

# Our Parish Matters

The newsletter for Cockshutt Cum Petton residents

Issue 31 summer 2020

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*Welcome* .. to the summer edition of the Parish newsletter.

Dear Residents,

Where to start! It has been a difficult time for everyone over the past few months, but I have to say that people I have spoken to (at a distance) have been in good spirits, the good weather I think, has been a blessing, and we are so lucky to be living in such a beautiful part of the country. As the lockdown eases, we are all hoping that things will start to return to some kind of normality, but there is no doubt that the consequences of Covid will be with us for some time to come.

As you would expect, a lot of the usual activities and events in the parish were cancelled, and that is also the case for our parish meetings, although councillors were still active and communicating when necessary. On 16th July we held a "Virtual" PC meeting via Zoom.

I have asked our usual contributors to present articles for this edition, and although some groups will not have been active during lockdown, it is an opportunity to stay in touch and to talk about any plans for the future.

We are still only 5 councillors, Petton is still not represented, and there are a further 2 vacancies for Cockshutt. I know, I hear you say, that I mention this in every edition of the newsletter, but please contact myself, our clerk Lynda McCormack, or any councillor if you are interested in serving the community. All contact details in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the many residents who have been so helpful to the vulnerable and elderly throughout this crisis, it has been especially difficult for them.

One piece of good news, the installation of the village hall patio has begun, this being equally funded by the parish council and village hall. When the hall reopens this will be an asset in attracting potential hirers to what is, one of the best halls in the county!

Finally, as the lockdown regulations are relaxed, please continue to take every precaution, avoid large gatherings, and wear a mask when necessary. We are not out of the woods yet!

Stay Safe, *John Cooling,*

Chair, Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

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## *Parish Plan Update*

The Parish Plan was adopted by the Parish Council in June 2019 and set out the key concerns of the community and future aims, in the form of an action plan. The Plan is therefore a tool that can be used by the Parish Council and many other groups or individuals within the community to shape the future of the parish. Progress on the plan and discussion of future priorities was to take place at the annual parish meeting in April 2020. In light of the current situation we have the following updates to share with our community:

There are currently 13 homes at various stages of construction in line with SamDev requirements. The Meadows estate has been adopted and the street lighting is now the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Fibre broadband is available in Cockshutt for those who wish to invest in superfast speeds. Residents of Petton can choose to try Airband or SWS services for 'Wireless Broadband' with download speeds of up to 40Mb available. Other parts of the Parish may also be able to get a signal for wireless services, but all properties require an individual survey from the provider. The Leaking Tap pub in Cockshutt has been listed as an 'Asset of Community Value' it is open and the shop has opened as 'That Bakers Treat' – Please do support these businesses if you can.

Although the Millennium Hall has been closed during lockdown and many events have been cancelled, volunteers will always be needed to step forward and help on organising committees as lockdown restrictions are eased.

You will find the link to the Parish Plan from the home page of the Parish Council website.

*Penny Inglis,* Steering Group Secretary.

## Parish Council

The annual audit for Cockshutt cum Petton for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 has now been concluded. Any elector has the right to inspect the accounts and annual return, a copy of which can be viewed on our website.

For details visit:- <https://www.cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/financial-information/2020-annual-returns/>

## Environmental Maintenance Scheme

The Parish Council decided earlier this year that it would like to run an Environmental Maintenance Scheme in the Parish as part of an initiative sponsored by Shropshire Council. The idea of the scheme is that the Parish Council with its local knowledge, decide where minor maintenance of the County's highway assets would benefit from local intervention and arrange for that work to be done directly. The maximum annual spend will be £3,000 of which half is to be provided by the Parish Council with the remainder subject to a grant application to Shropshire which we have successfully made.

Clearly this scheme is intended for maintenance items of a minor nature as such as clearing gullies and drains to eradicate standing water, improving visibility of road signs and removing vegetation that is obstructing visibility, litter picking and generally making our roads a bit safer for local people. It is intended that the work would cover all of the minor roads in the Parish, but not the main A528 Shrewsbury to Ellesmere road, unless it is demonstrated that it is clearly safe to do so. If this first year of the scheme is successful it would be our intention to continue it in future years.

In order to do this work, we need to appoint a contractor for this year's scheme which we plan to do by tender/negotiation. We would like to appoint someone local, either from within the Parish or nearby. If you or someone you know could be interested and has the relevant equipment & experience to be that contractor please contact the Clerk to the Council by email:

[clerk@cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk)

There is a fuller description of the scheme on the Parish Council website in the section on Meeting Papers for 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020, titled "App.3 EMG Protocol"

*Cllr. Ian Webb*

## Cockshutt cum Petton Horticultural Show

Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic situation, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel the horticultural show this year. However, we still would welcome more people to help run our show next year.

