

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Naunton Beauchamp

Tuesday, May 15th 2018 at 7pm

Present : Cllr A. Howarth (Chair) Mrs L. Holpin -
Footpaths Warden
Cllr M. Butler
Cllr D. Hudson
District Councillor L. Robinson
Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr N. Roberson, and County Cllr R. Adams
Mrs S. Grainger, Mrs G. Edwards, Mrs J. Pardoe, Mr T. Howarth
Non-attendance of Cllr S. Brand

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on ... May 2017 were approved and signed.

3. Annual Report of Parish Council

The Parish Council has met six times over the last year.
We were all very sorry to learn of Lynne East's sudden death in February this year as she had continued to soldier on carrying out her duties as Parish Clerk as meticulously as ever. The Parish Council sent our sincere sympathies to her husband John who often brought her to our meetings and her son Simon.
Thank you to Councillors , Butler, Hudson and Brand for their support and work during the year, and also Councillor Roberson who joined the Council in September.
We are also very grateful for the support of County Councillor Rob Adams and District Councillor Linda Robinson who although both very busy with senior positions in their councils, regularly attend our meetings and keep us up to date with District and County issues. Other thanks also go to Peter Holpin for continuing to complete the internal audit of the Council's accounts. We welcome the appointment of our new Parish Clerk Lynn Stewart and we look forward to working with her.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

This is a fully funded service provided by Worcestershire County Council. The Lengthsman, is in fact a team of three who regularly visit the village, digging out the grips (the run offs from the road into the ditches), keeping the drains in the ditches clear and tidying up the verges. We should like to record our thanks particularly to Alan Farnsworth who has undertaken the lead position as Lengthsman and is retiring this year. He is passing the position on to his son Luke . Thanks must go to Councillor Dave Hudson who regularly mows the village green, it is once again looking very attractive.

HIGHWAYS

NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

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Councillor Butler has continued to monitor the speed activated sign. We have updated the camera which now not only records the number of cars exceeding the speed limit through the village but also the actual speed of the vehicles and the time this occurred. In some ways this has been encouraging as the number of vehicles greatly exceeding the speed limit is in the minority. We hope that this added data will now be able to be presented to highways to persuade them that the 30 mile an hour sign might be moved nearer to Honeybourne or to implement alternative traffic calming measures. There are still concerns over the speeding of heavy goods vehicles through and near the village and for heavy vehicles taking the unsuitable route down Seaford Lane. Thank you to Councillor Adams who has inspected this lane with Worcestershire highways and we hope this might be improved by a sign at either end of Seaford Lane saying "Unsuitable for heavy vehicles".

It was hoped that improvements would have been made to the road surface in Seaford Lane. Some pot hole filling was completed at the end of the year but further improvement was curtailed by the severe weather in February and March .

The Community Speed Watch volunteers have been unable to recruit enough volunteers and so reluctantly have disbanded for the moment.

DONATIONS

An annual donation is made to the church for the use of the church for Parish Council meetings and to the Parish magazine. Thanks must go to Clive Butler who has undertaken to mow and tidy the church yard it is looking very well cared for.

PLANNING

The council has considered 5 planning applications. Three of the applications , one for a house extension, two for farm building extensions were not objected to by the council. The grain store proposed by Cowsden Bank farm was not objected to but a comment was added to express concern at the proliferation of buildings on that site.

The ongoing concerns about the proposed poultry farm on land adjacent to Froghall Farm was again raised with the Parish Council objecting to an application for three poultry units for free range egg production. This application was rejected by Wychavon District Council but was granted on appeal. We wait to see the next steps.

DRAINAGE

Highways have continued to monitor the drain by the Main street bridge. This winter has been very wet, so it is good to announce that there has been no flooding in the village although the Piddle brook has several times flowed on to the adjacent flood plain of farm land.

FOOTPATH REPORT

Thanks must go to Liz Holpin who has continued to act as our Footpath Warden. Liz is reporting to this meeting this evening.

