

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held via zoom at 7.15pm on 28th April 2021.

1. Apologies for absence- None.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 15th May 2019 were approved, proposed by MiT, seconded by GB with a unanimous vote in favour.
3. The Meeting received an oral report from the Chairman of the Council (Gary Bailey):
When I sat down to write this report., I thought: 'it won't take long, due to Covid restrictions we haven't achieved much in the last 12 months' Then when I started to think about it in more detail, I realised that once again the Parish Council has achieved an awful lot!

We have all gotten used to Zoom meetings now, as the Government guidelines prevented meeting in public. The worst part about this is the Guidelines from May 7th state that Zoom meetings will no longer be allowed for a full PC meeting and we must revert back to face to face meetings.

A summary of the past year:

In May/June last year we received reports of a mindless vandalism around the Sands Lane play area. This was tidied up and the damaged items removed. The Scout Hut roof cappings had been replaced but again the cappings were smashed by balls and stones being thrown at them. The PC have now covered the cappings with Galvanised steel plates and fixings to further reduce the damage to the Scout Hut. The picnic tables have been spaced around the rec ground and secured to prevent them from being used to cause damage, these can be moved when required such as Badsey Flower Show.

The petanque square has been raked over and rolled ready for when the restrictions were lifted and using Section 106 monies, we have installed a new piece of play equipment at Sands Lane. We will be refilling the sunken play area with new bark chippings now that the weather has improved. Thankfully, when the PC reviewed the past 6 months, it was confirmed that the mindless vandalism seems to have stopped.

The Badsey Society applied for funding for the new information board to commemorate the 100 years of the Sands Lane Recreation Ground. This has now been installed. Myself and Vice Chairman, Mike Tennant attended the official unveiling in October 2020.

Parish Councillors got together in October and planted more bulbs in the verges around Badsey and Aldington.

But by far our biggest achievement this year and in the history of the PC is the successful purchase of 11.8 acres of Land at Bowers Hill. The land will be used for a parish burial ground, allotments, community garden and heritage orchard. This is being funded by the successful application for Public Works Board Loan funds, New Homes Bonus and the Wychavon Community Legacy Grant.

Working closely with Wychavon Planning, a new access bridge has been created which includes a new culvert, gates and pedestrian access and the ditches have been cleared to provide clear water flow and reduce the risk to all of flooding.

The new burial ground area has been marked out and weed killed. As soon as the archaeological survey has taken place during week of 12th April 2021, the area can be ploughed and seeded and more finely marked for plots. The survey is part of the process which started in December and which has been approved by Wychavon in conjunction with Archaeological officer and will release this planning condition. This has been a long drawn out process with many frustrations along the way but will move forward at pace as soon as it is

complete. An application has been made to the Diocese of Worcester for the consecration of the area which when approved will be carried out by the Bishop of Worcester.

The whole site is now under the control of the PC and are just submitting specifications for 2 car parks and the 2nd entrance. Quotations have been invited from 4 local contractors.

Residents are being asked to express their interest in allotment plots to the clerk so that they can be filled as soon as they are available for use.

3 of the 9 flower tubs have now been replaced with sturdy wooden planters at some of the entrances to the village. These were planted by Andrea, parish clerk at the beginning of April and will be planted further with summer colour as the weather warms. They do look impressive. The barrel tubs will be relocated at the land at Bowers Hill and planted to provide extra colour and enjoyment to users.

With restrictions starting to ease, we as a Parish Council, look forward to many more projects in 2021 that will enhance the parish that we live in including the land project for the benefit of all our parishioners.

Gary Bailey

Chairman

April 2021.

4. The meeting received an oral report from the Planning Committee Chairman (Mike Gwynn):

In the year from April 2020 to April 2021 the PC considered 37 planning applications. Of these 25 have been approved by Wychavon DC, 4 refused and 8 are pending.

The majority of applications (18) referred to extensions or alterations to homes - none have been refused.

11 applications referred to new dwellings, although these concerned 6 sites. By far the most significant of these are the 3 applications for homes to be built on land behind 3 Bretforton Rd. These have attracted not only objections from the PC but also many local residents. An application to build 100 homes was received in 2020 - this was refused; it is understood that an appeal has been lodged. A further identical application has been made this year - the decision is pending. In the meantime, the developer applied to build 24 entry-level homes on the same site - the PC objected but the decision by Wychavon has not yet been finalised.

The other applications for new dwellings have all been approved, but these are for single dwellings, apart from one site in Blackminster for 8 affordable homes.

The other 8 applications were a variety of types, including certificates of lawfulness, change of use, storage and 2 connected to the keeping of horses. The most significant was Fairview who wanted to expand their "holiday home" site from 20 to 40 units. The PC objected and the application refused by Wychavon.

5. Public Question Time.- No points raised:

The meeting ended at 7.20pm