

# **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **GREAT NESS & LITTLE NESS PARISHES**

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7pm at Nesscliffe Village Hall**

**Present: Cllr. Sue Peters (Chair), 17 members of the public, SC Ed Potter, Police Officer.**

**Clerk: Rebecca Turner**

**1. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Cllr. Peters welcomed all present.

**2. Present & apologies for absence**

Noted as above.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Correction required on page 2 as “remedies” should read “removed”. Subject to this amendment, the minutes were approved as being a correct record and the chair was authorised to sign them.

**4. Matters Arising**

None.

**5. Parish Council Reports**

a) *Chair's Report* - the outgoing chair, Alison Mullis gave a report:

“I have enjoyed my time as Chair of the Parish Council over the past year and would like to thank all the Councillors for giving up so much of their time to help the community, and especially give thanks to our Clerk, Rebecca who is such an asset to our Parish council and goes above and beyond ensuring everything runs smoothly and issues are dealt with swiftly. I’m sure you’ll all join me in welcoming the new Chair Susan Peters into her role.

We’re so lucky to have such a lovely community who all support each other in so many different ways. We now have the new park open, which the children really enjoy and the adult gym equipment is in use too. The new community land is taking shape and the Willow classroom is a wonderful addition.

The MUGA is also open to the community outside of school hours - please see the St Andrew’s community MUGA Facebook page for information, if I could kindly ask that we all look after these areas and notify the appropriate Facebook page or our Parish Clerk if you see any problems.

We are grateful for everyone’s patience with the VAS signs, which will hopefully be fixed very soon.

We have also been busy ensuring footpaths around the parishes are kept clear and tidy. Moving forward a couple of our current projects include looking into improved signage on Nesscliffe Hill and completing the new community area.”

## **b) Finance Report**

During the 2022-3 financial year, the parish council had income from both the precept of £31,453, and CIL funding totalling £87,000 – this has been put towards the new play area. Income totalled £122,577. We have also spent money received from development on landscaping the community land and new noticeboards. We continue to receive Environmental Maintenance Grant from SC and this part funds works to keep areas of the highways clear; we focus this funding on areas SC lacks the budget to maintain themselves.

Looking forward, the parish council is very mindful of the impact of the Cost of Living and this year decided not to increase the precept, and to draw on reserves to balance the 2023-4 budget. We have CIL funding remaining and are continuing with projects to invest in the community facilities – future projects include re-surfacing the playing field and school access track and updating the signage at Nesscliffe Country Park. We also welcome community suggestions for projects.

A full copy of the parish council’s accounts are available on the parish council website.

## **6. Other Reports**

### **a) Police Report**

None.

### **b) Shropshire Council – Cllr. Potter**

- Shropshire Council finances are precarious but not catastrophic with £51 million in savings to be made this year, which so far look to be on track. The financial situation in future years is predicted to ease as pressure around social care levels out and various long-term measures take effect. Baby Boomer generation needing care peaking now. Some stabilisation but number of looked after children has almost trebled since Covid. Invest to Save having an impact. This year is likely to be the worst year of the next 5.
- Recycling - Purple Bin roll out this past 12 months has been successful and welcomed by the many residents who have found it much easier and also reduces the amount of windblown litter that used to be created by the boxes. You are still able to order a new bin through the Shropshire Council Website.
- Highways issues continue to be a problem, although they are less frequent than they have been in the past. Problem spots continue and these tend to be the more complex areas which need significant funding spending on them. We continue to push for these to be put forward for the capital spend. General potholes reported through FIX MY STREET seem to be fixed in a timely manner to a much higher standard although there is room for improvement. I think it is safe to say our roads are not dissimilar to many other parts of England.... Wales of course is a different kettle of fish.
- The Local Boundary Review of Shropshire Council Divisions by the Boundary Commission seems to be causing all sorts of issue. The consultation is open and decisions will be published after the close of consultation in July. There is no change for Great and Little Ness.

- Shrewsbury redevelopment plan moves forward with planning applications in and government grant funding to move the project along.
- NWRR and Local Plan Review Bumble along... More at the meeting on these. Objection from EA re NWRR, so not going to committee in June now, probably September. LP moving quite slowly. Need clarity over how meeting housing need for neighbouring local authorities.

