

MONTHLY UPDATE



The Parish Council meets formally each month. Here are some of the things discussed at the meeting at the end of November. The detailed minutes are available on our website.

An HS2 representative briefed us on the latest developments before the formal Council meeting. In brief, new work has been suspended for two years but major work already started will be continued until completion. It will probably be 2025 before HS2's restrictions on our roads are lifted.

Two people had put themselves forward for the final vacant position on the Council but as neither was able to attend the meeting, the item was adjourned.

Our County Councillor, Janet Eagland told us road works on Hay End Lane should be completed inside three months and that flooding in Jordan Close has been dealt with by clearing tree roots from drains. She asked if the Parish Council would support St Stephen's Church's efforts to provide a 'warm space' over the winter months. She closed by telling us that the Sunday bus service should commence in the New Year and that Cadent are delaying the start of road works in Cappers Lane until the new year.

Next was setting a budget and precept for 2024. The budget was set after bank balances showed healthy reserves which will cover inflation and additional expenditure. We were therefore able to keep residents' contributions to the Parish Council at 2023's level.

Expenditure in November ranged from £3824 on salaries, tax and national insurance contributions to £16.33 for phone line rental. Total expenditure for the month was £8886.46. Reserves stand at £235,776 some of which will be deployed on a range of projects in the coming year.

Planning matters covered applications on continuation of HS2 work on the Streethay slip road and the installation of air handling units at a factory in Halifax Avenue. We did not object or comment on these applications.

General interest - LDC Cabinet member, Cllr Alex Farrell will be attending our January meeting to discuss planning issues in and around Fradley, including the new Curborough Brooks development. We have set money aside to repair the fence in front of the Youth Centre. Wildflowers planted by the Beavers have been accidentally cut down by our contractors - our Environment Group will remedy this. £20,000 has been committed to improving grounds maintenance across Fradley and quotes are being gathered. The Project Group has submitted a detailed plan to LDC outlining proposals for £125,000 of local improvements.

An independent contractor's inspection of the Hay End Lane Play Area revealed several minor issues that will need our attention before next Spring.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 21st December 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

