

**Committee and Date**

St Oswald & Llanymynech  
Local Joint Committee

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

7.00 pm

**Item**

**4**

Public

**ST OSWALD AND LLANYMYNECH LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE**

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.00PM,  
LLANYMYNECH VILLAGE HALL, LLANYMYNECH.**

**PRESENT:**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillor Arthur Walpole	Shropshire Council – Llanymynech
Councillor Mrs Joyce Barrow	Shropshire Council – St Oswald
Councillor Pam Broomby	Oswestry Rural Parish Council
Councillor Charles Green	Kinnerley Parish Council
Councillor Bob Thomas	Llanyblodwel Parish Council
Councillor Sally Herbert Jones	Molverley Parish Council
Councillor Miranda Lawson	Knockin Parish Council

**Officers:**

Corrie Davies	Community Action Officer
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**1. Election of Chairman**

Corrie asked the committee for nominations for the position of Chair. Councillor Joyce Barrow nominated Councillor Arthur Walpole. Corrie asked if there were any other nominations. There were no further nominations and the committee were unanimous.

**2. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

The Chair nominated Councillor Joyce Barrow as Vice Chair and the committee voted unanimously in favour.

**3. Welcome and Introductions from the Chairman**

Councillor Arthur Walpole, Chair welcomed members to the meeting and asked members of the committee and officers to introduce themselves.

Councillor Walpole explained the purpose of the Local Joint Committees and provided reasons as to why the committee had not held many public meetings in the last 12 months due to the budgets to Local Joint Committees being removed.

**4. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dilys Gaskill, Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council.

## **5. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

## **6. Notes of the Previous Meeting**

The notes of the previous meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March were agreed with amendments to be made to the attendance list of the committee. The notes were proposed by Councillor Joyce Barrow and seconded by Bob Thomas.

## **7. Partners and Communities Together Meeting (PACT)**

The Chair welcomed Pete Dale to the meeting. Pete mentioned the burglaries that had taken place in Morda towards the end of the summer. He explained that since then a group of Lithuanians had been picked up following incidents across the country. Pete recommended that local people were vigilant following an old lady, who had been asked for directions by a gentleman and a female. Whilst in her house they had swopped her bank card and the lady had not noticed. By the time she had they had accessed £20,000 of her money. Councillor Joyce Barrow, thanked the police for the speed gun in Trefonen and that this had been positively received by local people, with speeding be an issue in the area.

Pete noted that there were cuts due to policing but he was uncertain at this point what that would mean.

Arthur asked if there were any further questions from the floor. Ken Owen noted that he thought it was awful if local cuts meant that front line workers were being made redundant when the system was top heavy. He highlighted that they should not be getting rid of people on the ground.

Councillor Pam Broomby asked if they still recruit special constables and how could someone apply if so. Pete Dale explained that they do still have special constables and anyone interested in joining the police force should look on the West Mercia Police website.

Rick asked whether it was possible to have CCTV like that which was available in Oswestry. Pete noted this had been independently funded through Oswestry Town Council and suggested that they approach the Parish Council.

Councillor Arthur Walpole thanked the police for removing a stolen vehicle at Llynclys.

Councillor Arthur Walpole welcomed Melissa Bebb to introduce herself. Melissa explained that she was new into the role and it was still developing but her title is Rural, Business and Cyber Crime Co-ordinator. Her role was focussed on crime prevention, with the aim to stop crimes happening and to make people aware of how to prevent themselves being victims of crime, either businesses or rural communities. This is a new role, and although she works for the council, Melissa explained the role is funded for by the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner). A handout was available on the table with Melissa contacts as follows: Telephone 01743 253983 and email [Melissa.bebb@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Melissa.bebb@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Her handout noted the following areas of work to date:

- Working alongside local police (safer neighbourhood team)

- community action days- first action day will be held in Woore 14th November, how successful this is will determine if any more are held. Crime prevention events, local police team attend, safer roads, fire service, NFU etc.

