**Chairman's Report. 27th May 2020**

There have been no changes in the membership or structure of the council but next May there will be full Council Elections. There have been 2 Extraordinary meetings this year for a planning decision and changes to the banking authority for signing cheques. The normal meetings in March and May have been cancelled following Corona 19 advice from the Government and replaced by delegating powers to the Parish Clerk with her consulting with the Chairman and Vice Chair and other councillors as necessary. The decisions made and reports submitted are published in the Corvedale News and on the Diddlebury Council Parish website. Planning can be viewed on the parish website or Shropshire Council’s planning portal. Further decisions on the format of meetings will be made as Government advice rolls out.

**Main Issues.**

1. Liaison with DVH Committee over the funding of the upgrade of car parking facilities to meet community needs through the input of (CIL) Community Infrastructure Levy funds. At present we are still in negotiations with Shropshire Council over accessing funds. Due to Health and Safety concerns some funds have been drawn down from parish funds set aside for this to repair parts of the car park.
2. A Portable Speed Indicator has been purchased using CIL funds and a grant from the West Mercia Police Commissioner. We are still pursuing the purchase of a mirror for traffic emerging from the Bache Mill turning.
3. Following the initial planning application for housing at The Moors site we have engaged with Shropshire Council (SC) in a Housing Survey of Needs within the parish and have investigated Community Housing Projects.
4. Following a petition from Corfton residents the council engaged with SC Planners to get Corfton’s designation as a Community Cluster changed to Open Countryside. This was supported in a South Shropshire Full Planning meeting but awaits formal alteration in the Place Plan.

**Precept**

Following consideration of an initial draft Budget at the November meeting, a further draft was circulated to all members, which contained some new items including the purchase of defibrillators for the parish and the possible purchase of SmartWater kits.

The Precept Budget was considered at length and it was agreed that the purchase of defibrillators should not be included in the 2020/2021 budget: maybe during the 2020/2021 financial year grants can be investigated or public fund-raising events may enable defibrillators to be purchased. It was however agreed, bearing in mind the recent spate of burglaries, that the parish council should purchase 160 SmartWater kits at a cost of £1500. This would produce a Precept for 2020/2021 of £6,952.00. an increase of £1,400.00 on last year’s precept to cover this which equates to a rise of around £5.00 per house on last year’s precept.

**Planning**

19 Planning application have been received this year all of which bar 3 were supported. This compared to 21 with 3 not supported last year. Of the 19 applications 4 related to tree work. One pre planning enquiry was made. Three enforcement enquiries were lodged none of which saw any further action by SC which was similar to last year.

**Responses to Consultations.**

Shropshire Housing Needs Survey,

Transport Consultation Passenger Travel Group. Post 19.

Outdoor Playing Provision,

BT redundant telephone boxes

**External Meetings attended.**

At Shirehall with Cllr Motley re Corfton’s request to become Open Countryside

South Shropshire Planning Committee re a Corfton planning application

A Community led Housing Presentation

Parishes meeting with Cllr Motley over boundary changes.

**Public Session**

Smart Water Crime Prevention Presentation

**Sample of other topics arising.**

Problems with SAMDEv in Seifton re planning applications which lie in Culmington

Ditches being cleared, road collapsing, potholes.

Erection of a railing by the church steps.

Severn Trent Alarm going off.

Supporting planning applications.

Over the last year the parish council has yet again continued to work closely with the Flood Action Group, Diddlebury Village Hall Committee and the Parish Plan Steering Group. The advent of Corona 19 has caused the need for a lot of adjustments to be made this year to meetings. As Chair I would like to thank my colleagues for the work they put in within a voluntary role and the extra work our Parish Clerk has had to absorb as well as Councillor Motley for her unstinting support.

D. Hedgley Chairman 2019-20