

SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 7th March 2016 at 7.05 pm in the Village Hall, Church Lench.

Present:	Cllr. Mr. Shore (Chair of the Parish Council), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), County Cllr. Mr. Holt, Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel, David Ernest, Abbots Morton Parish Council and 12 parishioners.
1.	Welcome , apologies received from Dist. Cllr. Mr. Wilkinson, Dave Burns, Secretary Lenches Sports & Recreation Club, Carol Tookey, Neighbourhood Watch, Richard Shepherd, Community First Responder and Ann Freer, Head, Church Lench First School.
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd March 2015. Resolved that the minutes were of a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
3.	Matters arising from minutes - nil.
4.	<p>Report from Chairman of the Parish Council:</p> <p>There have been several changes in Councillors since the last Annual Parish Meeting due to elections held in May 2015. For the first time that anyone can remember the Council places were contested. There were 8 applications for seven posts. This resulted in the requirement for an election. The outcome of this was:</p> <p>Ian Jackson 245 votes, elected. Jennifer Fletcher 240 votes, elected. Richard Shepherd 230 votes, elected. Richard Ball 222 votes, elected. Jonathon Fletcher 221 votes, elected. Michael Worton 202 votes, elected. Mel Shore 170 votes, elected. Sheila Virr 136 votes.</p> <p>As a consequence Sheila was not elected and the Council would like to thank her and Bill Campbell who didn't stand for election, for their contributions and commitment to the Parish Council. We also welcome our two new members Ian and John.</p> <p>I also have to mention the sad passing of Roy Caldwell. Roy was the previous Chairman and we have him to thank for many initiative's including his leadership and engineering experience in steering the Council through the Wind Turbine application and the Council name change. Our condolences go to his family.</p> <p><u>Projects for the year include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Speeding</u> - This was highlighted in response to the Neighbourhood planning questionnaire and continues to attract complaints. In response the Council formed a working party who looked at:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Having the speed limit reduced to 30mph in Evesham Road from Handgate cross road to the village. Unfortunately due to Traffic Advisory Regulations there is not the density of housing to meet the policy.2. Requested white lining either side of the carriageway to give the impression that the road is narrower hence to slow vehicles. This was not supported by the highways and had cost implications3. Speeding surveys have been carried out by along Evesham/Low Road and most recently by the Safer Roads Partnership (SPR) team with mixed results but the volume of traffic was low and didn't justify the Safer Roads Partnership involvement and advised the local policing team of the situation.

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	<p>4. Our local Safer Neighbourhood Team have carried out enforcement within the area and found numbers of speeding vehicles to be quite low. It was felt that parked construction vehicles from the new small developments being built were acting as a traffic calming measure so they will continue to monitor the area over the next few months.</p> <p>5. Enquiries have been made with the Safer Roads Partnership regarding the community speed watch project but the subsequent survey didn't support the project and there is a long waiting list in any event.</p> <p>We and other agencies will continue to monitor this and take any opportunity to improve the situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Planning.</u> Last year saw only 2 applications for new builds with one withdrawn by the applicant, compare this to the previous year when there were applications to build 44 new houses including one development of 31. No doubt the saved Wychavon plan and the emerging adopted South Worcester Development Plan have impacted on the number of applications. The plan has now been adopted and with exceptions This should restrict planning outside the General development line.• <u>New Homes Bonus</u> This fund is allocated by Wychavon District Council based on the number and size of new builds. It currently stands at £2562 and can be used for a variety of projects to support the local community. There are some exceptions however the future of the fund is unclear. Applications should be made to the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk.• <u>Parish Assets</u> The principle asset is the playground. Because of the age, various elements are in need of renewing/refurbishment. An application has been made to the New Homes Bonus for £3750 to implement this. The playground is a much used asset and the refurbishment should cover its usefulness for at least 5 years. The BT telephone box was purchased by the Parish Council for a nominal £1 however its usefulness has been debated for some time. The current position is that a consortium of Parishioners has expressed an interest in purchasing the kiosk again for a nominal sum in order to establish it as an asset for the Parish. A contract for the sale is currently under consideration by the Council.• <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> The plan continues at a pace thanks to our two new members Ian and John, Jen, Nicky and members of the Parish, thanks to them the plan has progressed from concept to a near reality. Finally a number of complaints have been made concerning dog fouling leading to the requests for bins to be provided, unfortunately there is a cost implication and no evidence that there location would improve the situation. Allowing your dog to foul in a public place (anywhere to which the public have unrestricted access) is an offence.
5.	County and District Councillor reports. County Cllr. Mr. Holt: <u>Budget</u> - Council Tax to rise to 3.9% (2% to cover an increase in care of the elderly; 1.94% to be allocated to protect vulnerable children). The budget is £328 million; the County Council spends a million pounds per day on services. Spending has been reduced over the past 5 years. The Council has disposed of 33 leases and sold 99 freehold properties. <u>Highways</u> - £12million has been promised for improvements in roads and pavements over the next two years, over 75,000 pot holes had been repaired in the Worcestershire area since 2014.

