

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Bredon Village Hall on Monday 20th April 2015 at 7.30 pm

Present.

Cllrs Mr Matt Darby, Mr Phil Handy, Mr Andrew Rhodes, Mr Declan Shiels, Mr Andrew Woodward (Chairman), Mr Adrian Darby (District) and Mr Adrian Hardman (County and District). Ms J Shields (Clerk) and Mr Brod Whiting.

1. Apologies For Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr's Mrs Alison Palmer, Mrs Gail Whiting, Mr Rob Sly and Mr Malcolm Dunn.

2. Minutes Of Annual Parish Meeting Held 14th April 2014.

The minutes having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report.

Ladies and gentleman I would like to welcome you to the Parish Annual Meeting, I can't believe the year has gone so quickly.

2014 and the beginning of 2015 has been a very eventful one in which we have seen major challenges to our village way of life, by way of planning applications, one of which we still anxiously await the decision by the appeals inspector.

In no particular order I just want to run through a few key areas and we will be happy to answer any questions. These are just highlights of the work the Council has carried out over and above our normal meetings and deliberations.

- The new Rugby Club facilities are now complete - and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them well for the future and continued success both on and off the pitch.
- The work to regenerate the Dock area will commence shortly, and the vision is to make this a much more relaxing and well kept area for all to enjoy.
- Following real problems with the grass cutting contracts, we have once again reviewed this. I am pleased to say that the contracts for both the village and the playing fields have been awarded to one of our own local residents following a tendering process and we have seen a vast improvement already.
- Planning - as mentioned earlier, the Parish does seem to be under attack by developers during the last 2 years, with a number of housing developments being put forward. This has taken considerable time and skill in considering and replying to many of these applications and our submissions to Wychavon. I would like to pass on my personal thanks to the Planning sub group for some truly outstanding work this year. In particular I would like to pass on special thanks to Councillors Palmer and Darby - they have spent many hours on behalf of the council preparing for the two large appeals that the council has been involved in recently and even though we still await the Gladmans decision - I can honestly say without the commitment and dedication shown by both Alison and Matt and I don't think we would even have got to appeal let alone defeat the Bensham's development. I have to mention the council and the Clerk themselves - as you know we are all volunteers and the past 12 months has seen some fairly long meetings. As chairman they have certainly made my job easier.

However I have taken the decision that I would not stand for re election this year and therefore this will be my last annual general meeting. I would like to pass on my thanks to all that have served on the Parish Council during my tenure and I have to mention in particular John Masters who sadly passed away, John was a great servant of the village and I will always be thankful for his help and support. I would like to finish by saying just a few special thanks to some individuals;

- Phil Handy - who has been my very supportive vice chair for the last 4 years and I really couldn't have asked for more.
- As already mentioned the planning group and in particular Alison Palmer and Matt Darby for all the hard work.
- Adrian Hardman our district councillor, Adrian thank you for all the support and for the efforts in helping us to achieve many projects we have undertaken this year.
- Jo Lomasney for looking after the Village Hall and bookings on behalf of the Council.
- and last but by no ways least Jackie Shields the Parish Clerk - who has had to endure Phil and I for the last 4 years and for keeping the both of us and the rest of the council in order.

I hope the council is now in a strong position and in capable hands as I leave and I wish everyone who will be taking up post as a councillor in May the upmost success.

Andrew Woodward

Chairman Bredon Parish Council

Cllr Matt Darby, on behalf of the council and the parish thanked Mr Andrew Woodward for his contribution to the council.

4. County And District Councillor Mr A Hardman's Report.

To Be Inserted .

5. District Councillor Mr A Darby Report.

I am giving you a report because Westmancote lies in my ward, although the rest of the parish is in Councillor Hardman's Bredon ward. .

Last year I reported on two major issues, and I would now like to bring you up to date.

Finance

Wychavon published its business plan Grow, Save, Charge. This was its proposal to cope with a reduction of £4m of central government funding between 2010/11 and 2017/18, which represents 59% of our budget.

Of this gap we aimed to save £2.1m in 2013-15 and a further £1m in 2015-18. There was still a further £1.2m to be identified for the second half of the plan period. We have in fact achieved £2.4m in 2013-2015 with further reductions of £.7m in 2015-18.

Once again the council tax is due to rise by just under 2%.

It is not certain that a new government will continue the New Homes Bonus in future years. This being the case, Wychavon has agreed not to make any further allocations to parish councils from 1 April 2015 until the situation has been clarified.

Planning

So far as Westmancote is concerned there has only been one planning application to which the Parish Council has objected. Because this involved someone I knew, I referred the decision, as to whether to take it to committee, to Cllr Hardman. So far this application is still pending.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Examination has now resumed. Last year I reported that the inspector had rejected the three councils' estimate of the housing required which they had submitted in May 2013. The inspector published his interim conclusions in April 2014 which established the objectively assessed housing need for each council as follows: Malvern Hills 8590, Worcester City 9830, Wychavon 9950. Because the original version of the plan had not allocated enough sites there was a call for additional sites last spring. The resulting proposals were put forward for consultation in October and November 2014. The inspector has now considered objections to the overall direction of the plan and its general policies as well as the strategic housing allocations. He will be looking at objections to individual sites in towns and villages in May and June this year. It is hoped that he will submit his report in the autumn and that the plan will be adopted in December although another period has to be allowed for a possible judicial review after that. Because the plan is not now going to be in place until next year and because there is a risk that at least one of the three councils may not accept it, I have decided to stand again as a District Councillor. I have been much involved in the gestation of this plan and I am determined to see it through.

