



Rural News

The Newsletter for the Oswestry Rural Parish
Issue 3 February 2017

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Rural News

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WELCOME...

to the third edition of the newsletter for Oswestry Rural Parish. The Parish Council has received positive feedback following the publication of the first 2 editions of Rural News. However, being a very rural Parish the only way to ensure all residents have the opportunity to read the newsletter, is to post it to every household. The Parish Council has therefore agreed to trial posting Rural News to its residents for the next 3 editions. We hope this will keep you all up to date with all important decisions and information.

As this is the 'welcome' section I am pleased to welcome Mrs Karen Swindells and Arthur Brown to the Council. I'm sure they will find the role rewarding.

2017 started with the unfortunate incident of a pollutant entering the River Morda. The Parish Council has thanked both the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council for their quick response and actions.

This edition includes articles on important issues, recognising community service, budget setting for next financial year and planning policy review. Please take time to read them. Also, with local elections taking place in May this year - maybe YOU would like to join the Council?

Robert Milton,
Chair, Oswestry Rural Parish Council

Parish Paths Partnerships (P3s)

P3s are voluntary groups working with Shropshire Council to maintain the wonderful network of footpaths we have in the Parish. There are 2 groups: Oswestry P3 (OP3) which covers all the Oswestry Rural Parish area apart from Trefonen and Treflach which has its own P3 (TTP3).

OP3 meet every Wednesday and TTP3 meet on the first Friday of the month. Both groups go out surveying paths in the Parish, carrying out repair work and installing stiles, kissing



gates and bridges. Members say it's lovely to get out into the countryside in the company of a great group of men and women, and you finish the walk with a feeling of accomplishment.



New members are always welcome especially those interested in walking and checking the footpaths in our area. For OP3 contact Peter Carr: 01691 780722 and for TTP3 contact Mark Leather on 01691 652409.

Community Service Award

**The Parish Council and Stonehouse Brewery Ltd
are pleased to announce the re-introduction of the 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 15 April 2017

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 23 May 2017. Venue to be announced.



Trefarclawdd Cemetery Improvements

The Parish Council has recently agreed to improve the area where cremated remains are laid to rest. This is the first project to use funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Chair, Cllr Robert Milton, explains, "When Trefarclawdd Cemetery was opened it was designed as a lawned cemetery to avoid the problems which have arisen with the maintenance of the older Trefonen Cross Cemetery. I am sure residents will agree the Trefarclawdd Cemetery is maintained to a very high standard, but it is considered a lawned approach to the cremated remains area does not provide the best setting. It is proposed to remove the grass in-between graves and replace with slate chippings.

It is appreciated this work will require some interference with the grave plaques which will be removed during the work. We have written to the families concerned as this is a sensitive matter and the Parish Council has no wish to upset relatives who look after the graves of their loved ones. However, it may be we do not now have their correct address. We hope the families will understand the Cemetery has been maintained since its opening to a very high standard and the Council wishes to continue this for the future.

This work will take place between the end of January and beginning of March and will mainly depend on the weather. I'm sorry but I can not give a more accurate timing."

BATTLE'S OVER A Nation's Tribute 11 November 2018

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 the 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.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Local Elections will take place on Thursday 4 May this year. This means that all Shropshire Council Town and Parish Council seats will be open to candidates. All 15 seats on Oswestry Rural Parish Council will be open for nominations.

So, do you want to help get things done in your neighbourhood? Are you already active in your community? As a councillor, you really can make a difference. 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 for 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.

The notice of elections will be published on Monday 13 March and it's only from that date that nomination forms can be submitted to the Returning Officer at Shropshire Council. The law now states that nomination papers may only be delivered to the Returning Officer in person, and can't be received through the post. Shropshire Council will publish further information where you can submit nomination papers in person, shortly before the nomination period opens. The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Tuesday 4 April.

Full details can be found on Shropshire Council website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/democracy/voting-and-elections/local-elections---may-2017/ or phone Electoral Services 0345 678 9015.

BUDGET 2017/2018

Soon you will receive 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 to £42,000. The average Band D tax payer will pay £27 per annum and equates to 51.5p per week.

During the next financial year the Council will implement projects identified in its Strategic Plan, including improving communication through the website and newsletter, ensuring all the Parish Council's land is properly registered and supporting local community groups through its grants scheme. The Council acknowledges the Clerk's and Councillors' roles continues to expand and will ensure all are fully trained to fulfil their roles.

Looking ahead, the Parish Council is aware Shropshire Council is planning to reduce the services it currently offers during the financial year of 2018/19. Collaboration between Shropshire Council Town and Parish Councils both practically and financially may be required to keep services which residents consider key to the community and their own well-being. Look out for progress reports in the Rural News and website.

PLANNING POLICY PARTIAL REVIEW

Local Authorities are required to produce documents which set out proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development. These are known as the 'Local Plan'. Shropshire Council is currently consulting on a partial review of its Local Plan.

Shropshire Council is keen to maintain a robust and defensible Local Plan for its area. The partial review will help to ensure that there is an up to date and deliverable Plan which will help to ensure that local, rather than national policies act as the principal benchmark for planning decision.

The consultation invites feedback on choices for each of the following strategic options:

- i. Housing requirement
- ii. Strategic distribution of future growth
- iii. Strategies for employment growth
- iv. Delivering development in rural settlements

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

The Parish Council will be taking part in the consultation process and encourages residents to take time to understand the consultation options and give feedback to their local Parish Councillors. Copies of the consultation documents are available on Shropshire Council's website and paper copies at main libraries. The deadline for responses is 20 March 2017.

Oswestry Rural Parish Council

www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCILLORS

There are 15 Councillors representing the 5 wards.

MAESBURY WITH ASTON WARD

Matthew Lee	07525 746431	14 Oak Street, Oswestry, SY11 1JL
Tony Milner	01691 610742	Park Mill, Maesbury Marsh, SY10 8JD
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
Vivien Byrne	01691 830853	Old Canal Cottage, Crickheath, SY10 8BN
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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Tuesday 28 March
Maesbury WI Hut

Tuesday 25 April
Morda

Tuesday 16 May
Rhydycroesau
(note 3rd Tuesday)

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 23 May
(venue to be confirmed)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

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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