

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams
Landline: 01386 554305

Address: 43A High Street, Pershore, WR10 1EU
Tel/ Text/ WhatsApp: 07795 608892

Email: hillandmoor@yahoo.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in Lower Moor Village Hall on

Thursday 28th April 2016 at 7pm

Present Cllrs Mrs J. Bell (Chair), M. Yarnold, D. Saunders, Mrs A. Jeanes, T. Betteridge, P. Jeanes, and P. Hartley

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; County and District Cllr L. Tucker; 16 members of the public

- 1. Apologies:** Ed Cohen, Village Hall Committee
- 2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2015:** Agreed as a true record.
- 3. Chairman's Annual Report:** The Chair, Cllr Jo Bell, presented her report which is attached to these minutes.
- 4. District and County Councillor's Annual Report:** Cllr Tucker reported that the County were concerned with the ongoing budget cuts which made been made since 2010 with more to come. The Council were trying to ensure that no more than 60% of its budget was spent on Adult and Social Care; it was a volatile budget and always over-stretched so the aim was to protect other services. The Looked After Children budget was also one that the County Council had to keep a close eye on; there were presently 700 children in the Council's care and it was an expensive service to operate.

Since the cuts, and resultant redundancies and outsourcing, there was a great deal of unoccupied space at County Hall. The Council had been looking to rent out this office space to other organisations as well as to some of the contractors who would be taking on the work previously fulfilled by Council employees.

Regarding the education service, the Council were monitoring the creation of academies in Worcestershire to see if this would become a requirement for all High Schools.

On District Council matters, she reported that Wychavon had been continuing to combine services with Malvern Hill District Council. The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) had been adopted and had brought with it the ability to restrict and direct planning applications.

Locally, she was still aware of outstanding work on flood prevention, with the recommendation from the District Council that investigation work took place before further works.

5. Reports from Village Organisations

Village Hall

The Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, Rachel Bucknell, presented the report which is attached to these minutes.

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams
Landline: 01386 554305

Address: 43A High Street, Pershore, WR10 1EU
Tel/ Text/ WhatsApp: 07795 608892

Email: hillandmoor@yahoo.co.uk

St Thomas' Church

The Under Wardens of St Thomas' Church had provided a report which is attached to these minutes.

Women's Institute

Marilyn Williams reported that the local Women's Institute in Hill and Moor was combined with Fladbury and the meetings were split between the Village Halls in the two parishes. Meetings took place on the second Monday of the month for 11 months of the year, with meetings in December, January and February being held at Lower Moor. There was no meeting in July although an outing took place. It was a busy organisation with an increasing membership and a varied programme, and new members were always welcomed.

Allotments

Cllr Yarnold presented the report, attached to these minutes, on behalf of the Allotment Association.

Parish Games

Cllr Bell presented the report, attached to these minutes, on behalf of the Parish Games Committee.

6. Parishioners Open Forum

Many parishioners spoke about their difficulties with the bus service. There were parishioners who did not drive and relied upon public transport to allow them to do day-to-days things like shopping, visiting friends or attending doctor's appointments. There were many concerns, from the inaccuracy of the timetable, the distance to the nearest bus stop with a service, poor connections available when people needed to catch two buses to get somewhere and poor timekeeping of the buses. This meant that parishioners could wait a considerable amount of time for a bus to arrive; there were also worries about buses being not being available for a return journey making people hesitant to attempt their trip. The results meant that the bus service showed poor usage but it wasn't for the want of the people trying. Cllr Tucker asked those gathered if they could write, detailing their experiences with the bus service and difficulties with their journeys.

A parishioner asked if the hedgerow on the A44 could be cut back as it was encroaching on the footpath.

A parishioner asked if it would be possible for commercial vehicles to access the Wychavon Depot to park. Cllr Tucker thought this was unlikely. Some discussion took place on the commercial vehicles parked by the roundabout at Upper Moor. The stretch of road in question was designated as 'redundant highway', so did not have any particular restrictions for any vehicle that was parked there as long as it was not causing an obstruction.