•Working alongside police schemes;

-We Don't Buy Crime - Giving victims of dwelling burglaries a Free SMART water pack. Helped create a smart water town, funding by the local council. Also work with shops who deal in second hand goods to stop the purchase of stolen property using UV lights and a data base which allows them to check if items are stolen (at a small cost) and also get alerts of items that have recently been stolen.

-Stop Thief – works with businesses that have been victims of crime, fits premises with crime prevention materials for three weeks, if the business wants to then keep the products they can pay for them if not they get removed. Aim is to deter re-victimisation of businesses.

•Farm walks – will be held between April and May, there will be 5 walks across the county, in partnership with Rural Hub, involves walking around a farm with security companies, police, NFU and other organisations to show where improvements to the farms security should be made etc.

Melissa explained that she would be able to give a date of your local farm walk nearer the time.

## **8. Canal and River Trust**

The Chairman welcome Sylvia Edwards to talk to the committee and the public about developments with Canal and River Trust, and the HLF restoration bid in particular.

Sylvia explained that a recent extensive consultation had been carried out with events and surveys. Over 3000 people had returned with their comments and views, providing a mandate of support for the project and future funding bids.

In terms of operational works, vegetation clearance work had been undertaken by Shropshire Union Canal Society volunteers, between Pryces Bridge and the Lloyds Animal Feed mill. Design works and boundary audit are complete.

Sylvia explained that they had asked for an extension to the development phase of this HLF funded project. They had hit a stumbling block with match funding. For instance, Powys County Council funding earmarked for towpath improvement was no longer available, and bids to European Life+ and Welsh Government Core Funding had failed. Veolia bid was on hold, pending a newt licence being granted, and will be re-submitted at the same time as the HLF bid to ensure that timescales align. CRT has submitted a bid to National Resources Wales, to replace the Life+ funding. They would also be looking to submit to Interreg and ERDF under European funding.

Feedback from the community consultation noted that 94% think that the canal is important to them. 80% would like to learn more about the canal and a third of the consultees would like to volunteer. Heritage discovery, horse drawn walks, wildlife discovery walk, canal at night, canoeing, community archaeology and music event all came up high on the priorities of activities that the local community would like to see around the canal.

A separate need that the Canal and River Trust have is the resurfacing of the car park at the Heritage Site and a bid was in progress for this. Sylvia noted a

letter of support would be welcome from the committee. **ACTION. A letter of support for the restoration project would also be good to submit with the HLF bid.** It would also be useful to include the restoration in any strategic documents of the Council so that any funding bids could reference Shropshire Council and partner support.

There will be a huge number of volunteering opportunities available through the project e.g. habitat creation, canal restoration, species surveys. Hedge laying opportunities were already available this winter. Residents and partners could also adopt a mile of the canal as a way of bringing people together whilst helping CRT look after a great local asset. HLF bid submission is now planned for mid-2016.

There is a wider restoration project, led by the chair of the Montgomery Canal Partnership, John Dodwell, who has an aspirational ten year plan to restore the canal from Crickheath to Welshpool. They would be looking for a volunteer manager as part of this work. Volunteers will also need accommodation. Could neighbouring buildings be restored to enable self- catering and tools and equipment to be stored as part of the wider restoration project?

Sylvia highlighted the North Wales & Border Partnership which supports community involvement initiatives/projects in various character areas. The Montgomery Canal being one such area, with Llanymynech being one of two focal points. Sylvia asked if anyone was interested in helping the NW&B Partnership address canal related issues and/or develop events/mini-projects.

Councillor Walpole congratulated Canal and River Trust on their consultation results and the number of responses made. Arthur also noted that Shropshire Council Members including himself, Councillor Joyce Barrow and Councillor Steve Charmley have had a number of meetings and trying to move developments forward and investigating ways to include within SC strategic planning.

