panel congratulate the Council on

the clarity of its website, where information on the required criteria was easily accessible. Of note was the helpful information introducing the various topics.

The Panel were impressed with the high standard of work that the clerk has undertaken indicating much good practice which was encouraging for other councils. Achievements were notable, particularly those resulting from a programme of campaigning and working with other partners."

The Award Certificate was presented to the Council at the March meeting.

Full details of the Award Scheme can be found on the Council's website:

<https://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk/local-council-award-scheme/>



At Beanstalk we believe that life is better when everyone can read well and express themselves with confidence. That's why we recruit, train and support volunteers across England to work in schools with children who have fallen behind with their reading ability and confidence.

Beanstalk reading helpers work with children on a one-to-one basis, giving them consistent support to improve their reading ability increase their overall self-confidence and help give them the vital literacy skills they need to succeed in school and life.

Our values underpin our actions, that's why we promise to be fun, inspiring, professional, trusted and determined in all we do to help children read, grow and thrive.

We have a number of opportunities in your area and in particular, Morda CofE Primary School, to support local children with their literacy skills.

If you would like to get involved please have a look at our website www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk or call our Shropshire Office on 01952 567846

Community Grants

At the January meeting of the Parish Council, 2 Grant Applications were considered. One from Morton Playing Field Committee to help with the maintenance of the playing field and one from Trefonen Village Hall Management Committee to replace the piano. The Parish Council was pleased to grant £500 to each Committee.

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

There are 15 Councillors representing the 5 wards.

MAESBURY WITH ASTON WARD

Tony Milner 01691 610742 amilner@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Peter Richardson 01691 679932 prichardson@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Vacancy

MORDA WITH SWEENEY WARD

Janet Barlow 01691 658134 jbarlow@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Freya Humphries 07572 623457 fhumphries@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Phil May 01691 829064 pmay@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Paul Milner 01691 657863 pmilner@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Robert Milton 01691 676110 rmilton@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

RHYDYCROESAU WITH LLANFORDA WARD

Peter Davies 01691 652853 pdavies@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Shirley Jones 01691 652836 sjones@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

SYCHTYN WARD

Elliot Roberts-Jones 01691 652843 erobertsjones@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

TREFONEN WITH TREFLACH WARD

Pam Broomby 01691 653479 pbroomby@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Arthur Brown 07532 233210 abrown@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
Tony Cheetham 01691 655673 wcheetham@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk
John Davies 01691 657977 jdavies@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

Councillors invite residents in their ward to contact them to discuss any issues or matters of concern.

You can also contact the Parish Clerk, Carole Warner, Orchard Cottage, Rowe Lane, Welshampton, SY12 0QB 01948 710672 or email clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday 24 April
Morda Village Hall

Tuesday 29 May
Rhydycroesau
Village Hall

Tuesday 26 June
Rhydycroesau
Village Hall

Tuesday 24 July
Trefonen Village
Hall

M E E T I N G S

Oswestry Rural Parish Council meetings are held at 7pm on the last Tuesday of the month. Please check the website for locations.

Agendas for all meetings are available on the website and are placed on notice boards around the Parish at least 3 days before the meeting.

Members of the community are welcome to attend all meetings and there is time set by at the start to allow you to address the Council.



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