Cllr Yarnold thanked Cllr Bell for her work as a Councillor over the years and for her time as Chair to the Parish Council.

Annual Parish Meeting, 28th April 2016

Chair's Report

Welcome everyone

Welcome to the representatives of the various village organisations (Village Hall, Church, WI, Parish Games)

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the rather clandestine nature of last year's Annual Parish Meeting - at this stage last year the council were flagging, partly from the effects of the two planning appeals, which had taken up considerable amounts of time and energy, but also as our numbers were diminishing. Maurice Hayes, who had served on the Council for so many years was standing down, Tony Morgan-Nash had departed. The APM was very poorly advertised and the meeting was sparsely attended.

However, 12 months later I think we are in a different shape. Our ranks have been joined by three new members who are a real asset to the Council. Paul and Alison Jeanes, and David Saunders have all brought a new enthusiasm to a rather weary team. There will be a vacancy on the council at the beginning of May when I will be standing down as a Councillor. I hope another interested member of the Parish with a few spare hours on their hands will come forward to keep the council up to its full complement of 7.

Another departure this year was that of our clerk, Michelle English. Michelle stood and was successfully elected as the District Councillor for Fladbury Ward. It soon became apparent that her new role would be demanding of her time and she resigned as clerk. We were pleasantly surprised by the number and calibre of applicants for the clerk's position, finally appointing Jo Adams. Jo has been a revelation to the council. She has many years of experience as a Parish Clerk, working for Upton upon Severn, and Defford. She has transformed the look of the Parish Newsletter, which I hope everyone has noticed, and comes with a wealth of experience, from which we are benefiting.

Our lengthsman Nick Winter, resigned in the autumn. If, like me, you have no idea what or who a lengthsman is, I found this handy definition:

The modern Lengthsman scheme is the re-incarnation of an old concept (from the 1800's) - a locally employed person to carry out highway maintenance tasks identified by the local community as important.

Nick has painstakingly cleared the grips on Salters Lane, (those funny little drains that join the road to the ditch), checked the culverts and made sure our play equipment is safe. He has now been replaced by Tim Hodges, who also comes to us from Upton.

Whilst on the subject of drainage, this continues to be a subject for the Council. I think I can say that there has been an improvement in the general drainage situation in the village. The regular flooding on Blacksmiths Lane seems to be a thing of the past. We are extremely grateful to Jim Tapp

and to my predecessor, Tony Morgan-Nash for their work on this area. There are still a couple of issues to be addressed and this remains an item for discussion on the council.

The Playing Field - if, like me, you are a regular user of the playing field, you may have noticed a difference in the grass cutting. Unfortunately, last year we found ourselves with a defunct mower, and despite a small team of volunteers to cut the grass, without the equipment we were stuck. Largely due to the sweet talking of Cllr Clive Brooker (who sadly stood down due to work commitments), we have been rescued by the kindness of Sandfield Farms, who now regularly mow the field, and have kindly agreed to do so for the remainder of this year. Cllr Paul Jeanes has been looking at a long-term solution to this problem, as there is no doubt that the field benefits from regular cutting.

Of course, no year goes by without its share of planning applications. This year has seen a number of new applications on Bridge Street, all from local residents as opposed to developers, for new build properties. There is a huge demand for extra housing in this country and trying to maintain a balance between protecting the rural nature of our community and supplying more homes is vital. As a Council, we hope to represent the opinions of the Parish in these matters, although the weight of those opinions may not always be as influential as we would like.

There are few events that take place in the Parish and although they have not been Parish Council led, we are keen to see them continue. With the departure of Jo Bracewell from the village last year it seemed that the annual bonfire was set to be moth-balled again. However, we were delighted when Hana Malins bravely stepped forward and volunteered to take over the organisation of this popular spectacle. Micky Hobbs, our resident fireman, who had overseen the fireworks on previous occasions has also moved out of the village, but I was very pleased that David Bruce felt able to fill Mick's boots.

