

NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 1st MAY 2013

PRESENT: Councillors: S Bolton (Chair), J Cooper, A Marshall
M Boardman, C Pate
District Councillors: R Wright, D Johnston
County Councillor: D Johnston
Clerk : P Routly
and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies for absences

Cllr Kishor.

2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2012 were unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

3. Chairman's report

The Chairman made the following report :-

This is now my sixth report to you as your Chairman. Your council have had various issues to deal with over the last 12 months; I will try and outline these in the following summaries.

Planning applications

Usually the majority of work of your council's time has been centred around the issues to do with planning applications with a small amount of discussion on others, this means we can make a valued response on your behalf to planning applications. We had (14) this year as apposed to (22) the year before, which is quite a lot lower then in previous years. Some of the applications are very straight forward and easy to deal with, others are much more complex and time consuming. They also can affect our communities in so many ways now and in the future, so it is very important to be vigilant.

The Flint Hall developments have been and still are of great concern to your councillors, to the point that District Councillor Roger Wright helped with the aid of our Parish Clerk to set up a meeting with Stratford upon Avon District Council Planning Department on the 22nd March 2012. Those present were Robert Weeks (Head of Planning Department), Ron Goodyer (Senior Enforcement Officer), Roger Wright and Sue Main (District Councillors), Judy Cooper and Myself (As your Parish Councillors). After a great deal of discussion between us all which lasted over two and a half hours to which I asked that 'may we have a copy of the minutes of this meeting', but I am afraid none were forthcoming.

We your Councillors have been very consistent on all matters concerning Flint Hall, but I feel others have not, hence the continuing problems we still have.

I feel sure that Councillor Roger Wright will have more to say on this matter in the District Councillors report.

Flooding

This is an issue that is of great concern to many of the villagers. Just to give you a brief description of what have happened since the middle of November 2012, this is as follows: -

In the middle of November the drain cleaning lorry came through Ashorne and cleaned out the drains along the roadside. They spent most of a day doing this and did a very thorough job.

At the end of November we had the first lot of floods, (the situation I feel would have been much worse if we had not got clean drains) however this flooding left a lot of debris and silt in 2 main areas, The Green and outside the entrance to 'Crabtree' allotments.

This was only cleaned up at the end February 2013, by then we had had two more flooding situations.

I believe the silt is now still laying in the bottom of the pipework and now is hard, which means it is blocking off part of the drains pipework and why it is still causing a problem. To help resolve this I suggested we set up a sub committee to try and find a way forward. The water and silt that comes down from Ashorne Hill and over Crabtree tree allotments has been one issue. So part of the sub committee have met up with Mr Willie Carroll (owner of most of 'Crabtree' allotments). Where it was agreed to dig a trench at the top of the field (under the Goss) to act as a bund (filter). This has been done, so we await the next storm to see if this has helped.

Councillor Johnston is in the process of setting up a meeting with Michael Green the Floods Officer for the County Council.

Woozley Brook

As I am sure you will have noticed that all the culverts around the Woozley Bridge have been cleaned out and this is hoped to help to stop some of the flooding that occurred in this area in recent times.

I wish to thank Councillor David Johnson for his help in bringing this to fruition.

Bus Stop

Our County Council has assured us, that there is to be a new bus stop point (with sign on post) positioned just as you come into Newbold Pacey from Wellesbourne and before the bends and 'White Oaks'. This is likely to be carried out at some point during this year.

Broadband Champion

Our parishes 'Broadband Champion is Gary Such of 'Hinton Cottage, Ashorne, he has agreed to take on this roll of co-ordinating issues on this project.

Welcome Packs

The village welcome packs are handed out to new residents to our communities, to which I would like to thank Councillor Judy Cooper and the "Welcome Pack Committee" for their work over the last year, in distributing the pack to all new residents within our parish council's area.

Footpaths in our Parish

As I am sure you all know, I helped in the setting up of a small footpath working party of (7) people some (4) years ago. We as a group have designated paths to look after, then in addition to this we from time to time during the last twelve months have cleared badly overgrown paths of brambles, nettles etc (Like Bridleway SD326 from Woozeley Bridge to Southam Lane and the footpath above the 'Holloway'). We have also been able to obtain and install (2) new wooden kissing gates on footpath SD115 (through the allotments), which I personally believe look more in keeping with the village scene. If there is anyone else in our communities that would like to take part in helping look after our footpaths and bridleways, please do contact me for further information. Lastly I and the rest of your Parish Councillors would like to thank all of the helpers with this project for their hard work and help in preserving our communities.

Diamond Jubilee.

Your council helped in the setting up of a committee, to organize the celebrations of Our Queen's Diamond Jubilee in May.

