



The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting. It is a meeting of the parish electors (residents listed on the electoral roll for the parish), organised by the Parish Council. Residents can contribute anything to the agenda and in practice these meetings often celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community. It would be helpful for the Parish Clerk to have written prior notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential.

Refreshments available from 7.15pm	
1.	<p>7.30pm. Welcome, introductions & apologies.</p> <p>Present: Parish Cllrs A. Collett, R. Woodhouse, P. Ayers, G. Probert, A. Sinclair, S. Wilson. District Cllr Dean Clarke. Julie Granger (Wilder Worcestershire Project Manager, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust), Parish Clerk & RFO Lisa Stevens. 2 members of public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies from County Councillor Scott Richardson Brown and Parish Councillor Georgie Moore. - Nominations for Chair if residents wish to elect another Chair for this resident meeting. Nil. Nb. Parish Council chairs the meeting if no other nominations. - Minutes of 2023 Parish Residents Meeting. Approved. - Declarations already in place for Councillor Woodhouse in respect of the Open Ditch.
2.	<p>General Forum - To invite the public to raise any other matters of interest.</p> <p><i>Please give your name and address if willing.</i></p> <p>a. Resident correspondence: Bus users in Sinton Green</p> <p>“First Bus Company has taken over Astons bus route, without any warning and the 308 Martley to Worcester via Sinton Green route is no longer in service! If people do not drive or have mobility issues, how can they leave the village? On behalf of Sinton Green bus users, I would appreciate any assistance you can offer in resolving this issue.”</p> <p>The Clerk was instructed to find out why the bus has been cancelled and obtain some statistics. Our County Councillor to be approached for assistance. Parish Councillors suggested that the popular dial a bus service (Worcestershire on Demand) available in Kempsey and Severn Stoke be rolled out to Grimley parish and neighbouring parishes – the Clerk to make this request.</p> <p>Parish Councillors noted that a working bus route is a crucial aspect of many planning applications, in terms of access to facilities and jobs.</p> <p>The Clerk to check whether the Grimley village bus is similarly under threat.</p>

General Forum continued**b. Open Ditch pub patron parking.**

Councillor Woodhouse voluntarily moved to the public seating and took no part in debate.

- i. Parish Councillors welcomed the publican of the Open Ditch.
- ii. Parish Councillors noted that verbal complaints to the parish council are very rarely followed by complaints in writing and that no residents were present at this meeting to talk about the issue. Complaints/comments by social media cannot be accepted formally (due to inability to verify the sender), though they are followed up as best may be. It is not known how many complaints are submitted to the police non-emergency facility. The Clerk has been keeping our PCSOs informed of all developments.
- iii. In the absence of resident attendance or of contribution by residents willing to be named, Parish Councillors made Note and Resolutions 'as at Full Parish Council' and debated the ongoing parking issues, including parking by residents and patrons of the pub on verges/village green and inconsiderate driving.
- iv. **Resolved. Motion:** Regular use of the smaller triangle on the Village Green for parking is not appropriate, but the parish council might be willing to help in dry weather for one-off events, if the Peace Hall is not able to assist. Councillor Ayers to talk to the Hall Committee. Prps: AC. Scnd AS.
- v. The publican has met with PC Jennifer Evans to talk about event licencing and is also approaching local land owners to engage their help with assisting with event parking. The police have offered to provide police cones if needed for future events. The Clerk was **instructed** to continue liaising with Highways with regard to knee rail bollard options for the village green. Public consultation will be undertaken before any decision is made. Councillors noted that the forthcoming ditch repairs and excavations will also assist with defining the village green and encouraging vehicles to keep away from this facility.
- vi. Councillors noted emailed reports and photos of sometimes large numbers of vehicles parked on the highway and verges – presumed patrons of the Open Ditch, sometimes in connection with private functions. Councillors noted the absence of parking restrictions on the public highway in the local area, beyond those standards and requirements in the Highway Code. **Resolved. Motion:** To install 'no parking on verge' signs on the village green, along the section of the bus shelter and to monitor effectiveness. Threshold cost £150 plus VAT.
- vii. Councillors noted recent damage to the verge, ditch and headwall at the Open Ditch caused by a resident vehicle and had received photos of the incident underway.
- viii. Councillors noted recent damage to the verge and ditch roughly opp. Holmfield caused by a resident's business vehicle and had received photos of the incident underway.
- ix. Councillors noted that recent mostly superficial tyre damage to the verge along by the hedge belonging to Platform (vicinity of 'The Houses') was caused by Platform contractors when attending to the ditch and hedges – activity which the parish councillors commended as welcome work to maintain local drainage. Photos of this damage has been received by the Clerk for the record.
- x. Councillors noted that damage to the verge by the bus stop is contributed to by the school bus and was instructed to enquire of Highways whether a better pull-in might be appropriate.
- xi. Councillors noted that the classic car event previously held at Sinton has been moved to Monkwood Green Common, though the parish council has not been notified of this event in advance either as a courtesy or as the land owners of the Common and service roads. The parish council continues to draft it's policy with regard to fair handling and management of parish council land assets, with the emphasis on not restricting existing customs and practices where applicable/appropriate.

3.	<p>Worcestershire Wildlife Trust - Julie Grainger, Green Farm Engagement Officer</p> <p>Update on recent tree planting and hedge laying on Green Farm: All new gates and bridleway signs are now in place. New fences are in to stop deer eating the newly planted trees. Reinstated hedges are based on historic maps and local advice. Grimley, Martley, Broadheath and Hallow schools have all helped with the tree planting. Hallow Scout group has also been involved. Grimley primary school is to do some butterfly counts.</p> <p>May 31st BioBlitz day: This will see children conduct moth traps, butterfly walks and tree identification quizzes. All species identified will be recorded by the Worcester Volunteer Group. Bat walks must be prebooked.</p> <p>June 5th: Stakeholder event will be more formal than the above.</p> <p>December 2024: tree planting event with Wild Goose Rural Training. Mostly fruit trees.</p> <p>January 2025 will see planting of Oak, Lime, Hornbeam ect in the wood pasture.</p> <p>Parish Councillors thanked Julie for her attendance and for regularly keeping the PC informed.</p>
4.	<p>General updates as required and written reports if submitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) District Cllr Thanked the parish councillors for their work over the past year. Suggestion to add Chair report to this agenda next year. ii) County Cllr – absent. iii) Lengthsman – nil provided. iv) Police – nil provided. v) Primary school – nil provided. vi) Peace Hall Committee – nil provided. vii) Grimley Smaller Charities – nothing to report. viii) Monkwood Green Commoners Association – nothing to report. ix) Churchyard Volunteers – thanks provided for ongoing green bin provision. x) Any other group and committee that wishes to be involved – nil.
Close of Annual Parish Meeting	