**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held at Kington & Dormston Village Hall**

**May 13th 2019 at 7pm**

**Present :** Cllr M. Tilt (Chair) Cllr P. Collins

 Cllr C. Farman Cllr P. Laight

 Cllr R. Drake Cllr B. Trebbett

 Cllr I. Bull 2 members of public

 County Councillor R. Adams Mrs J Rolls – Neighbourhood Watch

 Clerk Miss M. Collins – Village Hall Treasurer

1. **Apologies**

District Cllr L. Robinson, J. Pardoe CSO – West Mercia Police, N. Dawkes – Village Hall Committee, H. Forrester – Village Hall Committee

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2018 were approved and signed.

1. **Annual Report of Parish Council**

Over the last year the Parish Council has met 6 times, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their hard work and commitment to the Parish Council and the support given to me.

The Parish Council are also very grateful for the support of County Councillor Rob Adams

and District Councillor Linda Robinson who attend our meetings on a regular basis,

keeping us up to date with District & County issues. We are sorry to be losing Cllr Tonry and thank her for her support over the last few years, we are pleased to welcome Cllr Drake to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has dealt with 6 Planning applications this year – all of which were approved by Wychavon. It should be pointed out that the Parish Council have no influence in the final outcome of planning applications but can only put forward parishioners views. The Parish Lengthsman, who is contracted by the Parish Council, but fully funded by

Worcestershire County Council, has been regularly at work during the year and continues

to do an excellent job. He has passed the contract onto his son, who has all the relevant qualifications, but will continue to assist him. We were pleased to welcome Lynn Stewart as our new Clerk and are glad that despite family commitments she is able to continue as Clerk

I would personally like to thank her for all her hard work keeping us up to date with all the

rules and regulations that seem to appear on a regular basis.

1. **Parish Council Accounts**

Clerk presented the accounts for 2018-19, these accounts had been subject to an internal audit. The opening balance stood at £11,628.16, expenditure during the year was £7,315.57 and the income received was £8,075.06. The closing balance was £12,387.65. The accounts were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

1. **District Councillors Annual Report**

Cllr Robinson was absent from the meeting and therefore no report received.

1. **County Councillors Annual Report**

Cllr Adams started by speaking about Veterans for whom a dedicated place for seeking help is needed. PTSD sufferers in particular are in need of this service, WCC are hoping to make provision to meet this need. Cllr Adams commented on the recent elections and that younger Councillors have been elected onto the Council and this should have a positive impact for the future. He also referred to the significant increase in spoiled papers at this election. In terms of main business at County level; budgets continue to be stretched with 70% of the budget earmarked for Looked After Children and Vulnerable Adult Care. WCC are seeking to promote “Worcester Open for Business” are initiative to attract business to the County. Also, improvements to the infrastructure; road systems, bridges etc. Parkway Station is scheduled to open before Christmas. Work is commencing soon at Pinvin crossroads to improve traffic flow on A44. Cllr Adams was pleased to advise that the WCC are continuing with the Lengthsman Scheme and also there will be no loss of libraries following the recent consultation. The issue of speeding traffic through villages remains. Cllr Adams finished by thanking the Parish Councillors for all their hard work.

1. **Representatives of the Village Hall**

Unfortunately, neither Mr Dawkes nor Mrs Forrester were available to attend the meeting, however clerk had been provided with some recent minutes to offer as a report. Clerk read out various items; minor works have been reported and quotes are being obtained. New Homes Bonus Scheme application is to be made once three quotes for each element of work has been forwarded to the Parish Council. The VH Committee are seeking quotes to replace the curtains. Some fund raising is to be arranged include a Bingo/Beetle Drive. Festival Players are presenting Much Ado during May.

1. **Village Hall Accounts**

Miss Collins presented the Village Hall accounts for the year. Miss Collins reported that the VH has £15 Cash, £1624.56 in a deposit account, cash at bank totalling £2612.77, Charibond of £1344.65, giving a total of £5596.98. This is £300 down on last year. A hirer of the hall has been lost.