#### *Questions*

- Question re West Midlands grab for Shropshire – conversations with Andy Street – seeming to look for devolution to electoral mayoral models. Seems to be well-funded but means becoming part of a regional block. Concern Shropshire may be subsidiary to Midlands urban areas – may be better suited to West Mercia and/or cross border with Powys. Cllr. Potter was concerned about the impact and pressure for building on green areas if part of West Midlands.
- A member of the public had noticed roads are marked up with paint but still not repaired. Cllr. Potter explained that the local technician inspects and then passes works order to Kier but timescale can vary depending on how long Kier take to action it. Cllr Potter recommended reporting on Fixmystreet as get updates. Some issues such as Valeswood need to be in capital programme but this can take a few years.

#### **c) Church Report**

None.

#### **d) Great Ness Charities** – Cllr. Peters gave an update.

Trustees of the 2 charities are Alison Mullis, Rev. Lucinda Burns and Sue Peters. The charities were set up in the 1890s have limited aims and objectives, referring to relief of poor and needy. The trustees have set up a bank account. There has been limited further activity – the food bank has ran on an ad hoc basis and there is now good level of donations. Circa £750 in the accounts. Tentative discussions with a Ruyton Charity re joint working. The trustees welcome suggestions for spending money.

#### **e) Village Halls**

**Little Ness Village Hall** – Colin Knox, Chair:

“I would like to report that we have had quite a successful 12 months. The Queen’s Jubilee event was very well attended by around 100 people from Little Ness and the surrounding area. A tree was planted in the hall grounds by Mrs Joy Burnett, the oldest member of the parish at almost 100 years old, and a memorial bench with a brass plaque was installed to mark the event. A month or so later a party was held in the hall to celebrate Mrs Burnett’s 100th birthday that was attended by many parishioners and friends. However, sadly, earlier this year, Mrs Burnett died, and her wake was also held at the hall.

A Christmas Quiz was well attended and enjoyed by all, and the Coronation Celebrations also went well, despite the really terrible weather.

The hall has regular bookings for yoga sessions, the Little Ness Craft Group and the Shropshire Astronomical Society. We are looking to increase the number of social and fundraising events next year.

This year we changed our electricity supplier, and we are now getting a useful return on our solar panels.

We would like to thank the parish council for the financial help provided for the jubilee and coronation events. “

## **Nesscliffe Village Hall-report from Hall Committee**

### ***Events***

The Village Hall committee took the lead on organising a picnic to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations, but this was very much a collaboration with local groups. St Andrew's school very kindly hosted the day which included entertainment provided by a magician, a bouncy castle, games and best crown competitions. The weather wasn't kind on the day but there was a good turn out and much fun was had by all. Monies raised from the WI cake stall and the Village Hall's raffle were distributed between St Andrew's School, Great Ness WI, the Youth Club and the Church.

The ever-popular Skittles and Quiz night returned in September. Monies raised from this event have gone towards the ongoing expenses and maintenance costs of the Hall.

Christmas Bingo night also returned on the first Friday of December. It was great to have this back and see everyone getting in the festive spirit. Proceeds from the night have gone towards the ongoing expenses and maintenance costs of the Hall. Monies raised from the traditional Christmas raffle were donated to the British Heart Foundation.

Following on from an idea raised by a member of the committee and with the support of the parish council, the committee worked with the Old Three Pigeons to have a community Christmas tree erected outside the pub. This was very well received by the village. Children from the school visited to put Christmas wishes on the tree and a carol singing evening (supported by the Church and the Young Farmers) was held which developed into a great evening in the pub. The intention is to repeat this in 2023.

The committee enjoyed hosting a table at the WI Christmas Fair and proceeds from the tombola they had were donated to Hope House. They also took the opportunity to promote the Century Club which produces a useful income for the Hall each year.

In March a Ceilidh evening featuring an excellent band from Market Drayton (the Tern Valley Tinkers) was held in the hall. The band was amazed that the people of Nesscliffe and the surrounding villages did not need any encouragement to get on the dance floor with everyone up on their feet for every dance! The floor may have been a bit crowded, but this added to the fun and laughter of the evening. Definitely an event to be repeated in the future. Once again proceeds raised will go towards the ongoing expenses and maintenance costs of the hall.

