

Parish Council Meeting of 28/11

'We don't buy crime': presentation by Sergeant Aston

This Police initiative aims at reducing theft and burglary. They offer Parish Councils a 'crime prevention' pack: every registered household is visited. The police provides a Smartwater 'pen' which makes a mark unique to the person who is registered.

If you choose to enter this scheme, you would be asked to put a drop of the liquid on each of up to 50 items that are precious to you (it can be animals, or even people!). This mark is invisible to the naked eye but will be revealed using a special torch.

If one of these objects is stolen, you advise the police of your loss, give them a description of the object, and tell them where you have marked it (for this purpose it is useful to keep a photo of where the mark is). The Police are in contact with second-hand dealers, go to auctions, etc, and will look out for it. If found, it is immediately confiscated with a direct loss to the vendor who is thereby wary of accepting goods that may have been stolen.

You are supplied with a sticker for your door or window, letting the would-be thief know that your house is under the scheme. Road signs are also provided in the area for the same purpose. Thieves are wary of such places and are deterred.

Although this scheme can be entered into privately, the Police offer packs to Parish Councils at a very reduced price (about £9 or £6 per household depending on the number of people interested, instead of £20 to £30).

The Parish Council will consider the financial implications of adopting the scheme, as in order to benefit from the full discount it would have to purchase enough kits for at least 80% of households, at a cost to the Parish of about £2,000. This scheme complements but is separate from Neighbourhood Watch.

Parish Council Meeting

8 councillors present + 6 members of the public

Matters arising from last meeting:

- Damage to Clunton river bridge and repainting of railings: not done. Highways department is to be reminded.
- Clunton burial ground: the hedges have been cut back satisfactorily; although this may have been too radical for some, they will soon grow again.
- BT telephone boxes: Cllr Lewis said that people from Kempton wished to retain the telephone box (with or without the phone) as it is a landmark for visitors to the village. Other areas are either unsure or want the box to be removed. The Clerk is to enquire from BT about progress on the matter and how to inform them of parishioners' wishes.

Report from Climate Change Subgroup: A drop-in event will take place on 25 January (see details in the Parish Post) for people to share ideas and concerns and register their wishes. There will be a questionnaire too.

A grant of £300 has been given by Aston on Clun village shop towards planting wildflowers in verges.

Planning

- *Lower House, Clunton:* Installation of fuel storage tank - no objection.
- *Ashbeds Cottage, Clunton Coppice:* alterations in connection with conversion of detached garage to annexe (amended description). Cllr N Morgan couldn't see what the 'amendment' consisted of, apart giving the application a different name.
- *Proposed Agricultural Building, Clunton:* granted.

- *The White Cottage Clunbury:* installation of sewage treatment plant – granted.
- A resident of Clunton whose application for planning consent on some of her ground had been refused some years ago, had been advised by Shropshire Council that, in order to strengthen her case, she could ask the Parish Council for a change from the current planning designation of 'countryside' to 'cluster'. All councillors agreed that at the last Parish Plan review, residents had opted emphatically for 'open countryside' and therefore the Parish Council could not change against the will of the residents.

Purslow War Memorial

The hedge needs to be cut back in order to add names (those of the 8 airmen who crashed on Burrow Hill); the British Legion will pay for the engraving.

The War Memorial will be cleaned with funds from Clunbury Church.

May more bollards be needed? Highways department to be consulted
Should it be listed? More information is needed to balance the pros and cons.

Roads

- The *poor state of the roads* was reported in all areas of the parish. Floods had been particularly bad. The usual access to the west part of Kempton was flooded and the back lane to Purslow had to be used instead but even this was badly flooded and still remains so although the level has dropped.
- *Floods:* some properties in Clunton have suffered; it is possible that the brook needs to be dredged and Shropshire Council will be asked to do so, but on this occasion it might not have improved the situation as the River Clun was so full that the brook backed up.
- *Clunton street lights* have been replaced and are working but the bill has still to be paid. Cllrs Morgan and Harding were thanked for their significant input on this.
- *Interactive speed signs:* Clunton and Twitchen have been looked at with a view to positioning poles to take the interactive signs. Residents in Clunton attended the meeting and asked for a review of the positioning of the signs. They felt there was a need for a sign just after the 30mph sign at the east end of the village. The signs cannot be sited in Kempton as the speed limit is only advisory (the Councillors were reminded of the difficulties in getting out of the village and asked if the speed limit could be made mandatory). There is still the possibility of sharing one sign with Clungunford and thus having use of the sign for only half the year. The Parish Council will find out the exact cost with a view to buying signs dedicated to the parish.
- Clunbury: a large branch has fallen onto cables. Cllr Hill has reported it to the Highways department.
- Status of byway at Clunton Coppice: this lane has no status; is it possible to stop motorbikes from using the part of the lane that is too narrow for other vehicles? Seemingly not.
- Sign at the bottom of Redwood Lane: delivery vehicles find it difficult to find the lane as it is not indicated. Would it be possible to have a sign showing the name of the lane?

Finances: Various bank accounts: About £7,640; Expenses: about £3,000 (including Clunton's lights).

Precept for next year: A decision will need to be taken before the end of January. A subgroup will meet on 9 January at 2pm at Cllr Harding's house to have a look at the finances and the cost of different projects.

Next meeting: 16 January, 8pm, Kempton Village Hall.

Gisèle Wall