

SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd March 2015 at 7.03pm in the Village Hall, Church Lench.
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Present:	Cllr. Mr. Shore (Chair of the Parish Council), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), County Cllr. Mr. Holt, Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel, David Manning, Rural Communities Manager, Wychavon District Council and 13 parishioners.
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1.	Welcome , apologies received from PC Tony Carter, West Mercia, PCSO Kathryn Hearnden, Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee, Carol Jones, David Ernest and Ann Freer.
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2.	Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May 2014. Resolved that the minutes were of a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
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3.	Matters arising from minutes - nil.
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4.	<p>Report from Chairman of the Parish Council:</p> <p>No change of membership of the Parish Council since the 2014 meeting.</p> <p>Projects for the year included:</p> <p><u>Village Pond</u>: Western Power has now decided not to locate the transformer on the village pond and is looking for another location in the Village.</p> <p><u>Parish Plan</u>: In early 2014 the Parish Plan Questionnaire was distributed to all dwellings within the South Lenches Parish Council area. 205 responses were received representing a substantial return. This data has been recorded and will form the basis of the Parish Plan. We are grateful for the efforts of the Working Party and volunteers who spent many hours recording the data.</p> <p><u>Planning</u>: This has been significant year for planning with an unprecedented approval for the erection of 10 houses and with applications for further housing. The 10 approved include 5 dwellings on land adjacent to Evesham Road which met with a large number of objections by villagers and the Parish Council. This was a disappointing decision as it was outside the settlement line and at the entrance to the Village. The most significant application is for a development of 31 houses at Mayfield, off the Atch Lench Road in Church Lench, by Spitfire Properties LLP. There are well over a 100 objections including that of the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Telephone Kiosk</u>: the little used Kiosk situated in the centre of Church Lench has now been adopted by the Parish Council for a nominal sum. The intention is to use it as a Village facility by providing a centre for information. Work is in hand to refurbish the Kiosk.</p> <p><u>Notice Boards</u>: the Parish Council is responsible for three village notice boards which are beginning to show wear and tear. In particular the one situated in Atch Lench is to be replaced. A replacement has been purchased and is awaiting erection.</p> <p><u>Speeding</u>: Like many villages our roads are subject to speeding vehicles, particularly in Evesham and Low Roads although there is a problem in other areas. On the 9th December 2014, a meeting was held at Rous Lench Village Hall with the Safer Roads Partnership Unit, Operations Manager David Perridge. A speed survey</p>
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	<p>has been planned for Evesham Road to establish the extent of the problem. Low Road was excluded due to the current development work. A number of options were discussed and these are at present under consideration.</p> <p>During the year the Council held 6 full Council meetings, 7 planning meetings and 2 extra meetings. Council members also attend meetings of the County Association of Local Councils (CALC) and the Evesham Market Town Partnership (now no longer functioning) in order to maintain knowledge of the rapidly changing role of Parish Councils.</p>
5.	<p>Carol Tookey, Neighbourhood Watch, reported:</p> <p>Notice has been placed in the Arch Messenger requesting volunteers to assist with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. There has been no success in appointing a co-ordinator for Atch Lench. A new Liaison Officer has been appointed at West Mercia, Beverley Bladen and a 'Horses Watch' scheme has been implemented.</p>
6.	<p>David Manning, Rural Communities Manager, from Wychavon District Council, gave the following details of a project being rolled out to rural areas:</p> <p>Wychavon District Council are extending their programme to rural areas to look at services being provided to the elderly and socially isolated, previously work carried out in the Evesham area. At present a scheme is being carried out in the Inkberrow Ward. It is noted that a large proportion of population over 50 -65 live in this Ward.</p> <p><u>Ideas put in action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Community Folder which lists services/information in the village kept in strategic places i.e. Church, Shop, Pub, and Village Hall etc.b) Member of the community required to be single point of contact.c) Have set up website: www.wychavon.gov.uk/rural <p>Would welcome feedback on the site.</p> <p>Some villages have highlighted the need for a community transport scheme, some have set up a 'Good Neighbours scheme' to take people to appointments, hospital visits etc.</p> <p>It was asked how the Wards were selected.</p> <p>Used key indicators from the Joint Strategic Needs Access Data which showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) High increase of Diabetes, Stroke, fractured Femur.b) Age demographic increase above 50 and 65.
7.	<p>County and District Councillor reports.</p> <p>County Cllr. Mr. Holt reported:</p> <p>Budget has been agreed for 2015-16 by a vote of 35 in favour with 19 against. Council Tax increased by 1.94%. 4 million allocated to support looked after children and vulnerable services in the County and 2 million to the elderly. 1 million per day is spent each day on services to the public in the county. The appointment of apprenticeships in the County has been achieved. New Parkway railway station linking the Cotswold Line to the Bristol line is due to go ahead, planned opening May 2017.</p>