The celebrations were a great success with various events taking place over the Diamond Jubilee Bank holiday weekend, one of which included a wonderful street party, to which a picture of this has been put up in the village hall.

The parish managed to raise approximately £2000 towards the purchase of (19) trees which are now planted and sprouting into leaf along the road out of Ashorne towards the cross roads, as one of the parishes 'Lasting Legacies'. There is still work going on with other projects, but these have not as yet come to fruition.

I am would like to thank all that were involved in the organisation and help given in making our parish celebrations such a success.

Grants issued.

There were annual grants given to the following establishments: - Ashorne Village Hall and Newbold Pacey Churchyard.

Other issues.

There have been various very important issues that have and are being discussed at District and County level that will affect us all in the future. These are: - The draft core strategy, M40 road alterations at junctions 14 and 15, Speed limit on C45 to 50mph, and the Neighbourhood plan.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors, parish, district and county for their support and help during the last 12 months.

Lastly I am sure my fellow councillors would like to thank Pam (our clerk) and her husband Steve for all their help and support they have given this Council during the last year.

4. Finance

i. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013

The Clerk made the following report:

I am presenting the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013.

The balance carried forward from last year was £5560

Total receipts for the year including £1489 donation for the Jubilee Trees amounted to £7942

Total payments for the year amounted to £6333 resulting in an excess of payments over receipts of £1609.

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £7169 with £4081 allocated to the general fund, £1200 to the election fund, £500 to the clock fund and £1388 to the depreciation fund.

The accounts will be subject to internal and external audit in the coming weeks.

I will request the accounts are approved and the Statement of Accounts is signed in the main Parish Council Meeting

5. Village Hall Committee Report

Chris Thornton made the following report:-

This year in October we shall celebrate 30 years since the opening of the new village hall, the funding for which was provided by grants from the District and Parish Councils as well as from extensive fundraising by a Committee which was determined to replace the WW1 nissen hut with an up to date facility of which the village could be proud. We have continued to be grateful for the funding which the Parish Council has provided in the form of an annual grant.

The Village Hall is registered with the Charity Commission and the Village Hall Committee of 9 people runs the hut on a day to day basis on behalf of the Trustees with whom the ultimate responsibility for the continuation of the hall lies.

We aim to provide a venue for use by villagers and outsiders and suitable for a variety of functions.

During 2012 the hall was booked on 132 occasions which brought in an income of £1863 We are lucky to have regular bookings from the Parish Council, Table Tennis club, the WI and the Cricket Club. In addition we are a polling centre for the parish and have bookings from interest groups from all over the country such as the Afghan hounds Society as well as providing a central venue for training courses for example for alternative medicine, participants for which come from as far away as Australia

Each January the Treasurer presents the annual accounts and we decide on the hire charges for the year both for bookings from residents of the Parish and a higher set of charges for non-residents. This year we have not raised our charges and have instigated an hourly daytime rate for residents to make short bookings more affordable. In addition we have introduced a free of charge booking arrangement for non- fundraising events which are for the benefit of the whole community.

However , income from bookings does not meet our regular outgoings and we therefore have to rely on other sources of income ,such as grants and fundraising to keep going. Our fundraising recently has consisted of fortnightly whist drives, walks followed by lunch, a barn dance, a revival of the Halloween Ghost Hunt and an Easter eggstravaganza and we are always keen to seek out new ideas to involve as many people as possible in village activities.

Expenses for the running of the village hall include council tax, insurance, electricity, cleaning, provision of materials and purchase of new equipment etc. Last year we completed a comprehensive risk assessment and as a result bought new equipment such as the chair-stacker and we are currently investigating the provision of non-slip flooring in the kitchen amongst other items. Last year our total expenditure amounted to £3565 but through fundraising, grants and donations we have managed to break even year on year and even to accumulate a comfortable reserve in case of emergencies.

6. PCC report

There was no one present from the PCC, but other church goers reported that the Church Fete was planned for 24th June. The new toilets were also complete.

7. County Councillor's report

Cllr Johnston reported there would be Junction improvement on the M40 J12 and J14 . Additional funding had been made available to deal with flooding. Speed reduction measures for Ashorne , Moreton Morrell and Moreton Paddox were now in the WCC capital plan , and it would now be a matter of agreeing speeds. Funding was also allocated for a small lay-by as Oakley Woods

8. District Councillor's report

Cllr Wright expressed his ongoing concerns with the SDC planning department performance. He suggested writing to SDC again about Flint Hall issues . The Core Strategy recommendation was now from 9500 to 10,000 new homes in the District by 2028. The total number of District Cllrs was proposed to drop from 56 to 36 , with possible ward changes , this would could go out for consultation. Wellesbourne would probably drop to 2 Cllrs.

9. Matters of interest

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.
The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council immediately followed this meeting.