The Field Day, which I first organised in 2014 to celebrate our beautiful Playing Field, will be in its third year this year. Things look set to be bigger and better, thanks to the massive enthusiasm and hard work of David Saunders, one of our new Councillors. If you have never tried Zorbing, this is going to be your chance. If it's not already in your diary, please come along, David looks set to make this a really great event.

Parish events have always benefited from the support of The Old Chestnut, bringing a bar and BBQ to the field. We are very grateful to Samia and Andy for the hard work they put in over the years, and we are sorry that they have had to give up their tenancy at The Chestnut. It is good to see the Pub has not remained closed for long, and I look forward to meeting the new Landlady very soon.

An on-going item of discussion at our meetings has been the possible use of the New Homes Bonus. Some ideas for projects include low level lighting on the field between the car park and the village hall; installation of a power source on the field, to facilitate events and the Xmas tree; creating a path around the circumference of the field for walkers, joggers and other users; a project to improve the general appearance of the village. We would like to hear from residents about their ideas for the NHB, the use of this money is subject to a successful application and can only be obtained if there has been a consultation with the community.

The council would like to thank Jim and Susie Tapp who have been maintaining the beautiful cider press at the corner of Cherry Orchard and Manor Road.

I have been a member of this Council for 6 years and certainly did not wish to become Chair, for which I feel totally unqualified and regularly out of my depth. We currently have a good group of Councillors who all bring different qualities to the team. Our meetings are usually good humoured and less of a chore than you might anticipate. I would like to say a personal thank you to Mike Yarnold. As Vice Chair, Mike has worked extremely hard picking up my many loose ends and generally keeping me going.

Jo Bell

Chair of the Parish Council

**Lower Moor Village Hall Chairmans report.
2015- 2016**

Members of the Committee:-

Ed Cohen - Chairman
Rachel Bucknall - Secretary and Booking Clerk
Richard Smith - Treasurer
Rupert Hampson
Kerri Snodgrass

The Village hall had had another busy year in terms of usage, upgrading and repairs. Some exciting grants have been won allowing us to offer extra services and improve the facility for the community.

A brief summary of the financial report shows the Village Hall starts the new financial year with liquid funds of £4450. (Basic breakdown of figures attached)

At the commencement of the year the committee agreed that we would install WiFi to the hall which would allow us to offer conference facilities and a broader network for the Youth Club and other users. At the same time we applied to both the Co-op for some set up grant funding that they had available for community projects and to Rooftop housing who were looking at offering computer training courses in local area to improve IT access and understanding to people who had no computer knowledge. We are pleased to report that we were successful in both applications and the Co-op installed the Network and funded the first initial costs and the Rooftop grant has covered the costs to the village hall of running sessions for one hour per week on a Thursday morning in the Village Hall introducing people to computers. The first session was held on the 14th April and will run for around 6 weeks with groups of 4 people. One of the committee members are assisting with this course which is run and funded by Rooftop and all equipment supplied by them apart from the purchase of an OHP screen which will be an asset for the hall.

During the year, apart from general maintenance which is required from day to day due to wear and tear on the building we have now a new baby changing unit installed in the disabled toilet which avoids mothers having to change their babies on a mat on the floor. A new water heater has been installed in the kitchen restoring an essential supply of hot water to the kitchen. The water heaters in both the mens and the ladies toilets have also been replaced.

A new side door has been ordered and will be replaced during the next month and an order has been placed for fencing to be installed along the right hand side of the building to secure and tidy up that area where we may be able to place outside tables for the summer months. A hearing loop system has been ordered and we are currently awaiting this being installed. A generous villager has donated a significant sum to assist in the purchase of this and we are very keen to get it installed as soon as the electrician is available.

The use of the hall continues to be good with our regular bookings secure and this year we have offered a new session called Jelly tots for the younger element in the village. Although very well planned and organised this group has had its challenges as another group has set up in Evesham which is free and has presented quite an obstruction to get the number of attendees to keep our session going. Unfortunately the group has now been discontinued due to lack of attendees. In 2016-2017 we would like to refresh the paintwork in the hall as in places it is looking a bit but this will require a reasonable quotation for the work.