BROADBAND

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We have at last been connected to super fast broadband to great rejoicing and relief in the village . More than half the village have taken up the opportunity to be connected to super fast so far.

DOG FOULING

Villagers are still concerned with dog fouling particularly down Seaford Lane and on the verges outside houses. We do urge all dog owners to make sure dog poo is collected and is certainly not left outside houses.

BT TELEPHONE BOX

Last year I said the Parish council had decided to adopt the telephone box but before we paid our £1, Lynne discovered that the Police are adopting BT telephone boxes and installing defibrillators. Lynne managed to persuade the Police that rather than having two in Dormston we could have one in Naunton Beauchamp. This was agreed by the Police and we are now awaiting the restoration of the box and the installation of a defibrillator.

4. Parish Council Accounts

Clerk presented the accounts for 2017-18, these accounts had been subject to an internal audit. The opening balance stood at £6,833.55, expenditure during the year was £4,836.94 and the income received was £5,443.00. The closing balance was £7,439.61. The accounts were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

5. District Councillors Annual Report

Cllr Robinson reported that it has been a good year for Wychavon District Council with challenges, but robust performances. Cllr Robinson sited the Vale Park in Evesham as one of the successes of the year, also the fact that the District Council did not need to increase their element of the Council tax.

The Halifax Annual Survey has rated Wychavon as the third best place to live in Country, only beaten by Rutland and the Orkney Islands. On the negative side, a recent social mobility report rated Wychavon as third from the bottom. This is highlighting the gap between those who “have” and those who “have not” within the District. There have been summit meetings to discuss how disadvantaged children and youth can be given opportunities to achieve the best in life, regardless of their starting point.

The New Homes Bonus protocol is set to change, Cllr Robinson reported that the current funding of £2,700 is still available for the parish.

Cllr Robinson reported that the Intelligently Green Awards nominations are currently being received and the awards ceremony will be held at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust on 7th June, to be hosted by Jonathan Porritt CBE.

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The BBC filmed their “Back to the Land” series in recent months, and included Churchfields Farm and Droitwich Salt. This episode will be aired on Wednesday 16th May at 7pm on BBC2.

On 27th April Cllr Robinson had been delighted to attend the press launch of the multi million pound Boardman Performance Centre at The Valley in Evesham, Chris Boardman MBE has launched a centre to offer a high quality experience and performance facilities to match for Olympians, triathletes, Tour De France champions and cycling enthusiasts. Remaining with the cycling theme, Cllr Robinson highlighted the fact that the Womens Tour will be passing through Evesham to Worcester on Saturday 16th June.

Finally, Cllr Robinson thanked the Parish Council for all it’s hard work and stated she looked forward to working the parish again throughout the coming year.

6. County Councillors Annual Report

Cllr Adams was unable to attend. However, Cllr Robinson gave some brief details in his absence:

- An international sign deterring HGV drivers from entering Seaford Lane from Pinvin is being erected.
- More work is yet to be done to repair pot holes in Seaford Lane.
- There are going to be carriageway works for the foreseeable future at Jct 6 of the M5 whilst an extra lane on the access road is installed, also the A449 is being widened.
- There are still some issues with the phasing of the traffic lights on Station Road in Pershore by the new housing development.

7. Annual Report of Parish Footpaths Warden

Mrs Holpin reported that most paths have been checked, majority of routes are clear. However, there are 3 main issues:

- i. Claremont Farm - dangerous state of repair of stiles on path 521. Left for Worcestershire County Council to pursue. Correspondence in 2016 indicates this is a long running issue. Quoted £4,000 per stile. WCC had offered to install kissing gate. **Action: Clerk to write to Cllr R Adams to ask F. Argyle to investigate.**
- ii. Replacement of fence by Rectory Meadow. Path 513. Stile has no crosspiece. Some materials/equipment appear to be ready for use. Chair advised that owner is recently deceased.
- iii. Padlock left on gate which should be open. Path 519. Trying to find out who has the key to remove it. **Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Adams to ask F. Argyle to investigate.**

8. Reports submitted by non-attending organisations:

- a. **Women’s Institute - Mrs J Plant** - Unfortunately there has been a sharp fall in membership with only 19 members signing up this year. It is fair to say that what we lack in numbers we make up for in enthusiasm, with everyone willing to give things a go and enjoy every opportunity that the WI offers.

