

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at Kington & Dormston Village Hall
Monday 9th May 2022 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr M. Tilt (Chair) Cllr P. Laight
 Cllr I. Bull Cllr T. Richards
 Cllr P. Collins Cllr R. Drake
 Cllr V. Longmore

In Attendance: Clerk & 6 members of the Public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – 5 Members of the Public attended the meeting with concerns regarding the proposals of a new Solar Farm in Inkberrow Ward-notes are covered in item 9.

1. APOLOGIES – District & County Cllr L. Robinson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2021 were approved as correct.

3. ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN- CLLR TILT

Cllr Tilt expressed how lovely it was to go back to holding meetings in person again this year and thanked all of the Councillors for their time and support and Cllr Linda Robinson also, who always attends the meetings. She expressed that she very much hoped that Kington and Dormston would remain in Upton Snodsbury Ward in the future, rather than moving to Inkberrow Ward as proposed in the recent consultation. The Parish Council have consulted on a number of planning applications throughout the year and it was also noted that the lengthsman had continued to upkeep the villages jobs as required. Cllr Tilt thanked the Clerk Lisa Cope with all of her help in keeping the Parish Council running smoothly.

Lastly she thanked Cllr Laight, who was handing in his resignation today after moving away from the village as he had been a member for many years and his input had been appreciated.

4. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that the end of year accounts had been completed and sent to Mrs Powell who had undertaken an internal audit as well as approval from all Cllrs. Annual gross income for 2021/22 was £9,269 and the annual gross expenditure was £7,682.

5. ANNUAL REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR- LINDA ROBINSON

As tonight is both your Parish meeting & your Annual Parish Council meeting, I would like to say a few words of appreciation. It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I became your new County Councillor. Taking the role on from Rob Adams was quite daunting and I would like to thank him for being a valued advisor for me as I got to grips with this new position. My thanks also go to all your parish councillors particularly your Chairman and Clerk.

A large percentage of my time is spent on highways issues dealing with 11 parish councils and three parish meetings in our large Upton Snodsbury Division. I have been made Vice Chairman of Planning & regulatory services which can be quite challenging. I have also become a member of the Hereford & Worcestershire

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Fire Authority which is very interesting. In May last year we were in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic and I would like to thank all those in your community who gave their time to help others. Now we are involved in yet another crisis with the war in Ukraine and once again many of our residents are doing sterling work to help refugees and raise funds and send collections of essential items for those still in Ukraine. Please see below for the latest details from Wychavon & County.

Covid-19 update

April saw the end of free testing and this has affected the reliability of infection data. While official testing rates have fallen significantly, information from other sources presents a different picture, although data is still patchy. What is clear is infection rates are significantly higher than the headline rates. In the south of the county, it is estimated about 1 in 14 people have Covid-19 which is the same rate as England and only slightly above the West Midlands (1 in 13). This is being felt by our acute hospitals. As of 25 April, 129 patients had been admitted with Covid-19 in the last 7 days with about 158 now in hospital. Not all are being treated for Covid-19 though some may have arrived for a different reason but also have Covid-19. Hospitals are reporting the age of people arriving with Covid-19 is increasing again with more people over 60 presenting. Visit the Worcestershire Covid-19 dashboard for the latest infection rates data. In terms of Covid-19 vaccinations, our areas of lowest deprivation continue to be the areas where take up is lowest but take up of the vaccination has now largely stalled with numbers barely changing. View the latest vaccination data on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Homes for Ukraine update

Staff continue to work hard to deliver the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Wychavon. As of 28 April, we have been made aware of 99 hosts in the district, with an anticipated 242 guests. We are finding that some guests are choosing not to travel after their visa has been issued for a variety of reasons so we are treating this figure with caution.

As of 26 April, the number of visas issued by the Home Office for guests intending to travel to Wychavon was 160. We have been told the Home Office is speeding up the issuing of visas.

Community Recovery Fund

We've just opened applications to our Covid-19 Community Recovery Fund. The £150,000 grant fund has been set up to support to community groups/organisations that require funding to assist with their day-to-day running costs to aid recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. They are also available to organisations that have experienced an increase in demand as result of the pandemic and wish to expand their services to meet the need. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the impact that the pandemic has had on their organisation, how the funding will be used, and the difference it will make to Wychavon residents.

We expect grant awards to be between £300 and £10,000 depending on need. You can find more details and a link to our web-based application form on our website here. The fund will stay open until the end of October 2023 unless all the money is allocated before then.