1. **Village Hall Electricity** – unfortunately this item was overlooked and will be discussed at the July 2019 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.
2. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Mrs Rolls read the report. She reported that since the last report there had been three meetings including the AGM, attended by 3-5 co-ordinators at each meeting – and Mrs Rolls thanked them for their support, there had been no police presence this year.

The Treasurers Report (audited) was presented for the y/e 28 February 2019. The closing balance was £43.88, there were no major expenses during the year.

Mrs Rolls reported that crime levels remain low, however there were some significant incidents: Police have logged 2 crimes near Cockshot Lane in June 2018 burglary and theft.

15-21 June 2018 Cockshot Lane Dormston, a burglary took place.

31 July/1 August Kington – A shed was broken into and a jet washer, lawnmower, hedge cutter and strimmer were stolen.

10 August 2018 Kington - an outbuilding was broken into on farm premises and 2 milk churns taken.

28 August 2018 Cockshot Lane – two masonry saws were taken from the driveway of a property.

17 November 2018 The Red Hart inn – an individual broke a window and gained entry to premises. They took the pubs takings.

28/29 November 2018 Meadow Close – a van was broken into while parked on a driveway and tools were taken.

23/31 December 2018 Grafton Wood - a contained used to store tools for Worcester Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conversation was broken into. An angle grinder was used to cut through an iron bar and 2 chainsaws and a new brush cutter were stolen.

12 January 2019 Garage, Alcester Road – persons unknown broke into garage by ripping doors off. Nothing appeared to be stolen.

1. **Annual Report of Parish Paths Warden by Cllr Tilt**

We have had quite a successful year resolving some long-standing problems. We are extremely lucky with our Footpath Officer, Fiona Argyle, who despite having

her area extended, responds very quickly to urgent problems.

Recreational Routes such as the Wychavon Way are now under a different officer –

some way marking requires replacing. The Volunteers Database has improved communications and allows us to see problems already reported ,those that have been dealt with or those that are still awaiting inspection This website can be viewed by members of the public as well We try to attend any meetings held for PPW’s which is always interesting to hear other’s problems. Although due to my leg problems and subsequent surgery I have not been able to walk the footpaths as previously, we have followed up any reported problems asap. Health and Safety issues are picked up promptly by the Footpath Officer

Vegetation &amp; crops covering footpaths will be the concern over the summer months, so

do take secateurs with you on your walks – any major problems please report them

We have many footpaths in the Parishes – impossible to keep them all open and

indeed many are not walked regularly – so we concentrate on the regularly used ones

I have to thank my husband, John, who supports me in this role, I could not do it

without his help. I have informed the Footpath Officer that I can no longer continue in this role but will remain in post until a replacement is found.

**Tree Warden Report by Cllr Tilt**

We have attended several meetings/workshops regarding the tree diseases

threatening our Oak and Ash trees. The Ash disease has reached Worcestershire – it remains to be seen if any of the trees survive. Many of our local woods are mainly Ash and it would be as disastrous as the Elm disease for the environment. The Wildlife Trust are not considering any replanting at present but local wood owners are considering replacing with indigenous species such as Small leaved Lime or Sweet Chestnut. We have planted some Hornbeam &amp; Small leaved Lime in Lower Kites Wood Kew Gardens have collected disease free seeds from Grafton Wood to grow on and do further research into finding a way to combat this disease It has been found that mature Ash trees, although looking free of disease, may suddenly drop large branches, something wood owners have been made aware of, especially alongside public rights of way. The disease was brought into England by imported trees and trees are still being imported – I would urge anyone purchasing trees to make sure that they are British. Let’s hope for a good summer and as always please report any footpath problems, we will do our best to help

1. **Any Other Business** – there being no further business the meeting concluded and closed at 7:45pm.