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	<p>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel reported: Wychavon District Council has increased its budget by 1.94%. Affordable Housing in Church Lench would only be built on an Exception Site i.e. land that would not normally be used for housing. Affordable Housing would belong to a Housing Association who would set up schemes to either rent the properties or part rent/part buy. The District Council is now allowed to keep Business Rates instead of the money going straight to the Government.</p>
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8.	<p><u>Lenches Sports & Recreation Club (LSRC)</u> The main thrust of the LSRC activities during the past year has centred on establishing with the Environment Agency the most appropriate safeguards for the importation of material to complete the expansion of the playing field. This is now established and we are operating under an approved code of practice to do this. Transport movements have been reduced by 80% along Low Road. The income to the Sports Club has reduced and the Lenches Lions Football Club has folded. The fund to replace the tennis courts has been ring fenced. Professional services need to be paid for and the Club are grateful for any grant support received. Pavilion is being used by the Art Club and the Tennis Club now has its own one. Music Festival held last year was very successful. Yates Orchard is used for the Forest School programme. There is a very active strong community in the Lenches which has developed to suit all ages. Boules facility to be refurbished and a club to be set up.</p>
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9.	<p>Superfast Broadband (Cllr. Mr. Ernest, Abbots Morton Parish Council). Email report received: Following my recent conversations and meeting with the Broadband team at Worcestershire County Council (WCC) we are no further forward to getting a decent broadband service to this area. It appears that most of the Lenches area will not get superfast fibre-based broadband within the published project plan; some areas may be lucky enough to get their existing broadband services via the Harvington green box. WCC will leave the contractual commitment to BT to provide a very low minimum of 2mps to those areas that will not get the upgraded Broadband service. WCC has confirmed that it does not have a project to upgrade these services, as they have no more money to put into a project (directly stated by the Deputy Leader of WCC), especially as they believe that they have overfunded their previous tranche to the Superfast project. Recent additional Government funding has not been directed to this area. However, WCC has not shared how they will provide even the minimum to this area, and much of the existing infrastructure cannot be upgraded to provide that level. What is not openly revealed is that the minimum level of 2mps will not support much in the way of services to residential and business customers; future iplayer</p>
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and streaming will not be possible when the default picture is switched to High Definition and replacement SKY services will be on the iCloud rather than stored on your local hard drives.

In simple terms there is little incentive for BT to upgrade rural services that have low population density. Financial and operational project targets are more focussed on rolling out enhanced services in existing higher density populations.

The situation for residents is further exacerbated by an almost non-existent mobile phone signal.

Neither BT nor WCC will commit to having further meaningful discussions with residents; even when the residents would like to look at optional local alternative services / projects.

WCC insist that they have no additional money left to deal with the requirements of the disenfranchised, and cannot guarantee if any additional central grants are given that they will apply it to the disenfranchised.

Government policy has been to offload the responsibility for Broadband to BT. Government is continuing to fail the local rural communities to ensure that they will get a reasonable level of service in this Governments lifetime.

