

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING FOR  
OMBERSLEY AND DOVERDALE HELD AT OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL ON  
TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013 at 7.30p.m.

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PRESENT: Cllr. Mrs. Moyse (in the Chair), J. Jordan (Clerk), Cllr. P. Tomlinson, Wychavon District Council, Cllr M H Broomfield, Worcestershire County Council, Cllrs. Arnold, Best, Ingram, McKensie-Rowan, Murphy, Reynolds, Mrs. B. Serrell, and 10 electors of the parish.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced all the Parish Councillors to the assembly.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllrs Morris, Silvester and Simpson. Apologies were also received from PC Tony Cater and Tony and Iris Checketts.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2012 had been displayed on the notice board for the previous 2 weeks. It was proposed by Cllr. W T Arnold and seconded by Cllr. Mrs B Serrell that they be taken as read. The meeting agreed and they were signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (summary):

The Chairman reminded members that this time last year the parish was preparing to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. At that time no one could have forecast the dreadful weather which was to overshadow the whole weekend. However, despite this, the celebrations continued with a wonderful lunch and tea party at the Memorial Hall, followed by a cricket match and children's sports at the Cricket Club on Monday. Celebrations culminated with the lighting of the beacon opposite Ombersley School.

During the year the Chairman had been pleased to welcome two new head teachers to the first schools in the parish; Mrs Caroline Moore to Ombersley and Mrs Helen Mann to Sytchampton. Mrs Mann's subsequent tragic death had cast a shadow over the whole community. At the Remembrance Service at Doverdale Canon Kerr had led a moving service. It was a credit to all the staff, children, parents and governors that the school had recovered so well. A new head had also been appointed.

September saw the retirement of Judith Smart, the Parish Clerk. After the September Parish Council meeting a presentation was made in grateful thanks for all Judith's hard work and dedication to the parish over the last 15 years. In November, John was appointed as the Parish Council's new clerk.

Throughout the year, the Parish Council allocated funds to groups and organisations in the parish. A new electric cooker was provided for the guides and brownies, a cover and cricket equipment for the junior cricket club, cutlery and kitchen equipment for Sytchampton Village Hall and cutlery, crockery and a new door for Ombersley Memorial Hall. Money was also given towards the purchase of a new mower for Ombersley Church. The Parish Council was also extremely grateful to the Conservation Trust for their generous donation towards the restoration of the parish clock.

The exceptional weather during the year caused huge road problems. Pot holes, floods, soil and debris and overgrown hedges have consistently been raised at Parish Council meetings. David Miles, the Parish Lengthsman had been kept busy and the Parish Council was grateful for his efforts in resolving issues as they arose.

At last years' meeting concern was raised over traffic issues with the volume of traffic and speeding being the primary concerns. After many requests the speed limit on A433 from Droitwich was reduced to 50mph. A speed census was conducted and traffic monitored. Following the results of this the Parish Council proceeded to purchase a Vehicle Activated Sign which could be rotated between 4 locations in Ombersley. The introduction of the sign had been largely welcomed by residents and also the local school. Speed monitoring would continue and the information collated would be useful to support the Parish Council's requests for speed enforcement in key locations around the village.

The Parish newsletter continued to be published 4 times per year. With the ever increasing costs of publication and the time taken to deliver them, the Parish Council had decided to cut down on delivering to every household. The Newsletter would continue to be available on-line and at key outlets in the Parish. Copies were also published on the Parish Council website which also contained up to date information including agendas and minutes, as well as meeting dates and councillor contact details. The Parish website would soon be linked to the Ombersley.net website which will provide information on up and coming events.

Work had begun to replace the bollards and benches on the Weighbridge Site. Plans for a jubilee information board with points of interest around the village were also being considered.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to recognise the people in the community who did so much. She was privileged to attend a surprise party for Margaret Heath who, after 35 years, had retired as leader of Ombersley guides and brownies.

The Parish Council and whole community had been saddened by the recent deaths of Lord Sandys and Dr Peter Stuart-Smith. Both men had been central to life in Ombersley and they would be greatly missed.

The Chairman concluded her report by thanking Members of the Parish, District and County Councils and, indeed everyone who gave so much time and effort on behalf of the Parish.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT: (Cllr. W. T. Arnold):

Up to and including the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013, there had been 14 Planning Committee meetings which considered 58 applications. 47 had been approved, 4 refused, 2 withdrawn and 7 pending a decision.

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL (subject to audit). The Chairman of the Finance Committee Cllr. M. Best presented the Statement.

