

## SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.05 pm in the Church Lench  
First School Hall, Church Lench.**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. Mr. Shore (Chair of the Parish Council), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), County Cllr. Mr. Hopkins, Dist. Cllr. Mr. Wilkinson, Carol Tookey, Neighbourhood Watch, Dave Burns, Secretary Lenches Sports & Recreation Club, PC Tony Carter, Jonathan Hazelwood, Tree Warden, Ian Jackson, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Celia Hall, Village Hall Committee and 6 parishioners.
1.	<b>Welcome</b> , apologies received from Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel, Chris Dallimore, Parish Paths Warden, Parochial Church Council and Mrs. Price, Head, Church Lench First School.
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Resolved</b> that the minutes were of a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
3.	<b>Matters arising from minutes - nil.</b>
4.	<p><b>Report from Chairman of the Parish Council:</b> There has been one change in the Councillor membership since the last Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Richard Shepherd has resigned who carried out the roll of Vice Chairman. Richard has been very involved in the roll of first responder and use of the defibrillator our thanks go out to Richard for his work with the Parish Council. We welcome our new Councillor Lara Hailwood.</p> <p><b><u>Projects for the year include:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Planning.</u></b> With the adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan the number of applications for planning has reduced considerably. The current year saw only 4 applications for new homes with three withdrawn by the applicant, there were a further 13 miscellaneous applications extensions and garages etc. all were approved.</p> <p><b><u>New Homes Bonus.</u></b> This fund is allocated to Wychavon District Council based on the number and size of new builds and properties brought back into use of which a portion is allocated to the Parish Council. It currently stands at £5530 and can be used for a variety of projects to support the local community. There are some exceptions—which will not be supported. The government has reduced the number of years for which payments are made from six to five years in 2017/18 and from six to four years in 2018/19. Applications should be made to the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk. We would welcome applications to the fund.</p> <p><b><u>Parish Assets.</u></b> The principle asset is the playground. Because of the age, various elements it was in need of renewing/refurbishment. An application has been granted from New Homes Bonus for £3750. This work is now complete with the replacement of a waste bin which is now contracted to be emptied once a week and cleaned twice a year. The gate has been replaced with an approved model and a considerable amount of cosmetic work has been carried out. The playground is a much used asset and the refurbishment should cover its usefulness for at least 5 years. The Bus Shelter at Handgate Cross roads has received a much needed coat of preservative. The BT telephone box was originally purchased by the Parish Council for a nominal £1. The current position is that a consortium of Parishioners have purchased the box with the intention of refurbishing it and relocating it near the Village Club.</p>

## SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan.</u></p> <p>The plan continues at a pace thanks to Ian Jackson, the Steering Group and a number of volunteers who are currently conducting a village character assessment. The Parish Council wish to express their appreciation for the hard work carried out by all those involved.</p> <p><u>Speeding</u> continues to attract complaints and speed monitoring is being sought in Low Road to assess the problem to determine the appropriate response.</p> <p>This year has seen the retirement of County Councillor Clive Holt who represents our area. Clive has tirelessly carried out requests from the Parish Council and has been responsible for many improvements around the Parish and for that we are extremely grateful and wish him a happy retirement. He is replaced by Councillor Anthony Hopkins and we look forward to working with him.</p> <p>We also welcome a new Paths Warden Chris Dallymere and thank Jonathan Hazelwood, Tree Warden for all his work carried out in the Parish.</p>
5.	<p><u>Neighbourhood Plan, Ian Jackson, Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.</u></p> <p>It seems an awful long time since we first started this process, but I am pleased to report that progress is being made. Nationally over 500 Neighbourhood Plans are either in the final stages or complete and the common theme for all is that it is a long process.</p> <p><u>To Recap:</u></p> <p>The Parish Council started this process in 2015 in response to the results of the 2014 Parish Plan questionnaire and reflecting concerns following unwelcome development proposals for the wind farm and the estate at Mayfield.</p> <p>The main objective was to produce a Neighbourhood Plan which would help to protect the character of the Parish at least until 2031.</p> <p>When completed, the Plan will be written into the South Worcestershire Development Plan and carry considerable weight with planners and developers in terms of the type and design and size of any future building work in line with the wishes of the Community.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. In 2015 we created a Steering Group of local residents and obtained approval to proceed from Wychavon District Council.</li><li>2. In the Spring of 2016 I took over as the new Chairman from Jon Fletcher who needed to concentrate on his business commitments.</li><li>3. Appointed Neil Pearce of Avon Planning Services as a Consultant. Neil was previously a senior planning officer with Wychavon District Council and he has many years experience of setting up Neighbourhood Plans, both in the Wychavon District and elsewhere.</li><li>4. Obtained funding of £5000 from Wychavon District Council and £7720 from 'Groundworks' - a Government body set up for Neighbourhood Plan support. £1679.50 of Groundworks money was used to pay consultants and the rest returned as not used during that financial year. Where possible we have used volunteers to post notices and also have had great help from the Arch Messenger team.</li><li>5. Denise Oates appointed as vice chair and she has been of considerable assistance to me as the main burden of the work involved has fallen on my shoulders.</li><li>6. In December 2016 Professional consultants used to conduct three surveys of the whole Parish i.e. Opinion Poll, Demographic survey of households and Housing Needs analysis. Our consultants received 135 'demographic' and 226 opinion forms from 324 homes and 530 adults with a 42% demographic response and a 43% Opinion Poll response, which is excellent. Wychavon District Council Planning Department have a copy of the results. The Demographic returns suggest we have a significantly ageing population with responders showing: 73% over age 45</li></ol>

**SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

	<p>41% over age 65 41% responders retired and only 16% in education. I do not know at this stage if there is anything positive we can do within the Neighbourhood Plan to address the long term implications of this data but we will be looking at it. Note that out of 324 "Housing Needs Analysis" questionnaires sent out only 8 individual needs were reported. Most of these were children living at home wanting a place of their own. Only 2 were elderly residents wanting to downsize.</p> <p>7. The next stage is a comprehensive 'Character Assessment' to document and describe the characteristics of our villages and parish that we want to preserve and protect. In the process we will be able to specify and protect important green spaces and valued Landscapes and maybe tidy up the development boundaries where they are out of date. The committee and a few more volunteers have already started walking the villages with maps, notepaper and cameras. There will still be a lot more work to do in the months ahead as we collate and refine the information we have obtained. Eventually we will present our preliminary findings and proposals to the community for constructive feedback. This may be quite a long time ahead as my manpower resources are very limited.</p> <p>8. In my opinion it is likely to be another 12 to 18 months before we can complete the exercise but as I said at the beginning we have made a lot of progress in the key areas of research. The existence of the major Opinion Survey alone is already of importance in planning terms.</p>
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6.	<p><b><u>County and District Councillor reports.</u></b> <b><u>County Cllr. Mr. Hopkins:</u></b> Elected just over a week ago and thanked Clive Holt for all his work in the past which he has held for 32 years. Mr. Hopkins lives locally and has been a member of Inkberrow Parish Council for 14 years. Financial pressures continue at the County Council, savings required of £100 million. The Government Central Grant will disappear over the next few years. <b><u>Dist. Cllr. Mr. Wilkinson reported:</u></b> Wychavon District Council has had another successful year despite continuing financial pressure from the government. The Council has to save £1million by 2018.</p>
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7.	<p><b><u>Carol Tookey, Neighbourhood Watch:</u></b> New system has been in place since the beginning of the year. Few incidents in the parish. All details on the Lenches website.</p>
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8.	<p><b><u>PC Tony Carter:</u></b> Has been working in the South Lenches area for 10 years. Four crimes have occurred in the last 12 months. By April 2018 the Police will lose £16 million from their budgets. Major cuts already taken place - Response Officers taken from Droitwich although due to an increase in the amount of burglaries 7 Response Officers are now in place. West Mercia Police website very informative. Speeding problems are a cause of concern in most rural villages. Congratulations were given to Tony who recently passed his Sergeant's exam and will be moving to Evesham District for three months. Julie Jones will be taking over his role. <b><u>Questions raised:</u></b> Parking at The Croft junction - to be reported to the Police. Parking on double yellow lines: This is a matter for the District Council Parking Enforcement Team.</p>
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## SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