I would urge that the Parish Council and other local representatives write to the Broadband team copying their local MP'S, Districts and County Councillors requesting that they urgently provide information on the broadband plan as it affects your area.

10. **Parish Plan Update:** Cllr. Mr. Shepherd reported that 310 questionnaires were delivered to each household in the Parish. Thanks were given to Jen Fletcher and other volunteers who have been inputting the data.

11. **Village Hall Committee:**

Our lovely Village Hall, which has recently undergone floor refurbishment, has been used regularly over the last twelve months with private functions, the Parish Council, Yoga, WI, meditation, indoor tennis and, not least, our Pre-School who are in the Hall four days a week. Our committee have worked very hard to keep the Hall running smoothly and have also organised several events to raise money for the upkeep and running costs of the Hall. The speaker/loop system has been used on many occasions and is a great asset to the Hall.

The committee members check the Hall on a regular basis; yes, we do find lights left on, the thermometer not returned to the required 12 degree mark, doors not fully closed so our endeavours do pay off.

We have had a few gardening sessions but have asked Simon Pullen to trim the hedges twice a year and also keep our shrubs under control. Some of this can be done when he has set time aside to mow the lawned area to the rear of the Hall.

We thank the Parish Council for their support.

12. **Parochial Church Council:** Services continue on a monthly basis along with other events such as Evensong which is held monthly. During February 2014 the Church underwent re-plastering and was redecorated. The Arch messenger is delivered 10

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	times a year. Fundraising events have been held i.e. coffee mornings, Harvest Supper. Holiday Clubs are arranged for all children across the Benefice. There are 39 people on the Parochial Church council electoral register. Next project to be addressed is disability access.
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13.	<p>Church Lench First School: email report received from Headteacher, Ann Freer: The bullet points have been 'taken' from a document called a SEF which is a 'School Self Evaluation Form'.</p> <p>Church Lench is a small first school, with Reception to Year 5 children, in the heart of a small village. It serves a wider community of hamlets. Of the 70 pupils on role, the majority are white British; 8.6% being from local traveller families; 27% (19/70) of the children are on the SEN register; 37% (7/19) of the SEN list did not start at the school in September of their Year R; 8.6% (6/70) of the children are either LAC or adopted and another child is due to start in Jan 2015, which will make 9.8%. The present Headteacher has been in post since January 2010.</p> <p>Presently, Church Lench is a good school with many outstanding aspects. Strong Christian values underpin the work of the school. This has a profound influence on pupil's personal development and good behaviour.</p> <p>There are 3 classes in the school: Reception/Year 1, Years 2/3, Years 4/5.</p> <p>KEY STRENGTHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All staff safeguarding and educational visit training is up to date.• First aider training is up to date.• A new teacher has been appointed for Years 4/5, 2 new teaching assistants for Early Years and 2 new dinner supervisors (due to retirement and reorganisation)• UIFSM (Universal Free School Meal) money has been used to purchase new dining tables• Relationships in the school are very positive and both staff and children show high levels of care and consideration for each other.• Children demonstrate an excellent ability• SEND (Special Educational Needs) intervention groups are specific and targeted• All children enjoy coming to school and this is reflected in the high levels of attendance (96.8% 1.9.14 to 9.11.14). Whole year attendance 1.9.13-31.8.14 was 94.4%. White British was 96.5% and Gypsy/Roma 75.5%. The Gypsy/Roma girl, who had an attachment disorder is now happily attending full time school without her parent.• The Head Teacher has made a good evaluation of the school and together with subject leaders, has written a focused SDP (School Development Plan) which shows what needs to be done to move it from "Good" to maintain the "Outstanding".• Children are happy, safe and well motivated.• The teaching is at least consistently "Good", and there are examples of 'Outstanding' practice.• Whilst pupils find the curriculum engaging, the school has recently audited
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the curriculum to inspire, motivate and enthuse the pupils to higher levels of achievement within the new 'National Curriculum' (September 2013).

