

SHOCKLACH OVIATT AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

Notes from the Village Meeting of the Council held on **WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026 at SHOCKLACH PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Present: Cllr G Bowles (Chair), Cllr J White, Cllr I Carr, Cllr J Davies, Cllr L Stopforth, Cllr K MacKenzie.

In Attendance: C Taylor (Clerk), Borough Cllr A Waddelove, guest speaker A Loven and approximately 30 members of the public.

CHAIRMANS Annual Report

Firstly, I would like to **WELCOME** everyone to this year's village meeting, reflecting on the work, challenges, and achievements of our Parish Council over the past 12 months.

Your Parish Councillors are myself Greg Bowles, John White, Iain Carr, Jennifer Davies, Lesley Stopforth, Kathryn MacKenzie, and our **Clerk** Claire Taylor.

The PC would like to **thank Mrs McKenzie Head Teacher and Mrs Mel Gilbert Head of School** for the use of the school for PC and Village Meetings.

Community and Engagement: This year, we have continued to try and strengthen our connection with residents through open parish council meetings, to which all are welcome to attend, and dates are shown within the Yellow Pages, website and noticeboard.

We will soon have **improved communication** via our new website, that is due to go live shortly. This website will improve access for residents wishing to contact the parish council and will also allow for better sharing of information with residents. Going forward, there will be one new email address for use direct to the Clerk.

The Parish Council **thanks Ward Councillor Adrian Wadedelove** for his continuous support of our Parish Council and the residents of our Parish.

The **involvement and participation from parishioners** have been important in shaping the priorities of our parish council over the past year.

and we will welcome Alex Loven who will give you an update at the end of this report on his proposals for the Bull.

Public Access and Roads; As a Parish Council we have continued to work with CWAC to get remedial works completed as soon as possible and to the highest quality:

- **Maintenance and enhancement of public footpaths and Bridleways.** This year we have worked with CWAC to get sections of the Bishop Bennet Way re-surfaced to make it safer for all users (this between Castletown Lane and Wetreins Lane).
- **Footpaths**, eventually in June/July of last year we achieved the repair of Little Green footpath, which had collapsed and was unsafe for walkers.
- Trying to keep your **local roads** maintained and safe for everyone. This is not easy as CWAC have very limited funds for the repairing of roads, and as you will all be aware most roads need to be re-surfaced, but we have managed to get sections repaired that caused high risk to users.
- **Road Drains**, again working with CWAC we have managed to get sections of the road drains cleaned out which has reduced flooding at local sections that are prone to flooding
- **Support for local groups** and events that help bring our community together. However, we do have very limited funds within our Parish Council.
- **Hare Coursing** we have again seen hare coursing happening within the area and we appreciate the response from the **Rural Crime Team** in trying to catch and stop this happening.

Financial;

The Council has managed its precept budget prudently, ensuring value for money while investing in projects that deliver long-term benefits such as the new website which is required to comply with government legislation. All Parish Councils are having to abide with this and have a website ending with a gov.uk (our new website will be <http://shocklachoviatt-pc.gov.uk> .

We have also worked closely with Councillor Adrain Waddelove your local Ward Councillor who has helped in getting works completed, reducing the burden on local taxpayers and the need for us to increase our precept further.

Looking Ahead In the coming year, we will focus on:

- Maintaining and Improvement to roads, bridleways and footpaths within our parish
- Exploring sustainable and environmentally friendly initiatives for our parish. The continued protection of hedge rows and verges so important to wildlife.
- We will continue to act on matters raised and concerns over planning from the residents of our parish along with any other issues raised.

Guests

I would now like to invite Alex Loven to speak and give us an update on his proposals for the Bull and I am sure you all know Adrian Waddelove Ward Councillor.

Finally, Acknowledgements; I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our Clerk, Ward Councillor Adrian Waddelove, for the continued work for the Parish and Alex Loven for updating us on the Bull which is exciting, Clare Regnart for her hard work litter picking within our Parish, and the school and the staff of the school for allowing us to hold our meetings here.

We also thank our residents for their ongoing support, ideas, and commitment to making Shocklach Oviatt and District Parish a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

Thank You for attending and we are open to any questions you may have ... Our Annual Parish Council meeting will follow on after this meeting and you are all welcome to stay.

PRESENTATION BY GUEST SPEAKER ALEX LOVEN: an update on the work at The Bull.

Alex expressed how pleased he was to have moved to such a beautiful area and suggested “Who wouldn’t want to live here!”

He indicated the field drain work that he has done in the hope of alleviating some of the regular flooding points on Worthenbury Road.

Moving on to the pub, his view is that he wants to improve The Bull for the long-term and does not want to provide a “quick fix”. It will be a major project as there is much work that needs doing. He does not expect it to be a money- making project but feels it is important to the village to secure The Bull’s existence into the future as the only local meeting place. He hopes that the pub will be there for the next 100 years.

He would expect it to run as a free house and be special enough to attract clients from a wide area. The project is in its very initial stages. He has engaged architects to produce plans but is anxious that the residents come to him with suggestions for making the project viable.

Proposed so far are ideas for separate bar and dining areas, a coffee shop which might attract parents after dropping their children at school and passing cyclists in need of a rest and refuel and an outside garden area.

It is too early to suggest a timeline especially as the various planning and building permissions are currently under strain and he expects long delays.

Comments from the floor expressed concern over the already bad parking on the main road being exacerbated by extra traffic visiting the Bull.

It was also pointed out that Shocklach desperately needs a communal place to meet and socialise. The prospect of The Bull returning was of great interest to Shocklach residents and Alex was able to spend a considerable time in the hall discussing the project with individual attendees.

Cllr Bowles thanked Alex for his time and for sharing his plans ... and wished him well with his plans for The Bull and its reopening.

DATE OF THE NEXT VILLAGE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:

MAY 2027 AT 7.00PM at Shocklach Primary School.

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