

NEWBOLD PACEY AND ASHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 8th May 2017

PRESENT: Councillors: A Marshall(Chair), D Johnston,
S Bolton, W Carroll

Clerk: S Routly (P routly ill)
and 9 members of the public

1. Apologies for absences

Cllr J Cooper. Cllr A Parry

2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2016 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Bolton, seconded by Cllr Carroll and unanimously accepted as a true record of proceedings.

3. Chairman's report

The Chairman stated he had not prepared a detailed report, but the year had comprised of getting permission for a playing field on the allotment grounds and forming a group to progress. Flooding issues were being followed up on, and there was a WCC commitment to install new gully's in Newbold Pacey. The rest of the activity of the parish council included dealing with several planning applications, the largest of which has been withdrawn.

4. Finance

i. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017

The Clerk made the following report:-

I am presenting the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The balance carried forward from last year was £11514

Total receipts for the year including £9222 including County Cllr grant of £1000 and Transparency Act IT grant of £766.

Total payments for the year amounted to £5857, including £573 for the walking guide, the balance of which is now zero. The net result was an excess of receipts over payments of £3365.

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £14879 with £3213 allocated to the general fund, £1200 to the election fund, £1500 to the clock fund, £5000 in the project fund , £3200 in the cricket field bridge repair fund and £766 in the transparency act IT 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. Police report

PC Catherine Morgan from Wellesbourne Police attended and made the following report:-

We are publishing a team news letter every month. People sometimes wonder where the 999 response unit is based given Wellesbourne covers a very large area. The answer is they are based at Greys Mallory, so very close to Ashorne. The Wellesbourne team deals with local issues and can also offer victim support, the role is very varied.

A member of the public stated the newsletter was great, but could there be a follow up on solved crimes. Catherine said she thought this was a great idea, but it can take months to come to court, and sometimes crimes are passed on, so they don't always know the outcome.

All thanks Catherine for her attendance.

6. Village Hall Committee Report

Chris Thornton from the Hut Committee made the following report:-

Thank you for inviting me to give a report about the village hall.

We held our AGM in January 2017 and this year adopted a less formal approach with an opportunity to meet the committee and see displays about what has been going on. The following details relate to the year ending December 31 2016.

2016 was another busy year for the Village Hall as something took place there on 315 occasions. This usage has increased steadily from 130 in 2012 and includes a variety of different kinds of activities such as 11 village lunches held on the third Monday of the month (except December), 10 Hut committee meetings, pilates classes 3 times a week in term time, table tennis 1 or 2 evenings per week from September to April, WI meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 6 Parish Council meetings, Craft group every Tuesday morning, Coffee mornings on the first Wednesday of the month and fortnightly whist drives on Thursdays.

During 2016 the whist drives contributed over £1000 to hut funds.

In addition to the above regular events the Hut committee held 10 fund raising events and there were hirings for funeral teas, elections, private parties, meetings of interest groups such as British Dowsers and Afghan Hounds, band practice and the Community Forum.

The Village Hall Committee currently consists of 10 members with Chris Thornton as Chair, Mary Cobb as Secretary and Jim Thornton as Treasurer and we have 4 Trustees.

The management and day to day running of the hall is delegated by the Trustees to the Hut Committee who raise funds, organise events and set hire charges. This year once again it was decided at our AGM in January that there would be no increase in the hire charges.

Income for the year was £435 donations, £2855 from lettings, £3246.29 from fundraising making £6671.86 in total.

£3836.82 was spent on maintenance and £2509.25 on services and our savings at the end of 2016 stood at £6376.15, an increase of approximately £150 over the year.

We are very grateful, as always for the grant from the Parish Council which contributes substantially to our funds.

For 2017 we are delighted that Ashorne Adventurers are going to be using the hall for some of their activities. There is a new blues dance class being held every Wednesday and usage of the hall is currently very high, as it should be.

We have made some improvements in recent months with a new PIR light to improve pedestrian safety at the entrance, the hall floor has been sanded and resealed, committee room tables renovated and a roller shutter fitted in the kitchen.

Our plans for 2017 include the purchase of more comfortable chairs and a possible revamp of the toilets and we are looking into grants for this purpose.

7. PCC report

Pricilla Cook from the PCC made the following report:-

The Stewardship appeal was successful, but difficult to say exactly how much extra was raised, there were new giver's, and some existing giver's changed the way they contribute. However, the £3500 shortfall of last year has become break even this year. On a different subject I have calculated there only 10 plots left in the churchyard , so this may be a problem in the near future . I believe it may be the Parish Councils responsibility to find new land, but I will check with the diocese. Finally the PCC is in need of a new treasurer if anyone wants to volunteer.

8. County Councillor's report

Cllr Marshall read out Cllr Parry's report as she was on holiday:-

Firstly apologies for not being able to attend the parish meeting, but I am away on holiday.

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new County Councillor for the Wellesbourne Division and am scheduled to attend the first WCC meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2017. I wish to express my thanks to all the parishioners for their support and confidence and I look forward to working with you all over the next four years. I can confirm that the Wellesbourne and Kineton Community Forum is being re-arranged for 22 June, following the General Election, in view of the impact of Purdah regulations.

In the meantime I wish to advise that WCC will again be inviting applications for the £5k Community Grant later this year and there is also a £32k community budget for highways (signage/pot holes etc), so please give some thoughts to potential projects for both funds I understand proposals for projects will be required towards the end of the year. Hopefully we can use some monies for new signage to help overcome the dangers of Newbold Road?

In the meantime I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

9. District Councillor's report

Cllr Marshall read out Cllr Parry's report as she was on holiday:-

The last twelve months have proved particularly busy across the ward, with matters relating to planning and developments continuing to dominate the agenda. The Planning Inspectorate's green light on the district's Core Strategy following the Examination in Public earlier in the year, and its adoption by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in July 2016, was particularly welcome news.

The benefits of having the Core Strategy in place, together with a five-year housing supply, means there are policies in place to prevent new development which is not in line with community need.

A draft Stratford Area Transport Strategy is now a major focus and is being developed setting out Warwickshire County Council's and Stratford on Avon District Council's shared transport strategy for Stratford-upon-Avon and the town's immediate environs and key strategic links. Further information will be released later this year.

Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children is another serious priority being addressed by Stratford District Council and we are consequently encouraging everyone to report any incidents of abuse or neglect within the community to its Safeguarding Advisors in Martin Cowan (children on 01789 260849) or Nick Cadd (adults on 01789 260841). Your help in being the ears and the eyes in the community is much appreciated in this respect.

Construction of the new medical centre in Wellesbourne will soon be starting, which provides much needed new health facilities to the surrounding villages. However actions by Stagecoach to put a stop to the bus routes into Wellesbourne from June 2016 have proved a major blow to the villages' public transport lifeline to accessing local services and facilities.

As chairman of the Wellesbourne & Kineton Community Forum I have welcomed the input from PC Catherine Morgan of the Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team who reports on the police activity in and around the villages, in terms of crime, traffic issues and anti-social behaviour. A particular focus of attention has been road safety concerns and issues in respect of Newbold Road at Newbold Pacey which was a major feature of the meeting in March 2017 thanks to the presentation delivered by Cllr Andrew Marshall. My thanks to Cllr Stephen Bolton for his support as my Vice Chairman. The Forum meets three times a year and members of the public are very welcome to attend, contribute to the discussions and debate topics of local interest including crime, traffic and transport, education and health services.

10. Matters of interest

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council immediately followed this meeting.