We only have a few meetings a year so apart from the night before and the actual day of the Show, it is not a big commitment to make, but the more of us to do it the easier it is. No experience needed just willing helpers.

## A Note from your Vicar

Hello everybody,

The Coronavirus is still bringing many changes to our world and to our personal lives.

I'm so proud of all that Cockshutt and Petton residents have done through supporting those who have been vulnerable or lonely through lockdown so far. I've heard from a few people how well all of this has worked. I hope as we come out of lockdown that the friendships that have been forged will continue, that the Petton and Cockshutt Communities will continue to be just as supportive of those in need of a little more TLC. Perhaps a special mention should go to Ewan who, at the beginning, was shopping for 11 people! I know, through the messages I've had, that a lot of people want to offer him a huge, 'THANK YOU!'

Churches have started to open for Private Prayer and Holy Communion. Please look at the Notice Boards for the dates in August and September. We continue with our Facebook Livestreamed Eucharist on my Facebook page, Sundays at 12 noon. Live-streaming has seen around a 400% growth in those attending our worship, so the Church PCC at Cockshutt are looking at what we can do for the future. They are hoping to secure a grant that will help them update the church building so that it will be fit for the 21st Century. More details will follow.

Our buildings are closed but we are still  
**THE CHURCH IN ACTION.**

Anybody in the two villages who would like to make a regular donation to the work and witness of their churches please contact me in the first instance and I'll put you in touch with our Treasurers.

With my love and my prayers

*Rev'd Maureen xxx*

## Cockshutt Parish Paths (P3)

During the Covid 19 pandemic the Cockshutt Parish Paths Partnership (P3) group is not walking.

However, I am leading an informal group of walkers on a Wednesday morning. We walk for an hour or so, keeping our social distance, assessing the rights of way around Cockshutt.

If you would like to join us or if you have any queries regarding the rights of way around Cockshutt please contact me, Janet Hankey on 01939 270565 or [janethankey@yahoo.com](mailto:janethankey@yahoo.com)

*Janet Hankey*

## Cockshutt Community Speed Watch

During lock down when the roads were much quieter than usual the speed of the cars coming through the village was disproportionately high which was quite worrying for a number of residents. The Speed watch group was given notice by West Mercia Police that we could start operating from May 15<sup>th</sup> provided there was a 2-metre distance between the team members, we also took the precaution of "antibacing" the equipment before and after use. We have 6 members who can come out on duty now and we have been running sessions 5 days a week at various time and places around the village. As a result, we have seen a drop in the speed of vehicles coming through the village with of course some notable exceptions. All we ask is that all villagers drive at 30mph all the time they are within the 30-mph limit, this does of course mean slowing down to 30mph before the sign not after it, but if all the villagers do this then they will essentially create a rolling 30mph speed limit and make the village a much safer place.

The highest recorded speeds so far have been a 53mph and a 51mph with quite a large percentage in the 40-50 mph range of which would be certain death or very serious injury to any child or pensioner (or anyone else) who happened to get into their path.

If you can spare an hour or two a month at a time to suit you and would like to join Speed watch please contact us.

*Loft Longhurst* (Speed-Watch Co-ordinator)



## Cockshutt CE Primary School & Nursery

The past few months have been an interesting and challenging time for children and our community. We have been able to live out our value of 'compassion' in so many ways. The children have engaged with online learning in a brilliant way, this was an instant development as soon as school shut and fortunately due to our use of technology in school the children adapted very quickly. We have missed our local community and even with most children back in school for the last two weeks of term it was a very quiet end of term - not what we are used to. We look forward to September when we start back to hopefully a more 'normal' way of working. We would like to thank you all for your words of support and kindness during very difficult days. If you would like to be more involved in school life we are currently recruiting Governors, please see the school website for more information. Until we meet again stay safe.

*Mandy Jones*, Head Teacher

## GP Telephone and Online Appointments - Here to Stay?

Earlier this year Healthwatch Shropshire asked people to share their experiences of accessing General Practice appointments and using their local Pharmacy. The report has now been published.

As a result of the pandemic many services across health and social care have changed how they are delivered and new ones have been developed. In order to offer services as safely as possible people have been offered appointments over the 'phone or online by video or using an online form. Healthwatch Shropshire is asking people to share their views and experiences of this new way of working.

Lynn Cawley, Chief Officer of Healthwatch Shropshire told us, 'The changes that we have seen in the way patients attend some of their appointments because of Covid-19 are likely to be here to stay. We know that the NHS Long Term Plan commits to reducing face-to-face outpatient appointments by up to a third over the next five years.'