- Behaviour is exemplary now, but it has taken input from the Behaviour Support Team to work with two individuals. They have been brilliant! Many of the recent new children have needed input from us to help them with anger management and other problems.
- ICT hardware has been updated with a new server, laptops and ipads. Staff and children now have up to date equipment to work with.
- Updated website
- Moderation of EYFS and KS1 were 100% accurate.
- New pupil progress tracking system purchased
- Music lessons provided by WYM (Worcestershire Youth Music) for flute, violin, clarinet and oboe, which take place weekly.
- Funding, which is about £3k to £4K per year from the PTA known as 'Church Lench School Friends', helps the school greatly, and has been used recently to purchase a new stage, mobile CD player and sound system in the Hall.
- The school provides hot meals at lunchtime and also a small Breakfast Club.
- Out of hours activity clubs include cookery, tennis, multiskills and Imagineering. Lunchtime clubs have included gardening, knitting and sewing.
- Learning outside the classroom takes place at the nearby Forest School and in the school grounds. A bi-annual residential takes place at Malvern or Kingswood Outdoor Centre.
- There are many links and events organised with other schools in the 'Cluster'.
- The Head Teacher organises the Governors to visit the school during the school day as 'Governor of the month'.
- Reverend Richard (also an active and supportive governor), together with Reverend Steve, visit fortnightly to take Collective Worship using 'Open the Book' with the children and Staff, in Church.
- Policies continue to be reviewed on a three yearly and annual cycle.
- There is a good link with Birmingham City University and Worcester University and the school enjoys having the benefit of working with their students.
- Our global link is with Dumila Primary in Tanzania and this is mainly through St Egwin's Middle School, who bring the teachers here to visit. Other charity work includes 'Children in Need', 'Red Nose day', 'Chernobyl 2000' and 'Caring Hands'.
- There is an active School Council, Eco-Council and Children's Church Council.
- The children have grown their own vegetables this year and these have been given to the school cook to use in our dinners
- Excellent community links, which is presently organising a 'Lunch Club' for elderly residents to join us. Up to 20 elderly local people will join us for lunch and this will be fortnightly.
- French is taught from Year 2 to Year 5.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong and flexible links with Church Lench Pre-School. The Headteacher attends all the meetings and Pre-school use our ground for Forest School and Sport's Day. The school would like to help run the Pre-school eventually.• Attendance at Parent Consultation meetings have been 100%• The school is presently in the process of joining the Prince Henry's Multi Academy Trust and become an Academy in September 2015.
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14.	War Memorial project: Raising funds to clean the War Memorial, re-cutting of letters on the memorial and maintenance to the ground area, placing of York stone steps, install safety rail. Total of 5 quotations obtained - cost of £3,800. Funding has been obtained from various organisation and residents in the village and wider community. Sum total raised to date £2516. Applying to the Diocese to give permission to proceed with the refurbishment of the slabs. Dedication service planned to take place on the 8 th November 2015 with a celebration lunch in the Village Hall. Representatives of the 2 nd Battalion Mercers, Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeoman, Royal Artillery to lay wreaths.
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15.	Lenches Social Club: no report received.
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16.	Role of the First Responder for the village and surrounding area. Richard Shepherd has been trained as a Community First Responder (CFR) and has been working in the local vicinity and surrounding villages since March 2014. To date he has been called 155 times dealing with residents in local villages, Harvington and Evesham.
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17.	Tree Warden: Mr. Hazelwood reported: Pruning of trees to take place on the School boundary. Unexpected loss of three trees at the junction of Low Road with Main Street due to traffic and service requirement. Conservation Area - any trees in this area require agreement from the Tree Officer based at Wychavon District Council.
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18.	Matters raised by Parishioners: a) Vehicles speeding along the Evesham Road. Request that the 30mph limit be extended to Handgate crossroads and further 'Slow' signs are put in place. ?2014
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Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.	
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