



Rural News

The Newsletter for the Oswestry Rural Parish
Issue 2 October 2016

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Rural News

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WELCOME...

to the second edition of the newsletter for Oswestry Rural Parish. The intention of our newsletters is for you, our community to understand the issues the Council deals with, pass on our decision making, and give you an opportunity to influence those decisions. Over the next few months the Council will be making key decisions and we are seeking **your** input. Please see page 3 for details. This edition also includes information on topics often raised with Councillors.

Parish Councils are the first tier of local government, and Oswestry Rural Parish Council strives to represent all sides of our local communities, in all matters and issues. Currently there are two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you have a passion for your local community, would like to be part of the local decision making, why not consider putting your name forward for consideration.

I hope you enjoy the read.

Robert Milton
Chair, Oswestry Rural Parish Council

ALL CHANGE ON THE COUNCIL

At the September meeting the Council co-opted Jeff Court as Councillor for the Trefonen and Treflach Ward. Jeff has lived in the area for many years and in Trefonen since 2006.

During September two other Councillors resigned, June Middleton and Susan Chalk. This means the recruitment process starts for Trefonen with Treflach Ward (again!) and Maesbury with Aston Ward. Full details of the process can be found on the Parish Council website.

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.

HELPING THEM HELP YOU

Planning

Since the adoption of Shropshire Council's Site Allocation and Management of Development Planning Policy, the Parish has seen a reduction in speculative planning applications which has caused a great deal of consternation and anger amongst parishioners. Even so, the Parish continues to receive a high number of applications for a variety of reasons.

All planning applications can be tracked through Shropshire Council's website at www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf. Applications are determined against planning policies which can also be found at this website address.

Information on the Parish Council's role as a consultee in the planning process can be found under PLANNING on our website: www.oswestryrural-pc.gov.uk

How do I report it?

To report problems including:

Potholes

Overgrown verges and hedges

Litter problems and fly tipping

Dead animal on the road

Vandalism or anti-social behaviour

A stray or lost dog

Low supplies in salt/grit bins

Contact Shropshire Council customer services on 0345 678 9006

or email: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk

or report it on-line at

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/report/>

Street lights: Both Shropshire Council and the Parish Council own lamps in the Parish. You can report a fault to Shropshire Council or the Clerk.

Litter picks

There have been some recent well publicised litter picks, for example for the Queen's 90th birthday in which groups around the parish took part. If residents wish to organise their own local litter pick, please let a Councillor or the Clerk know. The Council can arrange for the right equipment to be provided and also for the removal of the picked litter.

Oswestry Dial-a-Ride and Community Car Scheme

Oswestry Dial-a-Ride provides a valuable door to door transport service for people in our parish. All their mini-buses are fully accessible and can carry wheelchair users.

Dial-a-Ride provides transport for:

- people who have no access to public transport and with no frequent or convenient access to a car
- the elderly
- people with ill health
- people with disabilities
- wheelchair users

The service can provide opportunities for shopping, visiting family or friends, hospital and doctors appointments, hairdressers, post office and library. The fares range from £1.50 each way to £5 each way. To make a booking you can ring up to 6 days in advance, bookings cannot be made on the same day of travel.

The Community Car scheme allows travel further afield and operates Monday to Friday 9am — 5pm. There are a number of cars available and the journey is calculated on a per mile basis.

Thank you to the volunteers!

Both these services can only run because of the volunteers. All drivers and passengers escorts are volunteers and it is down to their commitment and time that this service operates in and around Oswestry. Maybe you would like to join them!

For more information: 01691 671571

Email: info@qube-oca.org.uk

Police Watch Scheme

Watch schemes encourage communities to work together to protect themselves and their property, which in turn can help to prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime.

West Mercia Police support the activity of thousands of members of watch schemes. For more information regarding watch schemes in our area, including Neighbourhood Watch and to sign up for crime alert messages go to <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/cms>

ORPC's Strategic Plan

One of the roles of a Parish Council is to understand what is important to residents, their lives and surroundings. In 2004 and 2014 questionnaires were sent to residents in the Parish to find out how the Parish should develop and improve.

The Council has compiled the results from these questionnaires together with other on-going requirements for the maintenance of existing infrastructure and assets into a Strategic Plan. The Plan directs the Council's actions and also the Financial Budget.

Between the months of October and January, the Council will be reviewing the Plan as it sets its Budget for 2017/18. Please take a look at the Plan on the Council's website. Is there anything we have missed? We also welcome your feedback on priorities for the coming financial year.



Local Infrastructure



Over the last few years, local councils and builders/developers have been coming to terms with Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). You may not be aware of this new charge on new housing but you do have a say in how it is spent.

CIL is governed by national legislation with set criteria over its use and is managed locally by Shropshire Council. When CIL is collected the majority of the funds is allocated to the Parish where the new development takes place. There have been a number of new housing sites approved in recent times so the Parish will be able to utilise this new source of funding.

CIL can only be spent on infrastructure. This includes roads and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities and open spaces.

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Every week different community groups gather together in one of the village halls, churches or public houses in the Parish. The Parish Council is wanting to identify all these groups for a variety of reasons, one being the grants and award schemes set out below but also should there be any important information the Council needs to quickly pass on, these groups are an ideal way of communicating with parishioners. If you are an organiser of a community group, please register your group with the Clerk as soon as possible.

Community Grants

Within this year's financial budget, the Parish Council put aside a small amount of funds to help local community groups. There is an agreed criteria and application form which can be obtained from the Clerk. Completed applications must be submitted by 31 December and will be considered at the January Parish Council meeting. All applications will be considered on their individual merits. The final decision on assessment of applications and the level of any grant offered lies with Oswestry Rural Parish Council.

Community Service Award

Advance notice that the Parish Council is re-introducing its Community Service Award in 2017. Now is the time to start thinking who you consider deserves to be recognised for their good works locally. The award will be presented to the person who is considered to have made a significant contribution to their local community. Full details will be included in the February edition of Rural News.

Potential projects to be funded by CIL have to be identified in advance and agreed by Shropshire Council. This is where the Parish Council needs your help. What new infrastructure do you think would improve the Parish? With the increase of new homes, what existing facilities requires improvement/replacement?

The Parish Council has already identified the following:

- Morda Village Hall refurbishment and expansion.
- Trefonen Village Hall improvements
- Trefarclawdd Cemetery improvements
- Street Light conversion to LED

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.

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
VACANCY

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 Herons 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

TREFONEN WITH TREFLACH WARD

Pam Broomby 01691 653479 Dolwen, Pit Lane, Treflach, SY10 9HB
Tony Cheetham 01691 655673 The Old Malthouse, Trefonen, SY10 9DQ
Jeff Court 01691 655387 ,Fron Barns, Trefonen, SY10 9DU
VACANCY

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

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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 25 October
Trefonen

Tuesday 29
November
Morda

Tuesday 20
December
Morda

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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