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	<p><u>Speeding</u> - Norton & Lenchwick Parish Council will be writing to adjacent Parish Councils with regard to speeding through their villages.</p> <p>Q. Is Badgers Hill on the road improvement programme? Cllr. Mr. Holt will inquire and report to the May Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel reported:</p> <p>Wychavon District Council has set its precept at 2.8%.</p> <p>South Worcestershire Development Plan has now been adopted.</p>
6.	<p>Carol Tookey, Neighbourhood Watch, email report received:</p> <p>I have recruited a few more members this year but some people still worry that they will have to be 'involved'. I am planning to put another piece in the Arch Messenger this year.</p> <p>Last year John and I helped man the Neighbourhood Watch stand at the Three Counties show which resulted in quite a lot of new members for the area but we were amazed at the amount of people who were not interested at all.</p> <p>I send out the local weekly report to all members plus any scam or fraud warnings. NW has set up a Horse Watch Alert for the region but no-one wanted to be on that list which again was surprising in view of the large equine presence in the villages.</p> <p>There have been a couple of incidents in the villages which have been circulated to members and the police, i.e., suspicious activity of someone taking photos of houses. A local NW member took the number plate and the police interviewed him but I do not know the outcome. However, it shows that people can quickly be alerted if there is anything suspicious going on.</p> <p>I am happy to continue in this role but due to work pressures cannot commit a lot of time to attending NW meetings in Hindlip or to spending a lot of time canvassing for new members. However should anyone wish to join, I am happy to add them to my list.</p>
7.	<p>Tree Warden: Mr. Hazelwood reported:</p> <p>Three trees at the corner of Low Road have been removed due to subsidence to houses.</p> <p>Conservation Area - any trees in this area require agreement from the Tree Officer based at Wychavon District Council.</p> <p>Sports Club/Yates Orchard - new hedge of the southern boundary establishing well with plans to add more. Two trees that were lost due to overhead cable removal will be replaced. 5 new trees planted in the Orchard and a large chestnut to be removed due to disease. There are no 'ash die back' trees in the village.</p>
8.	<p>Superfast Broadband (Cllr. Mr. Ernest, Abbots Morton Parish Council).</p> <p>Over 5 years of discussions have taken place regarding the Superfast Broadband programme with Worcestershire County Council and various other bodies. MP's and other Government Ministers were lobbied as the project was rolled out. 98% of rollout in progress. Some areas of Church Lench upgraded due to work on the Harvington green box. Some of Church Lench, Rous Lench and Ab Lench to be upgraded - some properties will not have such good reception. It is anticipated that most should receive 50-80mpbs. A survey is due to be carried out in Inkberrow over the next few months with hopefully a better service in place by 2017.</p>
9.	<p><u>Community organisations:</u></p> <p><u>Village Hall Committee:</u> Thanks for the opportunity to talk about our excellent village hall. We are constantly grateful to everyone who faithfully supports our functions and for booking the Hall. It costs nearly £4,500 a year to run. That includes utilities, insurances,</p>

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cleaning, maintenance, annual safety checks, gardening, auditor fees etc. It does not include improvements and replacements costs. This year the dishwasher, and a microwave were replaced and the floor sanded and re-varnished. The big window requires attention and the lighting and blinds need to be replaced at some point.

In the last 12 months the committee has organised events approx every six weeks. We could not do this without the help of husbands and wives of committee members. Events held: classical concert, Remembrance Day lunch, winter warmer supper, quiz night and the big breakfast. In the coming year it is planned to hold a disco with profits shared with cancer research, quiz night, and in the summer it is hoped to hold with preschool a village picnic with a theme to do with the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

We are aware that our functions tend to attract retired people. One or two spaces need filling on the committee, we only meet about 8 times a year.. Anyone who has an idea for events please let us know.

Parochial Church Council: Services continue on a monthly basis along with other events such as Evensong which is held monthly. The Arch Messenger is delivered 10 times a year. Baby grand piano has been donated. Large cedar tree is unsafe in the churchyard. A tree surgeon has advised that it be reduced in size. The Parochial Church Council continues to deal with the fabric of the Church and its churchyard. An architect has been involved in regard to placing a handrail to the main church entrance and to look at the path to the West Gate that leads to the Village Hall Car Parking area. Finances remain tight. Reverend Thorniley has been made the Rural Dean of Evesham.

Church Lench First School: email report received from Headteacher, Ann Freer:

I will be retiring on August 31st 2016 and my Governors are busy recruiting the next Head teacher to lead this wonderful village school.

KEY STRENGTHS:

- All staff safeguarding and educational visit training is up to date.
- First aider training is up to date
- The school will be joining the PHHS MAT (Prince Henry's Multi Academy Trust) in September.
- Relationships in the school are very positive and both staff and children show high levels of care and consideration for each other.
- Children demonstrate an excellent ability
- SEN intervention groups are specific and targeted
- All children enjoy coming to school and this is reflected in the high levels of attendance
- The Head Teacher has made a good evaluation of the school and together with subject leaders, has written a focused SDP which shows what needs to be done to move it from "Good" to maintain the "Outstanding".
- Children are happy, safe and well motivated.
- The teaching is at least consistently "Good", and there are examples of 'Outstanding' practice.
- ICT hardware has been updated again with new laptops and storage. Broadband is now much faster too as we have paid to be upgraded.
- Updated website
- New pupil progress tracking system is working well.
- Music lessons provided by WYM for flute, violin, clarinet and oboe, which take place weekly.
- Funding, which is about £3k to £4K per year from the PTA known as 'Church Lench School Friends', helps the school greatly.
- The school provides hot meals at lunchtime and also a small Breakfast Club. Meals

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are also provided to the local community and we regularly have 10-12 elderly residents eating at the school on a weekly basis.

