

CHILDSWICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Childswickham Annual Parish Meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Thursday 30th April 2015 at 7.15. Present were Cllr's, Mrs M Watts, Mr A Halling (Chairman), Mr C Pape, Mr A Parker and Mr M Patrick. Mrs Shields (Clerk), Mrs J Scattergood, Mr Paul Brockman, Mr A Childs and Cllr L Eyre (District and County) Cllr's Mrs M Watts, Ms K Badham, Mr Halling (Chairman) and Mr Patrick and Mrs Shields (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr's Miss K Badham, Mr N Green and Cllr L Eyre (District and County) and Cllr B Parmenter (District) and PCSO P Schoenrock.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 29th May 2014.

The minutes of the meeting, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed on the 26th June 2014.

3. Chairman.

Thank you for coming this evening.

The main issues that have been discussed this year are as usual dog fouling, potholes and drainage problems.

Drainage.

The County Council Highways Department had provided Maps of water and foul sewers with in Childswickham.

Following from the discovery of Highway drainage work being carried out in Chapel Lane by the County Council, Cllr Halling had spoken to 'land drainage' at Wychavon and the EA.

Dog fouling.

Dog fouling on the footways and footpaths is an increasing problem, the Council would like the parishioners support in trying to keep the paths clear, there are plenty of signs and bins, unfortunately it is the fault of inconsiderate dog owners. If you see a dog fouling and it is not cleared up by the owner, please contact the local dog warden, a photo of the act and the name of the owner is required for prosecution. However you could politely point out the sign and remind them it is an offense not to pick it up. Articles are regularly placed in the in the Village News.

Anti-social issues

Parishioners raised concerns at the number of dogs residing at a house in the Hinton Road and they noise that they cause, this has been reported to various agencies however, nobody seems to be able to do anything about it.

The council has received several complaints from parishioners regarding the burning of waste in the field between Leedons/ Broadway Park and the Church, the waste appears to be brought in from another site and does not seem to be domestic by the smell.

The footpath crossing the above field is being obstructed by construction vehicles, the construction site also does not seem to be operating the appropriate health and safety regulations.

Both of these issues have been reported to the relevant agencies.

GDR – Bridge Works.

Cllr Pape had attended a meeting at Broadway regarding the closure of the Broadway Road due to repairs on the railway bridge by GWR Broadway Area group, as the parish council was very concerned at the closure of the road and the impact that the diversion will have on

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Childswickham. Cllr Pape voiced the concerns and offered various other solutions, which have been ignored.

Cllr Patrick agreed to be the collection point for completed surveys for the Childswickham Flooding & Historic Environment Survey.

Cllr Pape and the Chairman had spent a lot of time contacting various agencies ensuring that all the signs and safety issues have been addressed.

HGV are not supposed to use Pennylands Bank however construction and other vehicles are using the road, the appropriate agencies and companies have been informed and they have all taken the same attitude, 'not our concern'. The council had written to GWR expressing its concerns.

Mr Beilby attended the next meeting and gave the council a brief overview of the background of GWR and its plans to take the line to Broadway. Cllr Halling expressed concern that neither parishioners nor business effected, had not been consulted regarding the plans to close either the Broadway or Little Buckland Bridges, this has caused a lot of bad feeling and a loss of revenue, he suggested that GWR contact those affected in person and thanked Mr Beilby for coming to the meeting. Mr Beilby assured the meeting that the road under the bridge at Childswickham would not be closed until the road underneath the bridges at Broadway and Buckland were completely opened.

Highways.

It had been brought to the attention of the council that Worcestershire Highways are going to put concrete kerbs along the footway of The Cross, Childswickham. The Chairman and the clerk had contacted Highways and had been informed that the Wychavon Conservation officer had been informed and that the surrounding area would be taken into consideration when determining the stones to be installed.

The unsafe condition of the public footbridge over the brook by Bridge Cottage, has been reported to the Countryside warden.

The Japanese Knotweed in the Murcot road, after several complaints was treated on the 1st September 2014.

Rooftop had been contacted regarding inconsiderate parking of tenants in Broadway Road and an article regarding inconsiderate parking had been placed in the parish magazine.

New Homes Bonus

The council had applied for £700.00 for a bench and for six mature fruit trees by the brook in Brook Street from the New homes Bonus. Further monies will be applied for, for the bund.

Planning

Which will be covered by Cllr Patrick, who I am sorry to say decided not to apply for re-election, his expertise will be sadly missed.

I would like to thank all my fellow councillors and the clerk for their help and support during the past year and I am sad to all the existing councillors are standing, however I look forward to working with the new council.

4. Planning Report.

Planning applications countrywide have increased due to the loop holes in the current system, which are being exploited by developers. Inconsistent decisions have been made by Planning Inspectors, even where village, neighbourhood and local plans are in place. As the parish council is only a consultee in the planning system, its expert knowledge of an area is often dismissed by the planning process.

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5. District Councillors Report.

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

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Examination has now resumed. 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.

6. County Councillor Report.

This year has been a challenging year for the County and its County Council. As we see the frost of Austerity still continuing to burn into the soul of the County Council and we have had to turn down the offer of a Council Tax Freeze Grant and raise Council Tax by some 1.9% to deal with the pressure that we are facing in our Looked after Children's service budget and as we prepare for the implementation of the new Care Act from 2015 which will be a milestone in the provision of care for the Elderly looking forward. This has meant that the County Council has had to concentrate on its absolute core priorities which are care of the elderly, looking after the condition of local roads and making provision for children that we have to take into our care.

7. Police Report.

"Since March 16th to todate, there have been 8 calls from residents resulting one offence of burglary reported to Police. This is currently under investigation and forms part of a series which are occurring in adjoining Police areas.

If anyone would appreciate a free un biased crime prevention survey they can contact me via 101 or email."

Residents are reminded that there are a number of scams being carried out by callers purporting to be from their Bank, Gas/electric/phone suppliers. The aim of the call is to obtain their Bank details in order to gain access to accounts.

If residents receive such calls they should treat them with suspicion, obtain the callers details then call them back on the number on their contract, ensuring that their telephone line has cleared as the offenders keep the line open pretending to receive the new call.

8. Questions from the Floor.

No questions.