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The WI year kicked off with an excellent evening in Bishampton Church where Alwyn Stanley stunned us with her floral art. We have been shown how to actively achieve a healthier lifestyle. We have learnt about the history of Spetchley gardens and that we should all open our eyes and observe the beautiful Georgian architecture as we scurry around the shops in Worcester. We were in awe of Debra Ackroyd's fabulous handmade dolls. The Casualties union entertained us with their realistic wound make up and stories of mocked up traumas. When the Kidderminster Town crier cried off at the last minute, an entertaining evening was spent making hedgehogs from paperback books. Last month Avril Pulley wowed us with a demonstration of the art of handmade flowers. On a social level we enjoyed a tour of Churchfield Farm in the summer and then held a most enjoyable festive skittles evening in December.

We continue to walk on a monthly basis, weather permitting. This year we have varied the days and times in the hope of giving more members an opportunity to join us. In December we rang the changes by following a Treasure Trail around Upton upon Severn and then enjoyed a festive lunch at the Pepperpot Bistro.

It was our turn to host the Group Meeting this year. We welcomed over 40 WI members from within the Pershore Group to Bishampton Village Hall. We were entertained by Chloe The Midnight Storyteller and her tales of love & chocolate before feasting on homemade soup with crusty bread followed by a selection of chocolate treats all provided by members.

We have been active on a county level. Members have attended the Lucy Hingley Lecture on Ophthalmology, learnt the crafts of Swing Knitting, and needle felt making. Several of us attended the Upton upon Severn town walk and some learnt about the fascinating world of forensic fibre analysis. Members who attended a particularly enjoyable willow weaving workshop had the additional challenge of how to get 5 average sized WI members, 10 willow wreaths and 5 large sacks of willow all into 1 car for the journey home!

We were disappointed that Prue Leith let us all down at the last minute as the one of the guest speakers at the Annual Council Meeting. We made up for this by achieving successes in the competitions. For a small WI we were proud to enter every class.

Particular mention must be made of our 3rd place in the group exhibit. A 2nd place for preserves and 3rd place in the floral art.

We have once again progressed through to the semi-finals of the county skittles competition. This takes place on 17th May.

This year we have been dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. We now have our own facebook page and a gmail account. Plans are afoot to get our own website up and running too.

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Our meetings are always sociable, relaxed and fun as we interact with our speakers, enjoy each other's company and do the bit we do best, provide & eat fabulous food. We look forward to the year ahead.

- b. **Naunton Beauchamp Church - Mr Howarth.** The number of services in 2017 was 19 and one funeral. One of the services was a benefice service on Maundy Thursday which was taken by Rev. Christopher Clarke. Average attendance at the 1st Sunday in the month services was 7, the same as the year 2016 but the average attendance of the special services; Maundy Thursday, Teddy Bears, Harvest, Carol, Crib, and Christmas Day was 19, a reduction from 27 the previous year. The non-communion services were taken by Gill Jubb, Steve Reeves and Delia Harding and the communion services by Rev. Gary Noyes.

One unique service was the funeral for Ron Skinner on 6th December when an estimated 200 attended.

The church committee have met 4 times plus a special meeting in July when Rev Noyes was present, and it was agreed to proceed with the sale of New England, a parcel of land off the North Piddle Road.

