

SEDGEBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Sedgeberrow Parish ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held at the Village Hall on Thursday 10th March 2011 at 7.30pm.

Present

Cllr's Mrs M Pratt [Chairman], Mrs S Tebbutt, Mr S Morris, Mr A Stow, Mr R Hunt and Mr J Barclay, Ms J Shields (Clerk), CSO Williams and 10 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr's Mr J De Paris, Mrs A Mackison (District) and Mrs E Eyre (County).

2. Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly on 1st March 2010.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 1st March 2010, were agreed as a true record and signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Chairman's Annual Report.

The Parish Council has held 6 meetings during the year, with 15mins being allowed at each meeting for electors to ask questions or comment on matters affecting the village.

A Parish Council Working Group has held several meetings regarding the refurbishment of the Children's Play Area in Main Street. A public exhibition of possible designs for the area was held and comments and suggestions invited. A new rural looking design was finally drawn up. The Chairman and Vice Chairman attended a Community Grant Briefing and a grant was applied for from the Wychavon Rural Play Initiative Fund. Unfortunately the bid was not successful because of concerns over access to the site and the fact that the village already has another play area. The Working Group is continuing to explore other sources of funding.

A consultation event to gather evidence of housing site allocations and policies for the South Worcestershire Development Plan held at Beckford was attended by Councillors and many village residents. Since the consultation the Coalition Government has made a number of changes to the statutory planning system including the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The information gathered will inform the content of the South Worcestershire Development Plan preferred options document that will be published for a formal consultation period in the autumn.

During the year the Parish Clerk, Tara Cook, resigned. The post was advertised and 5 applicants were interviewed. The Parish Council appointed Jackie Shields to be the new Parish Clerk. Jackie has now been successful in gaining a Certificate in Local Council Administration.

A village litter pick was again undertaken and the Parish Council awarded a bursary of £300, which was shared between the Village Hall Committee and the Flood Group who organised the event. Thanks go to both these organisations and all their helpers for undertaking the cleanup.

The former Telephone Kiosk in Main Street is now the property of the Parish Council and a quote has been accepted for repainting. The work will be carried out when the weather is more settled and a decision will then be made regarding its future use.

The village again entered the Wychavon Parish Games. The events entered were: Angling, Bowls, Crib, Cross Country, Ladies Darts, Dominoes, and Skittles. Unfortunately the Bowls team were unable to play on the day of the event. The Angling team came third overall and the Dominoes team reached the semi-finals. The Ladies Darts team

won their event again and retain the trophy for another year. Sedgeberrow finished in 15th place out of 34 parishes. Congratulations go to the Ladies Darts team and thanks to the event organisers and all the Sedgeberrow residents who took part in the Games.

A mobile Police Unit has visited the village on several occasions and our local Police Officer and the Community Support Officer have regularly attended Parish Council Meetings to give reports.

The Parish Council Accounts to 31st March 2010 have been audited by Clement Keys the appointed Auditors, and an unqualified audit opinion has been given. The precept raised for 2011/2012 will remain at £9,500 and the Parish Council's portion of the Council Tax charge will be unchanged. A review of the Parish Council's Financial Regulations and Risk Schedule has been carried out.

The Parish Council has again made a contribution towards Rural Rate Relief for Sedgeberrow Village Stores and a donation of £100 has been given to Evesham Citizens Advice Bureau. A donation of £100 has been given towards publishing the stories of Jim Bowles' childhood in Sedgeberrow. Donations of £1,000 each have been given to the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee towards the cost of grass cutting in the Churchyard and the Glebe Meadow.

The Parish Council again arranged the purchase of a Poppy Wreath, which the Chairman laid at the village War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the village residents.

The Parish Council once again arranged to have the grass cut on the highway verges within the 30mph area and also the grass in the Main Street Play Area. During the coming season the grass in the Play Area is to be cut by New Farms Grounds Maintenance, and the grass on the highway verges is to be cut by Worcestershire County Council.

The County Council Lengthsman Scheme has continued and thanks go to Martin Woodhouse for attending to highway matters and for clearing the snow and gritting when necessary. The Parish Council has agreed a rolling programme of work for the Lengthsman to carry out.

Complaints have once again been received about hedges and trees overhanging the highways and footways making access and visibility difficult. Residents are asked to check that any vegetation from their property is not causing a problem for pedestrians or motorists. The County Council Highways Dept has agreed a quote for severely cutting back the overgrown vegetation along the verge in Bridewell Drive.

Speeding surveys on Cheltenham Road and Winchcombe Road have been carried out and the Parish Council would like to install a Vehicle Activated Sign. The County Council has stipulated that these signs must be shared with another Parish Council but to date no other nearby Parish Council has shown any interest.

The resurfacing of the footpaths in Churchill Road has been completed by County Council Highways and regular requests to fill potholes have been made.

Following the floods in 2007 the village received a Grant to reinstate any public area that had been damaged. This grant has been used to replace the fencing and gates at Glebe Meadow.

Parish Council information is now posted on the village website www.sedgeberrow.com and Agenda and Minutes of Meetings are posted on the Parish Council pages of the County Council website www.worcestershire.gov.uk. Thanks go to Mr Chris Trewick for maintaining the excellent village website.

During the year Parish Councillors have attended several outside events and meetings. These include: Quarterly meetings of the County Association of Local Councils, Wychavon

Sport De-Brief and AGM, Worcestershire Parish Conference, Evesham Area Forum, Police Meetings and Community Forum lunches.

The Parish Council has dealt with a variety of correspondence from parishioners and authorities and responded to consultations and reviews undertaken by Government and Statutory bodies. The Council has also been consulted on the following village Planning Applications:

(List attached)

Thanks go to the Parish Council representatives for all that they have done for the village during the past year:

David May, Footpath Warden
Richard Hunt, Flood Warden
Sylvia Brown, Public Transport Representative
John De Paris, Tree Warden

Thanks also go to the Officials for regularly attending our meetings and providing reports and for the help and support they have given to the Parish Council during the past year.

County Cllr Liz Eyre
District Cllr Anna Mackison
PC Gary Shepheard
CSO Simon Williams

Finally, I thank my fellow Parish Councillors and Jackie, our Clerk, for their support and friendship during the year.

5. County Councillor's Report.

6. District Councillor's Report.

The parish agreed for the Chairman to write to Mrs Mackison and thank her for her help within the parish.

7. Police Report.

Sedgeberrow Crime Figures 01/3/2010 – 1/03/2011.

6 x Burglaries, 3 Assaults, 6 thefts, 3 criminal damage, 7 Anti Social behaviour, 1 x vehicle and 8 other (which could include traffic offences etc...)

Mobile police station will be in the village sometime on 19th May 2011.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is working very well.

If any one is interested in looking at crime figures go to www.police.uk.

8. Parish Footpath Warden's Report.

9. Worcestershire County Council Proposals for Reducing Subsidised Bus Services.

The bus service is the main item of concern to the parish; the parish council will be writing to the County Council, parishioners were urged to write to the County Council themselves.

10. Any other matters raised by Electors, preferably reported to the Chairman prior to the Meeting.

Questions asked by parishioners.

Who funds the footpaths – A Government Grant to the County.

Could 106 monies be used for anything other than a cycle path. – No.

Could the parish make a donation to the Glebe meadow – organisations within the parish should write to the parish council c/o of the clerk to ask for donations?

Bus Service Questionnaires and Parish Councillor Election packs were available.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.