Councillor Walpole welcomed Michael Limbrey to speak. Michael noted that the canal offers a fantastic opportunity up and down the border. The canal recently featured in the waterways magazine, including mentions of festivals along the canal which bring people to the area from far and wide.

Councillor Walpole also welcomed Peter Richards who thanked the LJC committee for the support they had received over the years to support the developments on the canal including the Montgomery Canal Triathlon, which also draws local people and visitors to the area.

9.

### **Cambrian Heritage Railway**

Councillor Arthur Walpole welcome Rob Williams to present to the committee and the public. Rob explained that during the presentation he would outline the history of the railway, along with two very separate projects that they are developing.

Rob noted that it was 50 years since the railway was fully operating. In 1920 the Cambrian ceased and became part of Western Railways and then gained responsibility for further track. The Beaching Report and Axe changed details dramatically and in 1963 the Cambrian station at Oswestry lost its status as head- quarters and was moved to Shrewsbury. From 1972 the focus was on moving freight. At that point in 1972 the Cambrian only had service for quarries and thousands of employees went down to just 8. In 2009 Shropshire purchased the building to stop it from rotting and then developed a lease with

the Cambrian Heritage Railway.

Today the Cambrian Railway has membership and 400 volunteers . Rob explained that if you are interested anyone can become a member. This support and membership helps fund future developments. The volunteers support with moving vegetation and clearance works.

The Cambrian has passengers once more for a quarter of a mile and this too helps pay for itself and the development of the railway long term. The Cambrian hold special events including Santa runs and vintage events to generate income and publicity. They have had brake vans on the track and this year a special WW1 display. The museum is also open and welcoming local people and visitors. Along the track the Cambrian has a heritage railway project (CROP) with local varieties of apple and acting as something different for local people to have a look at.

Rob outline two separate projects:

- a) Gobowen to Oswestry - public service connecting service
- b) Oswestry South - heritage steam tourism

Rob outlined why community transport delivered via partnership and social enterprises would work. He explained that Oswestry is one of the largest towns in the UK without a railway station and the impact to the economy, tourism and socially would be benefit the town, residents and visitors. Community transport partnerships in Stourbridge are working well and delivering. Those with heritage railways are accepting for every £1 a further £4 is being brought into the local town.

Rob explained that there was official support for the project recognised in Oswestry 2020 plan and as aspiration highlighted in the North Shropshire Tourism Visitor Strategy.

Rob outlined the time plan. The Cambrian has completed leases with Shropshire Council in March 2014. A transport works order has been submitted in March 2015. Refurbishment work is still ongoing with the aim for first phase to Weston Wharf and Stonehouse Brewery. Work to achieve this is ongoing with the section roughly broken into 3 sections. Work on section 1 from Oswestry to Gasworks Bridge I on going and should be complete early 2016. We are working with Shropshire Council to develop workable plans for section 2 which is the Gas Works Bridge area. Section 3 covers Gasworks Bridge to Weston and we are currently developing grant applications for this.

Shropshire Council own the land and have 50 year lease. Oswestry Town Council and Business Chamber have been supportive and the local MP chair's the project meetings.

Rob outlined how local people could help, noting you can join us as a member, join us now and support with membership subs which will get ploughed in. Donate material, expertise and help- this could take a variety of skills including accounts, engineers, builders, office administration to cooks, meet and greet and not all about physical track work. Rob asked that everyone pass on to friends and family.

Rob asked if anyone had any questions.

Ken Owen and David Higman asked about the A5. Councillor Joyce Barrow also asked about crossing of the A5 and associated costs of materials. Rob noted the act of parliament has not closed the road. Who should pay for it and where should that cover come was still a challenge but fundamentally the

railways has the right to cross as parliament has never been appealed. Railways exist by acts parliament, as this railway have never been closed and the acts not repealed the right for the railway to exist and cross the road is without question. The only issue is the detail of how and who pays.

