

NEWTOWN



EDSTASTON

RODEN

Annual Report

Wem Rural Parish Council May 2023 to April 2024

Thanks to all of you that attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th April where the key topic was what we can all do to help ourselves and West Mercia Police with regard to crime in the parish. Despite North Shropshire being a generally low crime area, we all know that crimes or suspected crimes often go unreported due to challenges actually contacting the police in a timely manner or dissatisfaction with the response. However it is our responsibility to help ourselves by persevering and making sure that the police know about every incident as they can't allocate their resources unless they have the data from us to inform their behaviour.

It has been a busy year on the Parish Council, there are too many events and activities to mention them all so I must pick out a few highlights. We've had a full complement of councillors all year who continue to invest their time and energy for all our benefit for which I personally thank them for their dedication to public service.

We were reaccredited with the Quality Gold Award for local councils, a national programme that encourages councils to go the extra mile and expand their activities beyond the statutory ones into community engagement and consultation. We're proud to continue to be one of a relatively small number of councils that are recognised as achieving this. We have also implemented a new cloud based accounting system

that improves our monthly accounting cycle, provides better management reports and makes the preparation of our full year financial accounts much quicker, which saves time and money.

Some of the organisations across our community that we have supported in a variety of ways include Wem Parish Paths Partnership, Newtown Community Recreation Association, The Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery, Edstaston Village Hall and the Wem Area Climate Action group and we have just completed the allocation of grants for 2024/5 so there will be even more names in next years' report.

One thing that hasn't progressed as quickly and positively as I had hoped is the project to deploy better broadband across the parish. I have raised the issue with our MP and I hope that there will be some good news this year.

Of course there are the perennial subjects that are raised by you such as potholes, speeding, fly tipping and local crime and we continue to inform and chase the relevant authorities to resolve or improve them. We've picked litter at the Spring Clean, breathed new life into a long running project to support and expand our local businesses, organised a huge event in Wem Town Hall for International Women's Day and more closely aligned some aspects of our business plan to address climate change priorities.

If you have any questions on the report or in general please contact me directly or Helen McCabe our clerk.

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For further information
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LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD



Annual Financial Report 2023/24

Payments	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Budget & Res C/Fwd 2024/25
General Admin			
Clerk Salary / Allowance / Emp NI	£12,930.20	£11,308.43	£13,200.00
Admin Expenses	£1,541.97	£2,421.04	£3,000.00
Audit	£200	£200.00	£400.00
Newsletter	£1,587.70	£1,587.70	£5,000.00
Website	£139.75	£139.75	£500.00
Insurance	£747.94	£747.94	£900.00
Subscriptions	£731.11	£731.11	£1,050.00
Training	£690.00	£690.00	£1,500.00
Elections	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
Other			
Community Plan Actions	-£423.76	£0.00	£9,546.68
Neighbourhood Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£9,278.43
cPADS	£165.00	£600.00	£500.00
Grants and Donations	£0.00	£7,213.00	£5,000.00
General Power of Competence	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Business Networking	£0.00	£916.67	£1,000.00
Community-Led Housing Grant	£15,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
Repairs	£0.00	£0.00	£400.00
Planters	£590.00	£0.00	£200.00
Play Equipment Inspection	£70.00	£75.00	£85.00
Edstaston Village Hall	£0.00	£0.00	£7,648.05
Community Account	£0.00	£0.00	£40.00
Total Excl. VAT	£34,269.91	£28,724.00	£59,546.16
VAT	£677.18	£1,061.99	£1,000.00
Total Incl. VAT	£34,947.09	£29,786.48	£60,546.16

Receipts	Actual 2022/23	Actual 2023/24	Budget & Res C/Fwd 2024/25
Precept	£26,844.00	£28,926.00	£30,083.04
Interest	£71.26	£564.56	£100.00
VAT Refund	£1,189.38	£677.18	£1,000.00
Neighbourhood Fund	£6,722.35	£0.00	£0.00
Grants	£1000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Community Account	£105.00	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£118.40	£0.00
Sub Total	£34,931.99	£31,286.14	£32,183.04
Transfer from/to Reserves	£15.10	-£1,499.68	£28,363.12
Total	£34,947.09	£29,786.48	£60,546.16

Balances as at 31 March 2024 Reconciled Bank Balances

Current Account	5,589.29
Deposit Account	46,162.56
Community Account	40
Grant Account	873.90
Net Assets	£52,665.75

Represented by Reserves

Balance as at 1 April 2023	51,091.09
Less excess payments over receipts	£1,498.85
Less unrepresented cheques	75.00
Balance as at 31 March 2024	£52,665.75

Reserve Breakdown as at 31 March 2024

<i>Earmarked Reserves</i>	
Legal Fees	£500.00
Websitea	£500.00
Neighbourhood Funds	£9,278.43
Community Plan Actions	£9,546.68
Community Grants	£2,817.16
Community Led Housing	£0.00
Edstaston Village Hall	£7,646.05
CPADS	£405.00
Community Account	£40.00
Sub Total	£30,733.32
Contingency	£21,932.43
TOTAL:	£52,665.75