### **Finance**

The Village Hall currently has a healthy bank balance, mainly thanks to grants received over the pandemic period. As always, the committee work to generate income from bookings, organised events, and the Century Club to cover as much annual and general maintenance costs as possible in order that funds are available to cover larger repairs and improvements to the Hall.

Following the resignation of Joanne Williams as treasurer of the committee, Steve Primarolo has taken on this role. Joanne has carried out the role for a number of years and so we are pleased that she will remain a member of the committee and will help out at events where she can.

### **Improvements/Repairs to the Hall**

The heating system at the hall is being looked at following views being expressed that it is difficult to get the hall to a suitable temperature in the winter. Discussions have taken place with the electrician used by the committee and this has resulted in the ceiling fans (which should be used in conjunction with the heaters) being reinstated. The chairman of the committee (Steve Primarolo) has also arranged for a quote to be obtained for additional loft insulation and a reduction in the size of the gaps in the Apex of the roof which are used for ventilation. The results of the changes will obviously not be tested until next winter.

Alongside this the committee continue to consider improvements that can be made to the hall to improve energy efficiency. Tweaks have been made including changing the remaining lights to use LED lamps. The Parish Council have offered to work with the committee to look at what else can be done in this area and, as a result of this, approaches are being made to see if there is a suitable assessor who can advise on changes that could be made.

Request for a hearing loop on the June agenda for the hall committee.

#### **f) Youth Club – report from Lee, SYA Group Leader**

The club been going for 20 years and meets Mondays in term time 6.30 to 8.30pm. £1 to enter, 9 to 18. Free for first session. The club do a range of activities such as baking, games, quizzes, table tennis, Wii, football, tuck shop. The club is run by a youth leader and 6 volunteers. Tree Tops trip last year sponsored walk to raise coach money, Xmas party paid for by parents and donations from the village shop. Thank you to all who support us.

#### **g) Great Ness WI – report from Natalie Crisp**

“To briefly recap on our year, in April, we had a very interesting talk by Dr. Nigel Baker, on Shropshire Farmyards; in the summer we were treated to an evening of archery, garden games and socialising at Heather’s house; a flower arranging demonstration; and a barbeque at Mel and Adam’s house. September brought the good-natured competitiveness out in many of our members, with exhibits in our Produce and Handicraft show; as usual the amount of entries and the effort put in by the organisers and the entrants, was heart-warming. Our WI has so much to be proud of! In October, Margaret’s daughter spoke to us about McTimoney Animal Chiropractics and Nicky loaned her dog for a demonstration. In November, Liz showed us how to make chocolate truffles and other sweet treats for Christmas; they were delicious! Our Christmas party was a lovely end to the calendar year, with music, singing and a bring and share tea. In January, Jean gave us a talk on her years spent in Papua New Guinea, it was amazing to hear how much she had achieved in her time there and learn about the country and culture. February brought us a fascinating talk about Crime and Punishment in the late Victorian age, by Lesley Scase. In March, Karon’s husband, Ken, gave us a very informative talk on recognising and dealing with first aid emergencies such as cardiac arrest and stroke; he also spoke about using the defibrillator. Our WI continues to grow and thrive!”

**h) Great Mess to Little Mess** – report from Claire Dickinson, Jim Diggory, Alison Mullis

Great Mess to Little Mess Community Projects have carried out regular litter picks in the surrounding villages this year, including seeing 40 people turning out for the Big Help Out litter pick on 8th May 2023. All 40 people wore their hi-vis and had sticks and hoops as a result of gratefully receiving a £500 grant from the Community Resource Twemlows 2 fund. This fund originates from the Twemlows solar farm.

King Charles' Coronation was also a fund-raising opportunity with a Parish Photograph in front of The Three Pigeons being taken by Rob Evans. This proved to be very popular, and copies of the photograph are available for £10 if anyone would like one.