Ken asked if there is any plans by the council to dual carriage. Arthur explained that this was Highways Agency, not Shropshire Council .MP was requesting. The question of a transnational highways has been raised. Councillor Arthur Walpole explained we would need to think carefully about how we look at this.

David Higman asked about acts of parliament with crossing the road and separate rules under British Railways. Rob explained that they were still recognised as the Cambrian as the original order was never appealed and the order was still in place with the Cambrian's name within the details.

Rob asked if it would be possible for the LJC to issue a letter of support for any future grant applications for the Oswestry to Weston section or the wider railway.

## **10. Locality Youth Commissioning**

Corrie explained background to youth commissioning noting that some may know the council has been looking at some of the services it delivers and re-designing those services to focus on the customer's needs. In line with this we have been working hard as a team to re-look at youth services. From September of this year, the council no longer directly delivers youth services but has instead given the money to the county's local joint committees, who will then make use of their local experience and knowledge to commissioning youth services in their areas that meet local needs

In line with this they have been looking at a series of statistics and indicators including number of young people agenda 10- 19 and up to 23 for a disability, number of young people registered with short breaks, those young people excluded from school, those in contact with social care, those classed as obese, number of young people offending and numbers of anti- social behaviour. From that information we have been able to identify the level of need in individual LJC areas and an allocation was made in conjunction.

Over the summer based on the information, as an officer we have been talking to young people and the LJC committees to get a better understanding of the area and what services and activities could be delivered. We ran a questionnaire with young people and based on the level of need in Gobowen LJC area for example we went out to each youth club and every school council at primaries and secondary.

From the information the committees agreed a set of local outcomes and a brief for applications from providers. In St Oswald's we have a very small budget as we only came up on rurality. As a result and with £3000 the committee decided a small grant scheme would be an easily accessible way to help new and existing providers.

The committee agreed their local outcomes in line with the Children's Trust Outcome should be to Ensure young people:

- Enjoy and achieve
- Be healthy
- Stay safe

- Ensure equal access for all children
- Learn to mix and be more social

Young people should be more engaged, have a positive self- identity, opportunity to experience positive relationships and role models and build confidence. Based on all the information the committee agreed that they would seek applications that would develop and enhance capacity within our existing young groups, support new youth club provision and activities and targeted outreach or multi activities /taster sessions.

The committee took a look at the first round of applications in the summer and agreed three applications. The committee will now be looking to further meet as a committee to look at another four applications that have been submitted.

Councillor Walpole asked Corrie to provide a usual update on her work. Corrie outlined the community enablement work. The approach recognises that there are a considerable number of 'assets' within a community: public and community buildings; land; public; voluntary and community organisations; finance; and people with skills and expertise. Working collaboratively and in partnership to maximise the use of these assets will lead to better outcomes for individuals and communities. Corrie provided examples of recent work around this including work with the Cross Keys Action Committee, Melverley Parish Plan and Oswestry Heritage Open Days as examples of developing community priorities with a focus on both resilience, economy and tourism. Corrie provided an outline of funding currently available and also highlighted current consultations with outdoor recreation and highways available on :

<http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/highways-asset-management/>

#### 11. **Public Question Time**

Councillor Arthur Walpole noted Mark's question in relation to further information on the bridge works of which he was seeking information.

#### 12. **Shropshire Council Updates, Local News and Information**

Rick asked why there had not been so many public meetings and also asked for clarification on the minutes which included new members of the committee. Corrie explained that the notes needed amending to reflect that the additional parish councillors had attended as public not as members of the committee. A member of the public asked if there could be a roving microphone at the next meeting. Councillor Arthur Walpole asked David Higman and Ken Owen to update on their project briefly. Ken update on Oswestry Borderland Heritage website which had now received 11,000 hits. It recorded a variety of history, heritage and maps. Part of the project was trying to ensure history around railways and canals is captured. They were also trying to recover a truck from the Crickheath Tramway out of the canal as a feature which could be there along with a horse sculpture from the BIC.

#### 13. **Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed in due course

The meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_