



# Rural News

The Newsletter for the Oswestry Rural Parish  
Issue 4 August 2017

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## Rural News

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Council

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## WELCOME...

May I welcome you to the latest edition of the ORPC newsletter. Following the elections in April, we said farewell to Councillor Matt Lee who was successful in gaining election to Shropshire Council representing the Llanymynech Ward, along with one of our 'longer' serving Parish Councillors, Vivien Bryne, who has been a real driving force within the Parish Council for over 20 years. Newly co-opted are Councillors Freya Humphries representing the ward of Morda with Sweeney, and a return to the Council, Peter Richardson representing the ward of Maesbury with Aston.

Our 2017 Community Award was presented to Linda and Dennis Morgan of Morda, for their sterling hands on support of Morda Football Club, Morda Social Club and the Village Hall for over 40 years. Tragically Dennis passed away recently following a brave fight against cancer, but the Award was presented to his Widow at Stonehouse Micro Brewery, who kindly sponsored the award, and a glass of his favourite tippie was raised in his memory.

One of the more visible functions of the Council is the maintenance of our 'green spaces'. Unfortunately two of the existing 'Nonconformist churchyards' in the Parish, one in Trefonen, and the second in Nantmawr are no longer being 'cut' by the Council. This was a very difficult decision to take, but both churchyards are actually private property and remain the responsibility of the Nonconformist Church Council, who is unwilling to provide any financial support towards the cutting of either churchyard. With increased costs, and potentially further green spaces to be handed to the Parish Council, which will increase our maintenance budget, we are unable to spend public income on maintaining sensitive privately owned spaces.

The delivery of the February newsletter was beset by mailing problems with many households failing to receive a copy. We apologise for this failure but hope this edition will make it to your door step, and you enjoy reading what is going on in our Parish.

**Robert Milton,**  
Chair, Oswestry Rural Parish Council

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## Summer Fetes

During the early part of the summer, local fetes took place in Trefonen and Morda. Trefonen held a wonderful one-off Victorian themed event. Both fetes were well supported.

A big thank you to all those who helped make the days go so well.



## Have YOUR Say!

Residents who follow the Parish Council meetings will have seen from time to time the item 'Consultations' on the agenda. Various bodies, but in the main Shropshire Council, will consult with Town and Parish Councils on their plans / initiatives.

The Parish Council respond to the majority of the consultation documents on behalf of the Parish residents but occasionally it is important for individual residents to respond too.

Over the next few months Shropshire Council will be consulting on libraries, car parking charges, outdoor recreation including rights of way just to name a few. It is important that your views are made directly to Shropshire Council on these key issues.

All Shropshire Council consultation are listed at <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>

## Community Service Award 2017

The 2017 Community Service Award which recognises community involvement has been awarded to Dennis and Linda Morgan.

Dennis and Linda have been stalwarts in the village of Morda for more than 45 years in various volunteering roles, from supporting the local football club, Morda United, through the organising of fund raising events, the serving of refreshments during half time and at full time during home matches, assisting with the laundering and repair of the team's football kit.

Dennis has also been active with the marking out of the football pitch, along with the preparation for home matches in assisting with the setting out and removing of the nets, and cleaning of the dressing rooms

They have both been active in supporting the village hall through assisting in cleaning, decorating, fund raising, running weekly Bingo evenings, combined with being active in their support for the Morda Social Club, again through fund raising, cleaning, and assisting in its operation



## Local Infrastructure



In a previous newsletter we have explained why and when Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is charged on new housing and that Shropshire Council is responsible for managing CIL locally. As new housing is built in the Parish so CIL is collected from the developers. So far, the Parish Council has received just under £34,000 of the element classed as Neighbourhood Funds. The Parish Council can spend Neighbourhood Funds on the provision, improvement or maintenance of infrastructure.

To date the Council has spent approximately £2,500 on improvements to Trefarclawdd Cemetery: a new created remains area,

levelling of graves, a new noticeboard and sandblasting and painting of the gates. There is also an on-going project of upgrading the street lights to part night LEDs.

Potential projects to be funded by CIL have to be identified in advance and, if major, agreed by Shropshire Council. This is where the Parish Council needs your help. What new infrastructure do you think would improve the Parish?

Please discuss this with family and neighbours and pass on any thoughts to your local Parish Councillors or the Clerk. Contact details can be found on the back page.

## Broadband Update

Connecting Shropshire has announced that Airband Community Internet Ltd will be providing high-speed wireless broadband access to rural areas as the next part of Shropshire Council's superfast broadband programme. Airband will be deploying wireless broadband, which works by sending a signal from a transmitter on a mast, to a receiver attached to the property. A cable is then run into the building allowing the end-user to access the internet in the same way as any other broadband connection.

Wireless technologies have continued to evolve and provide the same broadband speed capabilities as a fibre optic solution and with the same resilience. Airband will wholesale their network out to other internet service providers (ISPs) so there will be a choice of ISPs like fibre. Generally speaking similar wireless and fibre packages have comparable costs so wireless broadband should not be more expensive.

In the next few months Shropshire Council will prepare a map so we can see which properties are in the current plan. The build will be split into phases, with phase 1 due for completion at the end of winter 2017. Further information on the phases will be added the Connecting Shropshire website.

Airband technology relies on 'Line of Sight', which means that the receiver on a property needs to have a clear view of one of the Airband transmitters. In the design and planning phase of the project, Airband use advanced software to map each property and establish where a connection can be achieved, without the need to complete an on site survey for each property.

The receiver that will be installed to a property is a small lightweight piece of equipment — about the size of 2 pint milk carton. Where the property is a bit further away from the transmitter, the receiver will have a round, mini dish-like attachment.