9.	<p><b>Lenches Sports &amp; Recreation Club:</b></p> <p><u>Operations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cricket, Tennis, Soccer and Netball played regularly.</li> <li>• Footfall estimate to be the same as 2016. Reduction in soccer footfall due to teams playing at Pinvin compensated by additional footfall as the result of Netball Club formed at the Lenches. Increased footfall expected in 2017/18 as new pitch becomes available.</li> <li>• Boules Court fenced and partly resurfaced. Boules court now fully resurfaced and new Boules Group will start later this month (May)</li> <li>• Art Classes held in Pavilion for part of the period.</li> <li>• Orchard continues to be used by First School and Pre School</li> <li>• Majority of infill completed by September last year. Has now restarted after weather improvement. A few more loads of clay to complete the banks and then topsoil. We expect to have this ready for September seeding.</li> <li>• Replacement mower purchased.</li> <li>• Container security upgraded and remote alarm system fitted with CCTV</li> <li>• Ab Lench Road and Bishampton way hedges trimmed right back.</li> <li>• Bishampton way footpath mowed four times.</li> <li>• Contaminated soil from Damage to roller removed and replaced.</li> <li>• Broken field drain repaired.</li> <li>• Tennis pavilion connected to water supply</li> <li>• Redundant section near Boules area offered to Phone Box Project. Notional value £1000</li> </ul> <p><u>Fundraising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant from Councillor Holt for Boules Court refurbishment (£500)</li> <li>• Grants from SLPC and RLPC towards increased security on container (£150 each)</li> <li>• 106 Cash for phase one approved by WDC.</li> <li>• Wedding, Ball and FRAME festival held in July</li> <li>• Grant application made to Gannet Foundation to complete Boules Court surfacing. Not successful</li> <li>• This year a wedding and FRAME will take place. Instead of a Ball a Big Village Party with dancing and music is planned.</li> <li>• St Georges Day event held with great success</li> </ul> <p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LSRC is in a financially healthy position with enough income to cover operating costs</li> <li>• Income from infill has been allocated to the Courts resurfacing fund. These will need doing in a couple of years' time.</li> <li>• Remainder of current 106 approval will be drawn down to complete phase 1 of infill.</li> </ul> <p><u>Future</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a water problem that we need to get to the bottom of that may affect the tennis court resurfacing project.</li> <li>• Phone box project. Area needs fencing and surfacing. A grant request from New Homes Bonus will be made by Phone Box group.</li> <li>• Preparation and seeding of new playing surface. Removal of temporary fencing along Bishampton way.</li> <li>• Funding application for fencing remainder of Field with ball retention fence.</li> <li>• Initialisation of planting scheme.</li> </ul>
10.	<p><b><u>Village Hall Committee:</u> Mrs. Hall gave the following report:</b></p> <p>Gave thanks to all the Village Hall Committee members. The Hall is now showing signs of wear and tear. Maintenance taken place over last year: new white goods, blinds,</p>

**SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

	<p>replacement fence panels and repairs to some of the windows. Budget needs to be put in place for the next 5 -10 years to cover other highlighted issues.</p> <p>100 Club prizes are drawn four times a year, new members welcome.</p> <p>Many events have been held throughout the year. The Pre-School continue to use the Hall on a regular basis and various equipment has been provided through fund raising.</p> <p>The Committee have decided to support the Acorns Hospice Charity for the next 2 years.</p> <p><b>Parochial Church Council:</b> Improving the access to the Church. Care and upkeep has cost so far this year £464. There is a right to all that live in the Parish that they can be buried in the Churchyard. It is an asset the Parish would like to keep.</p> <p>The Parochial Church Council of All Saints' Church, Church Lench, received two grants from the Parish Council in 2016, each in the sum of £800.</p> <p><b>Grant 1:</b> £800 towards the care and upkeep of the graveyard that surrounds the church: Since the grant was received £446 has been expended on grass cutting, hedge trimming, ivy removal from ancient walls and from trees, garden waste removal, and in planting spring-flowering bulbs and other plants to beautify the churchyard.</p> <p>It is not universally realised that every person resident in the parish or who has ever been resident in the parish has an entitlement as of right to have their mortal remains buried in the churchyard, irrespective of whether they are or ever were members of the congregation, and irrespective of their personal religious belief or disbelief.</p> <p>The churchyard always has provided this universal service to inhabitants of the parish, to provide a communal resting place for their remains, under the care and management of the PCC.</p> <p>People who have their bodies or ashes buried in the churchyard pay a fee to the PCC and a small fee to the Diocese of Worcester for their grave, and another fee for putting up any memorial stone, but those fees do not in most years cover the cost of routine maintenance and improvement of the churchyard. Only one family has lodged an additional sum of money with the PCC, which is invested to provide a (currently very small) continuing income for the maintenance of that family's graves.</p> <p>The PCC has also been considering the removal of one large holly tree, sited behind the church and close to the vestry, whose size may potentially threaten root damage to buildings.</p> <p><b>Grant 2:</b> £800 towards the improvement of pedestrian access to the church from Main Street:</p> <p>Since the grant was received £156 has been expended and further sums so far not invoiced have been expended on the project to improve access for less able people, in consultations with our appointed architect and in obtaining material samples for stonework, slabbing and hand-railing. The project fund currently stands at £758 and we have promises from parishioners for more whenever we need it. We now believe the total cost of the project will be more likely to be about £7000, based on quotations and estimates so far received, and we consider this sum will be within our means when the time comes.</p> <p>Our volunteers and churchwardens are currently finalising our application for a diocesan faculty to carry out this work, which we still hope to carry out this year. Progress has been slower than we had hoped but we are giving the matter our best efforts.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b><u>Mrs. Price, Head Teacher, Church Lench C of E First School: (Email report).</u></b></p> <p>I am now into my third term of Head Teacher at Church Lench C of E First School and am really enjoying my new role! I feel extremely privileged to have been appointed and have a fabulous supportive team working with me. I thought I would give you a brief update of developments at Church Lench School.</p>

## SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have established 5 core Christian values which underpin everything we do in school. These are Hope, thankfulness, Compassion, Responsibility and Perseverance.</li> <li>• There are 4 teachers, 6 teaching assistants, 4 lunchtime supervisors, 2 office staff and myself. We have a full governing body made up of 12 governors.</li> <li>• We are committed to driving the school forwards and maintaining our outstanding OFSTED grade. We have a very talented and highly experienced team of teachers who are extremely committed to raising standards and providing the very best education for all our pupils not just in terms of attainment but also socially and emotionally. Our governors are very supportive and play an active role in the development of the school.</li> <li>• We currently have 72 pupils on roll and now have an after school care facility called All Stars which cater for our children between 3.30-5.30pm. This is run by two members of our staff and we hope it is a success!</li> <li>• We have now withdrawn from the Prince Henry MAT due to financial complications at Prince Henry's. We may consider joining a MAT in the future but currently we remain under the LA.</li> <li>• We have many exciting projects occurring this year including the instalment of 2 outdoor canopies, new fencing around our pond and entrance area, new doors to provide extra security and new carpets for our indoor entrance and office.</li> <li>• Each month I write a page in the Arch Messenger to highlight our news and successes</li> <li>• We have an active Parent Voice committee which meets every half term to discuss 'hot topics' including communication and uniform. Parents have the opportunity to comment on what we do well and what we could improve. We then look at what we could act on to make our school even better.</li> <li>• We have a new committee of Friends of Church Lench who plan a lot of fundraising events including discos, cinema nights, ice lolly Friday, refreshments for our church services and the school fete.</li> <li>• Our website has been updated and includes lots of information including our vision and values, policies, safeguarding, staff, governors, children's work and photos of events, newsletters, diary events, prospectus, curriculum and planning, results, main priorities of our School Development Plan and lots more!</li> <li>• During the autumn term 2017 we will be expecting our SIAMS church inspection. We are currently gathering lots of evidence to support our case for an outstanding grade.</li> <li>• We like our parents to be involved in school life as much as possible. There have been many events for parents to come into school to see what the children are learning and to spend time with their child/ children. So far we have had stay and read sessions, parent picnic, Harvest, Christmas and Easter services, Mothers Day lunch, Valentine's Day lunch, stay and learn and there will be more events coming up including Sports Day and the end of term performance.</li> <li>• Our school fete is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> so our Friends of Church Lench are busy organising exciting stalls and events.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Questions raised:</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Banners on fencing obstruct line of sight from Evesham direction. Can they be moved towards the School House?</li> <li>2. Lunch Club - why has this stopped?</li> </ol>
12.	<p><b><u>War Memorial project:</u></b>            Cleaning and recutting of selected letters was completed in time for the re-dedication service on Remembrance Sunday, November 2015. This was conducted by the Archdeacon, the venerable Robert Jones. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Worcestershire Regiment</p>

## SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

	<p>by Major Paul Owen, Mercian Regiment; Major Tony Pitt, Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry (Retd), successor to the Warwickshire Yeomanry; wreaths for the other Regiments were laid by young Officers and Officer Cadets of Birmingham University Officers' Training Corps, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lt Col GJ Bayliss, Mercian Regiment. These guests, and other persons who had been of help to the subcommittee, together with the Stonemason, Kevin Paul and the village congregation, were then entertained to lunch in the Village Hall. The members of the Village Hall Committee both cooked and served a superb roast beef lunch.</p> <p>Subsequently, York stone steps and flagstones were laid around the memorial. permission had to be obtained for this work from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, who insisted Architects drawings must be obtained prior to their consideration. The (quite considerable) fee for these drawings was borne by the Church. In addition, railing were also added for safety reasons. The work has now been completed and the accounts closed.</p> <p>A brief summary of the accounts is presented:</p> <p><b>Income</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Grants: Wychavon new homes bonus scheme</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Worcestershire CC (Cllr C Holt)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">South Lenches PC</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">SLPC Litter Pick</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">War Memorial Trust</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£340</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Other bodies:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Church Lench WW1 Commemorative events</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£600</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Church Lench Women's Institute</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Villagers' personal donations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1082</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Gift aid in respect of the above</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£129</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Grand Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£4401</b></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Expenditure:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Preliminary photographs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Cleaning</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£540</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Re-cutting letters</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£336</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Manufacture of railings, laying steps and slabs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3521</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£4401</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Account closed.</p>	Grants: Wychavon new homes bonus scheme	£1000	Worcestershire CC (Cllr C Holt)	£500	South Lenches PC	£500	SLPC Litter Pick	£150	War Memorial Trust	£340	Other bodies:		Church Lench WW1 Commemorative events	£600	Church Lench Women's Institute	£100	Villagers' personal donations	£1082	Gift aid in respect of the above	£129	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£4401</b>	Preliminary photographs	£4	Cleaning	£540	Re-cutting letters	£336	Manufacture of railings, laying steps and slabs	£3521	<b>Total</b>	<b>£4401</b>
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<b>13.</b>	<b><u>Lenches Sports &amp; Social Club:</u></b> Nil received.
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<b>14.</b>	<b><u>Parish Lengthsman:</u></b> Nil received.
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<b>15.</b>	<b><u>Parish Paths Warden:</u></b> Nil received.
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<b>16.</b>	<b><u>Tree Warden:</u></b> Mr. Hazelwood reported that major hedge work had been carried out on the footpath towards Bishampton and trees planted in Yates Orchard. Once work is completed at the Lenches Sports & Recreation Club tree planting will take place.
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<b>17.</b>	<p><b><u>Matters raised by Parishioners:</u></b></p> <p>a) Speeding Low Road - PC Carter explained that monitoring of speed continues and that data collection request is in progress with the Safer Roads Partnership Unit. Community Speed Watch equipment has now been doubled due to requests to join the scheme.</p>
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**SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed by Chair of South Lenches Parish Council, Mel Shore. Dated 14th May 2018.