Acton Burnell Parish Council Tues 10th Nov 2026
Shrops Cllr Report

Overall

Rally -ABPC comments?

Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee - chaired by Cllr Ed Potter - will be reviewing the Rally at their evening meeting on Thurs 12th Nov. As flagged the overall Council mood seems to be that the Rally has potential to be a welcome contributor to the Shropshire calendar and visitor economy - but that some improvements could be made in terms of choice of closed stages and local arrangements. The committee has been inviting views, I'm on this Scrutiny Committee so please do feed any final thoughts to me asap.

Meole Brace Park and Ride reinstated

As I expect parish councillors know, the MB PnR service has been reinstated - following pressure from many Burnell residents and councillors including myself. I'm told the government transport budget reduction which prompted the service cut has been made up by extra parking income. The service is now on a 3 year contract with a new company Hotspur, with buses every 20 minutes from 720am (the bus drivers approve, telling me 'every 20 minutes should be fine').

New A49 Forum?

I and other local county councillors are considering setting up a small forum of county and parish councillors along the A49 between Ludlow and the A5, to discuss priorities along the route and lobby Shropshire Council/National Highways. The plan would be to meet quarterly, each time at a different location along the route, Plan is for a first meeting in next couple of months to assess interest.

Planning Reforms

As you may know planning rules are boing further amended to increase the scope of decisions officers can take and to reduce the influence of councillors. The South Shrops Planning Committee - which used to meet monthly - has therefore met only once in the last six months, and even then only to review one planning application. From 31st Oct county councillors ability to 'call in' specific applications is removed by national law, I am awaiting further information on what that means for parish councils too. I trust Parish Councils are being offered training, if not please shout!

Councillors' Allowances

As is normal, Councillors recently voted to increase their allowances by the same annual % as staff have received. I decided however not to accept the increase, in recognition of the Council's grave financial situation and the very hard work many are doing to try to rescue that position.

Local Parish issues

Very pleased that Ben Walker will be joining us.

Slightly worryingly however, I'm not aware of anything else new at the moment. Condition of roads remains poor of course, and will worsen through the winter. We've been spared major flooding for now, but similarly that will worsen. As we all know it's sadly very hard to get Highways to come out and fix things, even though we've had the Cabinet Member Cllr Vasmer out recently.

For me doing something about the roads always gets put off to the next day - how about, if someone's willing, agreeing to put aside a half-day to drive round with me, photographing and reporting the very worst potholes or stretches of road? We could pick a 'Top Ten' - or rather 'Worst Ten - stretches of road, and push on those?