We have continued to lay turf at the Community Ground, erect bird boxes, including two in the car park of the Nesscliffe village hall and Jim Diggory made a wooden monkey close to the school car park. Again, this has been very popular.

GMLM continues to hold a current constitution, insurance, risk assessment and Sue Peters kindly independently reviewed the annual accounts and confirmed all was in order.

Dates are currently being planned for future summer litter picks.

**i) Nesscliffe Rounders Team** – report from Shelley Hurdley, Captain

The team has been going for 14 years, for women aged 13 and up. Came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league last year. Season April to Sep and plating tomorrow if anyone wants to support them, start at 7pm.

**j) Nesscliffe Hills & District Bridleways Association** – report from Zia Robins

Great Ness and Little Ness Parish is part of a wider area of northern Shropshire that we cover. Over the last year we have reported problems on Rights of Way in the Parishes to Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership Team and have resolved those we can. Helen Beresford is now the Rights of Way Officer covering this area for work on the ground, and she has worked on a number of issues for us and has liaised with the Nesscliffe Hills Countryside Heritage Park Ranger Lee Fraser recently, replacing the rotted off waymark posts and fingerposts which we had been trying to get resolved for some time. It is good to see these back in place before this year's archaeological excavations. The rubbish/ Dog Poo bin is also back in The Pines Car Park.

We have kept local Bridleways clear of encroaching foliage where we can, cut back around fingerposts, and reported bigger problems. We have also removed fallen timber obstructing routes, and again reported those too big for us to deal with. We regularly check routes and respond to reports of any problems. These have included members reporting and removing large branches and brash being put across the Right of Way URS/ U1718/15 down to Flanders Ford on more than one occasion, including this month. This endangers users. We are also following up on the drainage problems there following a tree falling down. We have also followed up on the flooding problems on BW 21 Lower Hopton. We reported the disappearance of the Fingerpost from the entrance to Bridleway 21; this was replaced very promptly by Shropshire Council. We cleared back overgrowth around the gate and fingerpost onto BW 4 Valeswood Lane, following which Shropshire Council have now resolved the problem with the gate latch. We have liaised with a landowner over an overgrown hedge on BW UN1/1 on the Cliffe, and Shropshire Council's Contract Team have dealt with it for him. Problems with Public Access can be reported to [outdoorrecreation@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:outdoorrecreation@shropshire.gov.uk)

We have responded to planning applications which impact on local riding routes, including the now much larger, by Variation, 4-5 bed, two storey Eco House by the main bridleway entrance into the Nesscliffe Country Park, which is between three bridleways and a public footpath, and the Planning Application following the recent sale of the Nesscliffe Hotel, which impacts on BW 25B. We have been trying to get the obstruction of this route resolved for a number of years. Shropshire Council are now consulting on a diversion route for this bridleway which should go through the main entrance, right behind the hotel up a slope, and then back up the field edge. Proposals have been made for diversion routes which will be consulted on. Emily Parson Jones is the S.C. Mapping and Enforcement Officer for this area.

We are still waiting for Shropshire Council's replacement of the Bridleway Bridge on BW 54 at Adcote Mill, that collapsed in 2014, and the reinstatement of the adjacent Ford BW UN10. The work was to be completed in 2020. We understand that this work is delayed yet again due to a legal process needing to be completed before work can commence. Works in the River Perry are limited to a short time span from June to September. This is an important route for walkers, horse riders and cyclists from Adcote, Baschurch and Little Ness areas, as well as further afield, as it avoids having to use the Adcote to Baschurch or Yeaton to Baschurch public roads. Sue to add Ed to follow up on this,

All Public Rights of Way in Shropshire can be found on the Shropshire's Great Outdoors website's 'Interactive Map'. The site also includes lots of Walking, Riding and Cycling Routes promoted in Shropshire with downloadable leaflets, and other Public Access information.

**k) St Andrew's CE School – report from Mrs Burgoyne, Headteacher**

A copy of the report is included on the council website.

**l) Other reports relating to the Parishes not listed**

None.

**7. Open forum where members of the public may raise any subject for the exchange of information and general discussion.**

- A member of the public asked if there is a central list of defibrillators. The clerk advised they are listed on the council website and registered on the national website "The Circuit"