The reason that it is so important to have a plan is that, without one, developers can claim that the council is obliged to pass any application for housing that is deemed to be sustainable. So far we have been able to claim that the saved policies, such as those restricting development to within settlement boundaries, in our previous Wychavon Local Plan which came to an end in 2011, are still in force. This has been challenged by developers on the grounds that we cannot show a five year supply of housing land. (There is a provision in the governments National Planning Policy Framework that if a council does not have a five year housing land supply its housing policies are deemed no longer applicable.) While we were unable to show enough land allocated for housing at times during the past two years, we have been able to show that we meet this test since last July.

This has been confirmed by three recent planning appeals, at Bredon, Broadway and Evesham. I appeared as a witness for Wychavon at the Bredon (Cheltenham Road) Appeal, speaking on the refusal reason that the applicants had not provided sufficient evidence that there would be no harm to biodiversity, which was part of the argument. However it was the five year housing land supply which I consider to have been crucial.

I have also given evidence at the second Bredon appeal for 98 houses at Tewkesbury Road, which was opposed by English Heritage, the National Trust and Bredon Parish Council. As Wychavon's Heritage Champion, I always speak up about threats to the heritage, which in this case involved two Grade One listed buildings. Again I hope that our secure five year housing land supply, coupled with the arguments put forward by the Parish Council, will suffice to win the appeal. I would like to congratulate Bredon Parish Council and, in particular, Cllr Palmer on the quality of the evidence it has presented at each of these appeals.

6. Police Report.

The last 12 months has seen significant change within the team and the police as a whole. We lost our long serving PC Sean Woods to the Pershore Town team after the local PC retired. This has allowed a new PC called Paul Acaster to join the team back in November and he is still working his way around the area, so I'm sure you will bump into him soon. Paul is working along side the long serving PCSO Julie Pardoe who is committed to serving your community. Last June also saw a member to the team, PCSO Steven Tinkler. Steven is enjoying his new role and is also showing a high level of commitment to helping the community.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 01/4/14 and 01/4/15 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2013/14.

Overall the police recorded 199 incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to 214 incidents reported the previous year.

Of the 270 incidents the Parish had 39 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 53 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

2014/15		2013/14
Burglary Dwellings	4	5
Burglary Other (i.e. sheds)	6	6
Attempt Burglary	1	1
Theft	9	18
Criminal Damage	4	1
Assault	4	2
Other Offences	11	20
(Includes mostly domestic related incidents)		

Overall the figures show a steady but low crime rate for the past few years. The area has seen a reduction in thefts and other offences, which could be contributed to the Police presence that operates in Bredon and the surrounding villages but also better security advice that has been given. The figures clearly present the picture that Bredon and the surrounding area is a safe place to both live and work, however we all have responsibility to ensure we maintain that.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity all I ask is that you continue to do this.

Steven Tinkler 40162
Safer Neighbourhood PCSO

Pershore Rural North and South
Non-emergency phone number: 101

7. Bredon Community Play And Recreation Report.

Free activity sessions

- More than 80 hours of FREE events and activities for people of different ages and interests to enjoy
- More than 500 different people taking part; resulting in more than 1000 'visits'
- 9 Activity days (play; sport; and arts)
- 10 After school sessions (play ranger led)
- 8 Adult fitness classes
- Bredon Fun Day July 2014 – “the best one.....”. Massive thank you to all the volunteers who made this happen – the coordinating group and all those on the day

Maintenance work

- 10 monthly volunteer 'tidy ups' – more than 70 hours of volunteer time.

Thanks to our core group of half a dozen 'regulars'!

- Monthly maintenance checklist – thanks to Richard Price
- Attending to a number of 'play safety' issues, in conjunction with Parish Council
- Production of a maintenance schedule for annual and one off work required to keep Bredon Playing Fields as a high quality community space and asset
- Regular liaison with Parish Council – onsite and attending their meetings. Parish Councillor Rob Sly now sits on the BCPR committee

Other

- Developing young people – for example
 - o Young Volunteers – as part of project with Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers, a number of young people in Bredon volunteered to help run the summer activity days. 2 of them completed more than 10 hours volunteering each
 - o Junior reps at Bredon Hancock's – they worked with school and members of BCPR to produce a DVD demonstrating how local children have supported and continue to support the development and use of Bredon Playing Fields. They won an award from Chair of Worcestershire County Council for this.
- Enabling increased use of the playing fields, eg supporting the school run Sports Day and other activities. These were a success and they are using the fields for an increasing number of activities

Future

Key aspects are

- a) continue delivery of different activities and b) to work with Parish Council to put an agreed maintenance plan in place.

8. Questions From The Floor.

Due to lack of parishioners no questions were raised.