We really want to know how patients have found these new methods so that we can ensure that the patient voice is heard as the new systems are extended across health care. We are asking people to contact us by phone on 01743 342183 or via our website [www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk) (Have Your Say) where people will also find our General Practice report.'



## HALL

Committee members have been asked many times, "When will the hall be open again?" We received an extremely lengthy official document outlining the measures that must be put in place before we could re-open. After careful consideration we agreed, regrettably, that these measures could not be managed with the limited funds at our disposal and huge demands on a very small group of volunteers, several of whom need to continue 'shielding'.

All July bookings were cancelled weeks ago and there is usually very little activity in the hall during August. It is hoped that, by the beginning of September, we will be able to hold a committee meeting to consider re-opening from then. The AGM, postponed from May, will have to be held as soon as possible after re-opening.

Sadly, several committee members, some in key roles, have, for a variety of reasons, given notice that they intend to resign at that AGM. New volunteers are urgently needed if the hall is to continue to be available to both local people and the wider community.

If you could help in any way, or want any further information, please telephone the hall number below

## Playground

The government has decided that children's playgrounds may be re-opened from 4 July. Unfortunately, as with the hall itself, the requirements for this to be done safely, involving cleaning, supervision etc. are beyond the capability of the current committee. With great regret, therefore, it has been decided that the playground must remain closed. The fastenings used to secure the gates have been broken several times to gain access: we appeal to people to respect our attempts to keep our children, and thus their families and other villagers, safe.

## Goal posts

A couple of years ago the hall committee, concerned that the goal posts on the playing field were old and could become unsafe, sourced funding for new posts. Unfortunately, delivery of the posts coincided with the demise of the football club! The posts were stored in the hall corridor (the only place they will fit) where they have remained ever since, causing considerable inconvenience. Attempts have been made on several occasions to install them but each time either ground conditions, weather or volunteer problems prevented this. Would anyone be willing to help? If so, please contact us on 01939 270816, or email: [bookings@cockshuttvillage.com](mailto:bookings@cockshuttvillage.com)

## Useful Contact Details

### PARISH COUNCIL

#### Cockshutt Ward

Julian Bowers	07759 985835
John Cooling (Chair)	01939 270309
Pam Edwards	01939 270255
Simon Lewis	07792 218252
Ian Webb	01939 270265
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

#### Petton Ward

Vacancy

#### Shropshire Councillor

Brian Williams 01939 234198

## HALL

To Book the Millennium Hall: -  
Rosemary Milns 01939 270816  
For information about the hall: -  
Loft Longhurst 01939 270888  
Gill Webb 01939 270265

#### Cockshutt C of E Primary School & Nursery

School Office (term time only) 01939 270616  
Email: [admin.cockshutt@shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin.cockshutt@shropshire.sch.uk)

Our Parish Matters is produced by:  
Cockshutt cum Petton Parish Council

For further information, please contact the Clerk: Lynda McCormack on 01948 663281

Email: [clerk@cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.cockshuttcupetton-pc.gov.uk)

## Library Van

The library van visits Cockshutt regularly parking in the lay-by / bus stop near the church, from 14.35 to 15.50 on "Black Bin Week" Wednesdays. This service will be reinstated post lockdown on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Post Office

Don't forget the Post Office is open at the Village Hall from 10:00am until 1:00pm on Tuesdays for all your banking and postal needs.



## Home Delivery Service

We are looking at setting up deliveries to Cockshutt to help those who are unable to get out as much due to covid19.

We would like suggested days/times from the local community as to which suits them to have deliveries.

Laura - 01691 772318 and mobile 07385130063  
St. Martins Service Station SY11 3ER

## Benefice

Reverend Maureen Read  
Telephone 01939 270759  
Email - [maureen.read09@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.read09@btinternet.com)  
The Rectory,  
Shrewsbury Road,  
Cockshutt SY12 0JQ

The website for Cockshutt & Petton Churches  
<https://meresandmeadows.com/>

## How do I report it?

- Potholes
- Dog Fouling
- Overgrown verges and hedges
- Litter problems and fly tipping
- Dead animal on the road
- Vandalism or anti-social behaviour
- A stray or lost dog
- Low supplies in salt/grit bins

Contact Shropshire Council customer services on 0345 678 9000  
or email: [customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk) or  
report it on-line at <https://shropshire.gov.uk/report/>

## Coronavirus (COVID19)

For information visit <https://www.gov.uk/> or  
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/> and follow the links from  
the homepage.

This newsletter can be made available in large print and audio tape. Please call 01948 663281 for further details.



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