# **Important Parish Meeting Morda Village Hall 12 September 2017 at 7.30pm Neighbourhood Planning**

In the February edition of this newsletter we explained Shropshire Council is currently reviewing its Planning Policies. This review includes a new way of deciding where new housing will be built in rural areas.

Oswestry Rural Parish is currently classed as 'Countryside' within Planning Policies which means residential development is restricted with no 'open market' housing. Their review of delivering development in rural settlements is therefore of particular importance.

Depending on the outcome of the second stage consultation by Shropshire Council later in the year, the Parish Council may decide to proceed with a project to identify

specific planning policies for our Parish. This type of project is called Neighbourhood Planning.

The Parish Council has organised a Parish Meeting so that Councillors and all residents have the opportunity to learn more about what Neighbourhood Planning is and the benefits and downsides of producing such a Plan.

The Parish Council has engaged an independent planning consultant, Andrea Pellegram, and the chair of Shifnal Town Steering Group, Chris Raine to explain about Neighbourhood Plans.

Please put this meeting in your diary to attend. If you need any further information please contact the Clerk.

## **Can you help?**

Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin is looking for more volunteers who are willing to give some of their time to its Oswestry furniture charity shop on Oswestry's 'Red Square'.

Heather Osborne, Chief Executive at Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin, said: "We are looking for van drivers and drivers' assistants who are capable of moving furniture and happy to do deliveries and collections across the Oswestry area. We also need retail assistants who enjoy meeting the public and selling quality preloved stock. The profits from our donated furniture store in Oswestry, as well as our Shrewsbury and Wellington stores, go directly towards delivering services for older people across the county."

If you would like to make a real difference to older people across Shropshire by giving some of your time please call the volunteer recruitment office on 01743 588 570 for an application pack or pop into the Oswestry store for a chat.

## **Looking Forward**

In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the First World War, and the many millions who were killed or came home dreadfully wounded, a chain of 1,000 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories at 7pm on the 11 November 2018. A century after the guns fell silent.

The event will also commemorate the huge army of men and women on the home front who, often in dangerous and exhausting conditions, underpinned the war effort by keeping the wheels of industry turning, bringing the harvests home and ensuring the nation did not starve.

The beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war, and we hope that local communities will join us in this important national event. If you would like to be involved in organising the beacons please contact any Councillor or the Clerk

## **Green Spaces and Play Areas**

As part of Shropshire Council budget cuts, maintenance arrangements for all its green spaces and play areas are being reviewed as part of new contract negotiations. This will replace the current contract with Ringway.

Town and Parish Councils have been given the following options:

- \* To accept a lower standard of maintenance.
- \* To contribute to an 'enhanced' level of maintenance. (This may be the current standard under Ringway)
- \* To take over ownership and maintenance of green spaces and play areas.

The Parish Council has reviewed all Shropshire Council's owned land and play areas in the Parish and has expressed an interest in taking over some areas, contributing to an enhanced maintenance on others and there are some areas the Council does not have the ability to manage.

Should the Parish Council decide to take on more responsibilities it will, of course, impact on its finances and the Precept, the tax house-owners pay to the Parish Council. The Council is keen to hear your opinions. Please contact your local Councillors. They can explain in more detail what is proposed and will welcome your input.

## **'Odd Job Man' Required!**

The Council has a number of maintenance jobs needing completion prior to the winter. If you or someone you know would like to quote for all or some work please contact the Clerk on 01948 710672 or email [clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk)

# Oswestry Rural Parish Council

[www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk](http://www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk)

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

There are 15 Councillors representing the 5 wards.

### MAESBURY WITH ASTON WARD

Tony Milner	01691 610742	Park Mill, Maesbury Marsh, SY10 8JD
Peter Richardson	01691 679932	Statefield, Back Lane, Maesbury, SY10 8AX
Karen Swindells	07849 675296	Rhine Gold, Ball Lane, Maesbury, SY10 8AT

### MORDA WITH SWEENEY WARD

Janet Barlow	01691 658134	Bryn-y-Mapsis, Nant Lane, Morda, SY10 9AL
Freya Humphries	07572 623457	Old Sawley, Silverdale Drive, Trefonen, SY10 9DW
Phil May	01691 829064	Hérons Wood, Nantmawr, SY10 9HH
Paul Milner	01691 657863	56 School Lane, Trefonen, SY10 9DY
Robert Milton	01691 676110	Penylan View, Coed y Go, SY10 9AE

### RHYDYCROESAU WITH LLANFORDA WARD

Peter Davies	01691 652853	Summerhill, Racecourse Road, Oswestry, SY10 7PN
Shirley Jones	01691 652836	Lower Forest, Racecourse, Oswestry, SY10 7PR

### SYCHTYN WARD

Elliot Roberts-Jones	01691 652843	Trefarclawdd Farm, Trefonen, SY10 9DE
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### TREFONEN WITH TREFLACH WARD

Pam Broomby	01691 653479	Dolwen, Pit Lane, Treflach, SY10 9HB
Arthur Brown	07532 233210	5 Milars Field, Morda, SY10 9PU
Tony Cheetham	01691 655673	The Old Malthouse, Trefonen, SY10 9DQ
Jeff Court	01691 655387	Fron Barns, Trefonen, SY10 9DU

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](mailto:clerk@oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday 29 August  
Trefonen

Tuesday 26  
September  
Rhydycroesau

Tuesday 31 October  
Trefonen

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12  
September 7.30pm  
Morda Village Hall

### PARISH MEETING ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

All are welcome, this is YOUR meeting!

## 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.

This newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 710672 for further details.



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