The Coffee and Craft mornings and Table Top sales have also raised some limited funds for the hall, thanks to the efforts of some stalwart local helpers but we will be discontinuing these quarterly events after trying for a year from now on once again due to lack of uptake.

The date of the next meeting of the Village Hall is 19th May when we will hold the AGM.

The Chairman would like to thank all the members of the Committee who have worked so hard for the hall this past year.

Ed Cohen. Chairman of Lower Moor Village Hall.
April 2016

Ed Cohen
Chairman of Lower Moor Village Hall
April 2016

HILL & MOOR VILLAGE HALL

Bank and cash

At 31 March 2015	4,980
At 31 March 2016	<u>5,320</u>

Agreed to be paid

Fencing	670
Hearing loop installation approx	<u>200</u>

Additional Income 2015-2016

Bonfire	667
Grant from Rooftop housing re broadband	<u>500</u>

After paying the above agreed costs the Village Hall will start the year with liquid funds of 4,450

Noteable expenditure

Chairs	513
Shed	159
Banners	60
Broadband (grant received £500)	275
Hearing loop (donation received £110)	250
Baby chaging unit	210
OHP Screen	<u>115</u>

From the Under Wardens of the Church of the Community of Lower Moor,
St Thomas' Church, Church Lane,
To Hill and Moor Parish Council.

In August 2015, we welcomed Rev. Sarah Dangerfield as our Priest in Charge for the Five Alive group of Churches.

St. Thomas Church, part of the Five Alive group of Churches, normally holds two services a month, one service of Holy Communion and a service of the Word. Details and times of these services are to be found in the Five Alive magazine, on the Church notice board on the Village Green and in the Church porch.

The Church is available for baptisms and funeral services and is licenced for marriage services.

As with all Churches within the five Alive Group, St. Thomas Church is open from early morning to late afternoon every day of the week and all the year round; open to provide that space where we can sit and be quiet to gather ourselves at times we need to be still and think.

Realistically, visits to Church are not high on most people's agendas. However, the Church, hopefully, will always be there for the Community. Be assured of a warm welcome should you choose to visit.

The Church family endeavours to take part in the activities arranged by the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council.

Carol and Michael Martin

Under Wardens, St Thomas' Church

Hill & Moor Allotments

Land was granted to the "Overseers of Hill & Moor" (subsequently the Parish Council) by an Enclosure Award of 1833, for the benefit of the "poor and needy of the parish" - these are the words that still govern the situation.

Allotments exist on two sites within the Parish. One is an arable area of approximately 1 acre in 10 plots, adjacent to the North side of the railway at the end of Boggs Lane, Lower Moor. There was an area on the South side of the railway but, after the privatisation of British Rail in 1993, the crossing was closed. Consequently that site became inaccessible and was sold by the Parish Council. The other site is an area of pasture, approximately 2 acres in size, on the South side of the road in Hill.

In 1995, after Network Rail had sold on the South side site, it was established that the Parish Council had inadvertently acted illegally. Therefore, in 1996 at the suggestion of the Charity Commission, a modern Charitable Trust with proper management powers was put in place. This is a totally separate entity to the Parish Council although it retains the facility to nominate two Trustees who may then co-opt up to three further Trustees. Subsequently the number of tenants steadily declined but the Trust was "revived" in 2008 and has been well tenanted since.

Currently there are 2 vacant plots plus Hill for the 2016 year (March to March). Rent is £15 per plot with an initial £5 registration fee. Therefore would any interested persons please contact, in the first instance, Maurice Hayes, Fairways, Bridge Street, tel. 861967.

Parish Games report 2016

Once again, we are organising the Parish Games after the last two successful years. We have managed to have 10% of the residents involved each year, this event has become a community based event getting people together from all backgrounds and ages. We are striving for success once again but can only do this with constant support from Parish Council and residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michelle Orgill for her constant effort over the past few years and the Parish Council for supporting this community event.

Parish Games Committee