- Out of hours activity clubs include cookery, tennis, multiskills, dance, art and Imagineering. Lunchtime clubs have included gardening, knitting and sewing.
- Learning outside the classroom takes place at the nearby Forest School and in the school grounds. A bi-annual residential takes place at Malvern or Kingswood Outdoor Centre.
- There are many links and events organised with other schools in the 'Cluster'.
- Reverend Richard (also an active and supportive governor) and a team of local people, visit fortnightly to take Collective Worship using 'Open the Book' with the children and staff, in Church.
- Policies continue to be reviewed on a three yearly and annual cycle.
- There is a good link with Worcester University and the school enjoys having the benefit of working with their students.
- Our global links are with Dumila Primary in Tanzania and Manisha UK, Nepal.
- Other charity work includes 'Children in Need', 'Red Nose day', 'Chernobyl 2000' and 'Caring Hands'. The school raises about £500 per year for different charities.
- There is an active School Council, Eco-Council and Children's Church Council.
- The children have grown their own vegetables this year and these have been given to the school cook to use in our dinners
- Excellent community links
- French is taught from Year 2 to Year 5.
- Strong and flexible links with Church Lench Pre-School. Pre-school use our ground for Forest School and Sport's Day. The school would like to help run the Pre-school eventually.
- Attendance at Parent Consultation meetings have been 100%.

War Memorial project:

Major Pitt reported that following the appeal for funds in November 2013 to have the memorial cleaned, letters re-cut and to make the area safe by providing steps and slabs the project has moved on immensely. Funds were raised through the New Homes Bonus scheme £1,000, County Cllr. Divisional Fund £500, WW1 Lenches committee £600, South Lenches Parish Council £500, Women Institute £200, Litter Pick £150, £340 from English Heritage and West Midlands Trust and £1147 from personal donations. Cleaning has been completed; rededication took place on Remembrance Day followed by a re-dedication lunch in the Village Hall. A removable safety rail has been purchased for when the wreaths are laid.

Community First Responder - no report received.

Lenches Sports & Recreation Club (LSRC) email report received from Dave Burns, Secretary.

The Facility remains well used despite the poor weather over the winter period. Main points to note are:

Usage

- High demand for youth football means that some teams have to play regularly at two other villages. This demand is growing as housing in the area in and surrounding the Lenches is developed.
- Tennis and Cricket continue to thrive.
- Netball has got off to a good start this year with 30 players signed up to the Lenches Ladies Netball Club
- The Art Group is in regular session in the Pavilion each Monday.
- The First School and Preschool use the Orchard and a regular basis.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Music Festival and Summer Ball continue to attract much attention. <p><u>Development</u></p> <p>The expansion project notified in the report last year has continued. Mainly due to material being available from developments in Low Road and a nice dry period mid to late summer progress on infilling the site to bring it up to level has proceeded at a rapid rate. The site is now almost full. All that remains is for imports of topsoil and screening and finishing in order getting the area fit for seeding in the autumn.</p> <p>A project plan has been submitted to WDC for this expansion in order to ensure that s106 money is used for the purpose. The first request has been accepted and is awaiting confirmation from the Executive committee. Due to the differing completion dates from the 106 developments the project phasing may need to be re-ordered to match funds needed.</p> <p>Included in the project expansion plan is a storage and machinery shed. This is very much an urgent item for two reasons. Firstly the demand for storage has outstripped our capacity to supply it, and secondly the temporary storage solution (containers) is vulnerable to criminal intent. We had two serious attempted burglaries in 2015. We have commissioned plans to be drawn up for the storage ready for a planning application.</p> <p>The Tennis Club have built a small pavilion for use of players as shelter from sun/rain</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <p>Within the next 3-5 years the hard courts will need to be resurfaced. The Main Electricity supply across the site has now been diverted and now there are no main power cables overhead. We conducted a comprehensive insurance review late in 2015 and as a result changed our insurance schedule to reflect changes since the site was first built.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Plan:</u></p> <p>Very few large housing estates are likely to affect the villages. It was decided by the Council that the Parish Plan should be converted to producing a Neighbourhood Plan as this would be part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and carry far more weight than a Parish Plan. Applying for funding at present. A Neighbourhood Plan allows residents to say where they would like development to take place.</p>
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10.	<p>Matters raised by Parishioners:</p> <p>a) Publishing the Annual Parish Meeting - notices were placed in the notice board and on both websites. It was not put in the Arch Messenger this year as in previous years due to the Clerk not being available.</p> <p>b) Request for Community First Responder to provide training on the defibrillator. He has been asked to do but no details to date.</p>
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Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.