The quinquennial survey on the state of the fabric of the church was received in September and raise some issues of cracks in the tower and the porch and also the need for repointing the stonework. A surveyor is currently being commissioned to investigate the cracks and report back and whatever measures are necessary, repairs will be undertaken in due course.

Despite having met some of the legal expenses involved we were able to pay our Parish share to the Diocese of £2500 in full out of our existing income.

Social Events have been Chocolate Bingo, Quiz night, Fete and Dog Show, Harvest Lunch and Beetle Drive.

The improvement to the churchyard has continued. In December a large branch of one of the Cedar trees broke off because snow laden lighter branches had fallen on it. A tree surgeon was hired to clear up and also to cut off a branch of the other Cedar tree which had grown over the porch resulting in clogged gutters.

We thank all those who organise and take part in the social events and show their support for St. Bartholomew's.

- c. **Neighbourhood Watch - Mrs G Edwards.** I have been acting as a coordinator for Naunton Beauchamp Neighbourhood Watch for around 2 years. Our scheme description as recorded on the Neighbourhood Alert System is

"The aim of the scheme in Naunton Beauchamp is to help residents to protect themselves and their property and to reduce the fear of crime. The scheme coordinator will act as a link between the village and the local police."

The scheme was set up at the request of the Parish Council and I am listed through Neighbourhood Alert as a coordinator for the area Neighbourhood Watch.

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I receive e-mail alerts from Crimestoppers, the Local Authority, Neighbourhood Watch, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and Action Fraud. The priority level I have fixed for receipt of these messages is 3 - meaning I receive all high and medium level messages making the volume of information more manageable. As soon as these messages are received I e-mail them to my contacts. A recent addition has been a Neighbourhood Watch Magazine which is also e-mailed to the group.

At the moment, there are 21 village members to whom I forward messages, and encourage them to pass onto other local people who may be interested.

Over the last 6 months or so - majority of alerts have related to cyber crime and ways to stay safe on-line. The existence of the group has also proved useful for sharing other information across the village (ie) in cases of missing pets.

Using streetcheck (for which I am now in receipt of updated crime reports) from September 2017 - February 2018 for Naunton Beauchamp there have been 3 reported crimes, 1 still under investigation.

I am happy to receive comments from the Parish Council as to whether the current arrangements are acceptable or whether further action is required.

- d. **Annual Report from the Police - Mrs J. Pardoe.** The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area which extends from Whittington, Upton Snodsbury and Dormston in the north to Bredon and Beckford in the south. With targeted patrols, attendance at village surgeries and numerous parish events, messaging via Twitter and the Community Messaging Service (CMS) the team have continued to be actively involved in the community. The whole team remain committed to tackling all levels of crime throughout the area including rural crime and poaching and providing security advice and support to victims and vulnerable residents.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 11/05/2017 and 11/05/2018 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2016/17.

Overall the police recorded 16 incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to 17 incidents reported the previous year.

Of the 16 incidents the Parish had 2 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 3 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

	2017/18	2016/17
Burglary Residential	0	2

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(includes garages and sheds)

Motor Vehicle Inteference	0	1	
Other Offences	2	0	

(Includes mostly concerns for welfare or domestic related incidents and assaults)

This year has seen a decrease in residential burglaries. We have continued with patrols in the area and have issued security advice to residents regarding security marking of property.

The main contributing factor in all of the burglaries throughout the year is that the properties are left without lights during the hours of darkness (evenings). The campaign 'Leave a Light on' is applicable throughout the year and we would strongly advise residents to use a lamp/s on a timer switch to give the impression that someone is present inside the property and review their security in general.

The other offence incidents can include concern for safety, domestic incidents etc and are increasing throughout the West Mercia area as police are dealing more often with vulnerable people. This could be put down to increased social and economic pressures.

Overall the figures still show that Naunton Beauchamp and the surrounding area is a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

Pershore Rural North and South

Local Policing Team

**This report concluded the meeting.
at 8:05pm.**

Meeting closed

SIGNED..... Chairman

Date

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