

**Minutes of Strensham Parish Council**  
**Open Meeting**  
**24th May 2012**

Present: N P Guilding - Chairman  
C White  
A Truscott - Vice Chair  
D Wallbank  
M Gribble  
L Gough  
P Ellis  
R Abunassar - Clerk

5 Residents

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Parish's 2012 Open Meeting. Before providing a brief resume of the year's activities a question was posed regarding what should be captured within the Council's minutes. After a discussion it was agreed that Council minutes should outline what took place and actions arising but there was no need to record exact details of any debates.

Cllr Guilding then went on to report on the year's activities, some of which had already been discussed in the Annual General Meeting.  
Below is a summary of Cllr Guilding's report.

**PLANNING**

The Parish Council have reviewed and commented on several applications throughout the year. The most prominent being Cemex, Wind Prospects and Harbour Wood all of which are still ongoing.

**DEER SIGNS**

Following a request by the Parish Council deer warning signs have been erected either side of the wooded coppice on the road to Defford.

**WAR MEMORIAL**

The Parish Council were concerned that nobody claims responsibility for the War Memorial. As a precautionary measure it has been included within the Council's insurance to enable repair in the unlikely event it suffers damage.

**PRECEPT**

The Council have asked Wychavon to maintain the precept at from £4500, following a review of past expenditure and a future budget.

**LENGTHSMAN**

We have continued to administer the Lengthsman scheme which is funded by Worcestershire CC. Mr Williams is doing an excellent job and keeping the village much tidier than it use to be.

Several potholes have been reported throughout the year and the section of Twyning Road from the War memorial passed The Old Barns was resurfaced to a very high standard.

### **PLAYING FIELD**

The field is inspected annually for safety, and issues arising from the report will be investigated. The Council has arranged for the grass cuttings to be removed as and when required.

### **SEVERN TRENT BLOCK HOUSE**

Cllr White and Mrs Abunassar have tried to clear up the ownership and usage of Severn Trent's Block house to request the road is blocked to prevent its use by travellers. Severn Trent have made it safe but have not decided on its future.

### **TRAFFIC**

A traffic survey was undertaken Worcestershire County Council with a sensor cable on the road either end of the village. Although there were a few instances of speeding vehicles, most were within the speed limit.

### **FOUL WATER**

Pressure has been put on Wychavon to trace pollution entering ditches from the old village drain. This matter is still ongoing.

### **SERVICE AREA**

The Parish Council are trying to get Roadchef to install a fence against Church Road to control litter.

### **BROADBAND**

There are hopeful signs that something may be done to provide reliable broadband in the future, with the help of Worcestershire County Council.

### **JUBILEE MUGS**

Celebratory mugs have been purchased to distribute to all children under the age of 16 within the village.

### **NEW HOME BONUS**

Under this new scheme £1688 is available annually for 6 years to be spent on the village.

### **THANKS**

Thank you to all the Parish Councillors, the Clerk and to Cllrs Davies and Hardman for the work they have undertaken this year.

### **ITEMS OF CONCERN**

*Leaf Blower* - A request was made from the floor for the Parish Council to buy a leaf blower to be used by the Lengthsman. It was felt that it would reduce the time he spent sweeping up leaves allowing him extra time on other areas. Cllr Gough was happy to recommend the proposal and all Councillors voted in favour. It was then agreed that a budget of £300 should be adequate to purchase a sufficient leaf blower.

**Action: CW/RW**

*New Homes Bonus* - Ideas on how to spend the money need to be generated as it was agreed to try and secure as much of the 6 years worth of money as soon as possible. It was proposed that villagers are asked how they would wish to see the money spent, the guidelines of the scheme would near to be adhered to but several suggestions such as a bus shelter for Lower Strensham or new playing equipment and creating a form of 'entrance' through false gates to the village were initially put forward. It was suggested the councillors canvas ideas to be discussed.

**The meeting closed at 22.05**