

## Shrewton Parish Council Newsletter – Summer 2024

### The Parish Steward

Did you know that Shrewton has a dedicated Parish Steward? This resource is provided by Wiltshire Council Highways and the Steward spends two days per month carrying out general highway maintenance tasks in the village. Councillor Nick Sage is the dedicated point of contact and collates jobs for the Parish Steward to undertake during his visits, should you identify something that you think needs attention please contact the Shrewton Parish Council Clerk.

The types of jobs the Parish Steward can undertake include: -

1. Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers.
2. Hand clearing (not jetting) of blocked drainage gullies, culverts, pipes and pits.
3. Clearing storm debris from roads and footways.
4. Cleaning, straightening and securing of small road signs and street nameplates.
5. Hand cutting of grass and vegetation in visibility areas, hand treatment of weeds.
6. Hand clearance of encroaching growth and soils from footways.
7. Repair of small potholes in roads and on footways.

However, the Parish Steward can be called away at short notice for emergencies such as flooding, bad weather duties and fallen trees. He is also a road gritter driver so during winter months can be absent for longer periods of time.

Many issues can also be reported direct to Wiltshire Council via MyWilts online reporting - the dedicated app is a particularly effective and simple to use tool.

### Footpath Maintenance

Did you know that the Parish Council pays a contractor to regularly maintain footpaths around the village? Not every footpath in the wider Parish is covered but most within the actual village are. Sarah Tipping does this for us so if you happen to see her out and about do say hello!

### Grants by the Parish Council

When setting its annual budget the Parish Council allocates an amount for grants to be given to local groups or organisations to help them develop and further their work within the Parish. By the end of the 2023-24 budget year we had granted approximately £11k, we did have requests at the end of the year which we were unable to cover as they were in excess of our remaining budget. The maximum amount the Parish Council can allocate is decided by a formula linked to the number of voters residing in Shrewton at the beginning of the year so discretion is needed when making payments in terms of the amounts given to ensure an equitable distribution of grants. The grants policy explains how organisations can apply and for what sort of purposes grants can be made.

If you are involved in a local organisation that needs funds to support a particular event, purchase something, have a new development or initiative then feel free to complete one of our grant forms, or speak to one of the Parish Councillors. If we cannot provide the level of funding you need we may be able to advise you of other possible sources of funding. There are inevitably some restrictions on who can

qualify for a grant e.g. we cannot support national organisations working locally and private businesses. It is also important to note that we do not provide financial support for ongoing costs.

### Annual Meeting of the Electorate

The Parish Council is obliged to have an annual meeting of the electorate at which parishioners can ask questions of the Parish Council and its work. This year's event was on April 17 at the Sports and Social Club when we invited as many local groups and organisations as possible to talk about the work they undertake and of any additional help they may need - there were presentations by eighteen different local clubs and organisations. The minutes of this meeting can be found on our website.

Additionally, there was a presentation by Councillor Paul McKernan about whether the village should produce a **Neighbourhood Plan** – he gave a detailed description of what this would mean for the village and how its development could be helpful. There will be information on Facebook, the Shrewton PC website, social media and via posters in the village giving more information and seeking a response from villagers about how we might proceed - ***look out for these!***

### Waste Bins around the Village

The black waste bins that are placed around the village, usually fixed to posts, were purchased and installed by the Parish Council which also pays for their emptying. If you identify any issues or perhaps can identify a site where a new bin might be needed then please let us know. Unfortunately there have been some incidents of vandalism when the bins have been pulled off their mountings and the contents emptied and strewn about. Therefore, please help by informing the Parish Council if you witness an incident or come across an emptied bin.

## **Upcoming Events**

### Shrewton Showcase

A few years ago, we held a “Shrewton Showcase” event where local businesses and organisations set up stalls to explain their work and activities in the village – it was very well attended and gave useful information about what was happening locally and of the sort of services that village organisations are providing. We thought it was about time to hold another event of this nature and we will identify a date in the autumn for this to happen and will let people know details in due course.

### Screen on the Green

We are considering holding an event in September 2025 in the Rec grounds where a film will be shown for people to watch whilst having a picnic. There will be a bar and food outlets as well to make it a truly village fun event – More news on this to follow!

Shrewton Parish Council can be contacted at

[Shrewtonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Shrewtonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

All its contact details are also on the Parish Council's notice board.