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SWDP.

The SWDP publication which was scheduled for consultation in July has been delayed. Work on the key documents relating to development sites and the infrastructure to support them is yet to be completed.

How Worcestershire's gritters travelled the equivalent of three times around the Earth this winter

GRITTERS covered almost 70,000 miles across Worcestershire this winter as staff sought to keep the county open for business.

Since October, Worcestershire County Council has carried out 51 gritting runs, spreading 5,341 tonnes of salt, keeping roads moving and safe for motorists. This covered 69,972 miles in total, which is the equivalent of approximately three times around the circumference of our planet.

WORCESTERSHIRE's roads will be given a new lease of life when the county's surface dressing programme hits the streets.

The programme will see road surfaces across the county restored, with more 160 sites set to be treated over the spring and summer. Surface dressing works follow on from the winter gritting season and various other ongoing works taking place to maintain and improve the county's road network. Jon Fraser from Worcestershire County Council Highways said: "The surface dressing process is used to improve the surface of the road and slow down deterioration. Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/surfacedressing for the list of roads which will be subject to the works in 2022 and stay up to date with the surface dressing schedule on Twitter @WorcsTravel.

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VILLAGE HALL- HANNAH FORRESTER

The Village Hall is comfortable financially with £15,000 in the bank account, largely due to a covid grant of £10,000 from Wychavon the previous year, and an Omicron grant of £2667 at the beginning of 2022. There has been a new kitchen fitted and new curtains, again in the previous financial year, and a new kitchen floor fitted very recently. They are also in the process of having a concrete step outside the double doors replaced, subject to accepting a tender. There is still a wait on the provision of a new sound system, with an update from Nick Dawkes due shortly.

New cupboards are being fitted in the next few weeks and an electrician is going to give the Hall an assessment to see if there is any ongoing work that needs to be done.

Bookings are down a little, but there is still WI, Seniors, Parish Council, craft days and an art class and a wedding coming up in the summer.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

1. Summary of Activity for 2021/2022 During the year, we have held 4 formal meetings. I would like to thank the coordinators for their continued support. Regrettably our Chairperson Joyce Roll, after 10 years as a member of our Committee has retired from Kington & Dormston Neighbourhood Watch. We have not yet recruited a replacement Chairperson. We have now joined the National Neighbourhood Watch and have encouraged householders to sign up to our scheme online. This enables householders to update their own contact details and to receive notifications directly from the police and other agencies about crime and incidents in the area. It also enables coordinators to contact householders through the Ourwatch

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messaging system of problems in the area. Elliott Nixon Community Safety Officer kindly obtained and put up 6 new Kington & Dormston Neighbourhood Watch signs in the villages. 2. Treasurer’s Report The funds were audited for the year ending 28 February 2022. The balance held at that date was £33.98. There have been no expenses this year and 3p interest. 3. Crime and incidents in the Area We have received few notifications of crime in the area. Those we are aware of are :- May 2021 A spate of criminal damage to property in Kington on three different occasions A Caravan parked at a residential property was vandalised by having 2 windows smashed. At the same property a window in the house was smashed using a petanque ball. A small statue was then removed from the front garden. November 2021 2 Vans were broken into near the Red Hart. December 2021 2 people on a moped burgled a residential property in Grafton Flyford. Theft of Drain covers along A422 between Kington and Inkberrow.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH PATHS WARDEN- MR TILT

Mr Tilt resigned as Path warden and an advertisement has gone out for a replacement but there have been no applications as yet. Before he resigned a full list of stiles that need replacing/ repairing was sent to WCC.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A number of residents attended the meeting concerned by plans of a Solar Farm in Roundhill Wood, although this does not fall directly in the parish of Kington and Dormston there could potentially be traffic issues with large lorries using Cockshot Lane whilst it was set up. Other concerns were: visual impact on the landscape, noise pollution, the concern of wildlife and natural habitats and the removal of arable farming to use the land. Overall concern was that there had not been adequate consultation with local residents, as many did not know of the future plans- although nothing had gone to planning permission as yet. Cllrs agreed to highlight the plans to residents using the noticeboard and What’s on magazine article to make them more aware and contact Cllr Robinson for regular updates on planning. It was also agreed to add this to the agenda for the July meeting and consult with the other parishes and join their committee. If a planning application was then made, a suggestion from Cllr Longmore was for the parishes to join funds financially and pay a legal company to go through the report and compile a response.

The meeting concluded at 7:45pm

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....