Income: Precept £23,000, New Homes Bonus Grant £9,999, VAT Reclaim £8,030, County Councillor's grant £1,000, Ombersley Conservation Trust £5000, Lengthsman administration charge £142, bank interest £2.00. Total £47,173

Expenditure: Statutory/administration £7,997, chairman's allowance, training, rate relief, subscriptions, newsletter, website £751, Maintenance £7,975, Grants and Donations – Clock, mowing, St Andrews, St Mary's, RBL, Jubilee, £7,090, Ombersley Memorial Hall £3,472, Sytchampton Village Hall £3,022, Youth Club £600, Junior Cricket Club £599, Ombersley Guides and Brownies £465, Miscellaneous expenditure £1,517. Total: £33,488  
Bank balances as at 28.03.13 £18,543.04 in the current account, £3,104.70 in the Reserve Account.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Best for his work in managing the finances and submitting the grant applications.

**OMBERSLEY MEMORIAL HALL: (Mr. S. Hopkins)**

Mr. Hopkins thanked the Parish Council for funding the improvements to the Memorial Hall. Copies of the accounts were provided.

**SYTCHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL: (Cllr. Best)**

Income from lettings had increased although expenditure for running the Hall continued to increase. A 5 year plan which had been supplied to the Parish Council set out the maintenance and refurbishment proposals over this period.

**OTHER GRANT RECEIVING ORGANISATIONS**

**YOUTH CLUB – Mr. D. Miles.**

Thanks to the Parish Council for the continued support. There were currently 35 members between the ages of 9-16. New members were coming on board, some from further afield from Grimley. Funds of £600.

**OMBERSLEY GUIDES AND BROWNIES** – thanks to the Parish Council for the continued support.

**PATH WARDEN REPORT (Cllr. R Murphy)**

There were three new Path Wardens. Cllr Murphy had also appealed via the Parish Newsletter for more Wardens to come forward.

The wardens meet regularly and liaise with landowners and report problems to the County Council. Where necessary working parties were convened to deal with particular matters. The Chairman thanked the Path Wardens for their hard work.

**TREE WARDEN REPORT (Cllr. A. J. Silvester)**

In his absence the Chairman presented Cllr Silvester's report. This included details of the events attended together with planned areas of activity which included a report on 'die back' and listing of all Tree Preservation Orders and trees of interest in the Parish.

**LENGTHSMAN REPORT (Mr. D. Miles)**

This was funded by the County Council. The Lengthsman was responsible for keeping drains cleared so water did not collect on the road. The majority of problems being encountered were as a result of drains silting up. Whilst the Lengthsman did what he could to keep the drains cleared some required intervention by the County Council. The Chairman thanked Mr. Miles for his continued help.

### POLICE REPORT (PC Tony Carter)

In PC Carter's absence, the Clerk provided an update on his behalf. Regular reports were made to the Parish council on incidents across the Parish. There were two trends worthy of a reminder – theft of heating oil and theft of garden furniture and ornaments. Progress was being made in apprehending the offenders but the public needed to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

### DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr. Tomlinson)

Cllr Tomlinson presented his report in which he made reference to the latest round of budget reductions being considered by Wychavon District Council. He had been involved in two contentious planning applications, the main problems stemming from national policy changes which were creating uncertainty locally and throughout the country. Enforcement continued to be an issue and Cllr Tomlinson was arranging for the Head of Wychavon's Enforcement Team to visit the Parish Council to talk about his Team's work.

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cllr Broomfield)

Cllr. Broomfield reported on the level of budget reductions being considered by the County Council. He also gave an update on the Hartlebury Incinerator planning application.

### ANY OTHER MATTERS

Traffic Matters – 2 residents raised the matter of speeding traffic in Ombersley. Cllr Reynolds took the opportunity to update the meeting. A Vehicle Activated Sign had been purchased and this was helpful in raising awareness of excessive vehicle speeds. However, this was only one tool in the campaign to reduce vehicle speeds. Work was underway to refine the Traffic Regulation Orders so that speed enforcement could begin. The village had already been identified as an area of Community Concern.

When introduced, the Safer Roads Partnership will embark on a 6 month programme of enforcement after which time reports will be published.

Footpath on the side of the A449 to make it safer for cyclists. – A question was asked if this could be kept this clear for cyclists. The Lengthsman was not allowed to work on the A449 so the Clerk would raise this matter with the County Council. Cllr Broomfield would also raise the matter.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.