



A Changing World

When the Council produced their last annual report (issue 26) we were all unaware that it would be some years before the next issue. Virtual meetings and working from home became the norm, those changes did have some benefit, saving travel, fuel etc. A big plus was a lack of traffic in Pant due to lock downs which gave us enjoyment of bird song and peaceful walks. It gave a snapshot of what our environment should be and the emergency of our changing climate was brought into focus. The Parish Council have made this challenge a priority. First, the Clerk attended training, then a CCE Policy was produced, and was published in 2022. This covers, transport use, managing council owned assets, use of energy and resources, land management and flood prevention. The Policy was formally adopted to be reviewed annually. It is on the website – www.Llanymynech.org Reference is made to the Policy when responding to planning applications. In March 2023, the Parish Council passed a Motion to support the Parliamentary Bill on Climate and Ecology, a Bill first introduced in 2020. If passed, the target is that by 2030 nature in the UK will be visibly and measurably on the path of recovery.

The Changing Council

At the 2021 Election, 3 long serving Councillors decided to retire. Peter McConville - 27 years, Janet Smith - 44 years and Dilys Gaskill - 30 years. In May 2022 Cllr Mark Vickers passed away, he had been Vice Chairman, always a helpful and conscientious Councillor. We were all shocked and saddened to learn of Dilys' passing in February 2023. She was a passionate promoter of a Bypass for Pant and Llanymynech, as well as a very enthusiastic supporter of projects in the Parish and will be a great loss. We now have 4 new Councillors, Alice Bond, Suzanne Brown, Colleen Hadfield and David Catmur-Lloyd. Rob Kynaston was elected and served for 2 years, but had to resign due to his work commitments.

Preserving an English Wildflower Meadow

In 1938 the Council purchased land in Pant, one of the fields was a former water meadow which was rented out for hay production or grazing. It was never ploughed or artificially fertilised, and as a result it contains many wild flowers. Severn Trent took possession for 2 years to lay a resilience pipeline, and duly paid compensation. It was then agreed to preserve the field, known as Rockwell Meadow, for its ecological value. A Survey was commissioned, which is shown on the Council website, followed by a Management Plan. This will enable study days, and conserve, as well as increase the diversity of this special place. It is hoped to form a Friends Group to assist in the project.

Public Footpaths and the Parish Paths Partnership

The Parish has a wealth of public footpaths, and used to hold organised footpath walks. Many of the paths have become overgrown, and need to be cleared so that walkers can enjoy them, and in so doing keep them clear. The Council Chairman has led with the formation of a Parish Paths Partnership, between the Parish Council and Shropshire Council, known as 3 P's. A meeting was held in February and the Group was formally organised with Harvey Morgan the Officer from Shropshire Council. This enables the volunteers to be insured and helped with a small grant for equipment. Anyone interested can join the Group by contacting the Clerk, Vivien Byrne. Large maps of the Parish paths are displayed in Pant Memorial Hall and Llanymynech Village Hall. A Parish Footpath Walk will be held on Sunday 30th April 23 commencing at 10.30am from the Cross Guns Pub in Pant.

Warm Spaces, Electricity Costs and Community Support

The Council have supported the initiative to help people in the cost of living crisis. Encouraging the Warm Spaces, where people could spend time in the day, saving on their heating costs. A Donation was given to the Community Café organised in the Llanymynech church hall once a month. The worst impact has been on the cost of electricity, the monthly invoice for lighting increased by over 355%. The Council had already converted many lights to energy saving led's from the money accrued from the levy on building development, and will continue as funds allow to change the remaining 18 lights.

Budget and the Precept

The 2021/22 Accounts were audited by JDH Business Services and PKF Littlejohn. The Precept for the year was set at £26,175 which meant a rate for a band D property in the Parish would be £38.51pa. £158 was paid towards the maintenance and repair of the village clock on St. Agatha's Church.