

**At the Annual Parish Meeting held on
10 April 2017
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 7.00pm
DRAFT**

Nb. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a 'normal' monthly parish council meeting. It is a meeting of the parish or town electors, organised by the Parish Council. Electors can contribute to the agenda and in practice these meetings often celebrate local activities and debate current issues in the community. It is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community.

Present: D Lewis (Chair), G Sweeney (Deputy Chair), P Ayers, B Jones, A Marsh, D Stanley, R Woodhouse, (1 Vacant Position).

In Attendance: Mrs L Stevens – Clerk, County Cllr Phil Grove, District Cllr Dean Clarke, 15 Members of the public.

Apologies: E A Taft (accepted). A number of residents also gave their apologies.

55 /17	Nomination of Chair for this meeting only, welcome, introductions & apologies. Cllr Lewis nominated and accepted as Chair for this meeting.
56 /17	Minutes of previous meetings – Motion to approve previous minutes. a. Meeting of Grimley Parish Council 20th March 2017 - <i>Duly approved.</i> b. Annual Parish Meeting 26th April 2016 - <i>Duly approved.</i> c. To resign the minutes of 20th February 2017 as the page numbers were missing. - <i>Duly signed.</i>
57 /17	To note the current vacancy for one Parish Cllr and to draw elector attention to the deadline for requests for an election: Midnight, Monday 24 April 2017. A presentation was made to Annette Davies for her dedicated contribution to the Parish Council.
58 /17	Annual Report of the Parish Council and questions arising. See appendix 1
59 /17	To receive the report of the County Cllr See appendix 2 <i>(Due to length, appendices are not published on noticeboards, but available via the parish council website)</i>
60 /17	To receive the report of the District Cllr DCllr Clarke noted that new offences are being introduced to help tackle dog fouling and other dog control offences across Malvern Hills District. Malvern Hills District Council has become the first in Worcestershire to introduce a Public Space Protection Order for Dog Control, which creates three new offences. They are: - Failing to carry a dog poop bag or other means to clean up after a dog - Failure to keep a dog on a lead in a designated area - Failure to keep a dog out of fenced off or enclosed children's playgrounds The new powers, introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, will come into force in June. Anyone committing one of the new offences will

	<p>be given an on the spot Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of up to £100 and £1,000 court fine if they fail to pay. However, for the first three months offenders will be given a warning instead of a FPN to give council officers time to educate dog owners about the changes.</p> <p>DCllr Clarke advised the Parish Council that the Raceway hearing will be delayed due to illness of an official.</p>
61 /17	<p>To receive the report of the Police Officer See Appendix 3 submitted by email with thanks from Parish Cllrs. <i>(Due to length, appendices are not published on noticeboards, but available via the parish council website)</i></p>
62 /17	<p>To receive the report from Grimley & Holt C of E Primary School – submitted by email with thanks from Parish Cllrs.</p> <p><i>"1. We have been give funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund to commemorate the First World War. Amongst other things, this entails a visit to northern France and Belgium for our year 5 and 6 children. As the visit will take place over the Armistice period, we thought we'd lay a wreath on behalf of the parish.</i></p> <p><i>We are also preparing replica stained glass windows for both churches, and conducting historical research. The latter involves taking oral; histories, so we are looking for help from the parish</i></p> <p><i>2. We aim to start an educational trail around the school, targeting archaeology, history and the environment. We want to work with the WWT and the University. Further updates in due course."</i></p>
63 /17	<p>To receive the report of the Parish Lengthsman - submitted by email with thanks.</p> <p><i>"I have already sprayed the footways on the crossroads and down old road including the curb on the corner opposite the grass triangle. Also during the season I'll strim the grass triangle once a month or twice if it grows quick. The next section we'll look at is the rest of the footway from the layby going towards holt in between the usual drain tops/grip maintenance etc. Also, a quick thank you for the councils continued support and looking forward to another year of the lengthsman scheme."</i></p>
64 /17	<p>To receive the report from the Peace Hall Management Committee</p> <p>Bookings for the hall are gradually increasing and the Film group is popular.</p> <p>Reminder that the Fete is on 18th June at Sinton Green , all support would be gratefully received as all proceeds are going to the kitchen renovation. We need donations of raffle prizes, tombola prizes , books , plants, toys and books . Also there is always a job for those that can help in any way at all. But we really need attendance on the day in order to make it a success . It is especially important this year as the refurbishment is imminent.</p> <p>The kitchen renovation is going ahead and scheduled for August. For the information of all this means that the hall will be closed from August 14th to September 1st inclusive. We do not have any bookings during this time so felt it was necessary to close between these dates in order to avoid any Health and Safety issues during the work. Kitchen replacement will include new catering appliances, new wiring and</p>

	widening for disabled access. Work that will total £25,000, funded in part via successful grants and an anonymous grant.
65 /17	<p>To receive the report from the Tarmac Liaison Group - submitted by email with thanks</p> <p>Church Farm East Eastern hedgerow - planting failures have been replaced. This area is now out of aftercare and under the control of the landowner (Church Commissioners)</p> <p>Plant Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All plant, machinery and associated equipment removed from site - all concrete foundations broken up and removed from site - all utility services disconnected - soils imported to create finished landform - future works during 2017 will include; - deep ripping of placed soils to remove compaction and allow aeration (May) - cultivation and grass seeding (May / June) - tree planting (late Nov onwards) - completion of fencing - this area will move in to aftercare from April 2017, with the licence providing for - completion of above works between now and the year end and then a full 5 years of aftercare. <p>Church Farm South (on left as drive into village)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - installation of land drainage - future works during 2017 will include; - cultivation and grass seeding (May / June) - monitoring of water levels - planting of reeds to lake margins (June / July) - This area is currently in aftercare. - Top soil being brought in. <p>Retreat farm (on right as drive into village)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raised the height of the southern bund - installed sandbags and willow screen to protect - ongoing monitoring of water levels. Evidence shows water levels to be very slightly lower this winter compared to last. - remedial repair to northern causeway erosion. - removal of fencing around southern section of lake - future works during 2017 will include; - Introduction of reeds along southern causeway - grass seeding of batter slopes along southern causeway
66 /17	<p>To receive the report from Grimley Smaller Charities</p> <p>Cllr Woodhouse and Cllr Jones gave the following update: The trustees have obtained the deeds, invested the money in Church Bonds and the land has been cleared ready to be leased out over the next few months.</p> <p>Parish Cllr posed some questions on the likely use of the land and whether much progress had been made in finding a tenant. Suggestions were made for use of the land including:</p> <p>i. Car park for birdwatchers in order to reduce dangerous parking on Grimley</p>

approach road and also to acknowledge the growing importance of the lakes as a recreational facility.

The Chair welcomed a member of public who came from a local bird watching group. This gentleman confirmed that

- Grimley Lakes are on a migration route along the Severn River,
- that many species stop here over winter,
- that the emerging habitat is unique to Worcestershire. Other significant pools nearby include the M50/River Severn and the pools are Clifton (south of Kempsey – though these are not currently viable for wildlife, they are part of a reinstatement plan similar to Grimley) and,
- that he perceives that there is a need for parking for both twitchers and dog walkers.

'Worcester Birding' had also been on touch with the Clerk and confirmed the following about the ideal location of a car park: "*While parking at the far end of Camp Lane is an option for some, the more elderly visitors will find it too far to walk back to the north end, where most of birds congregate. Also those that just pop by on there way to and from work will also be reluctant to drive in to the village, especially as this will coincide with the school run*".

Concerns about providing a car park facility included:

- Who would monitor the site and prevent it's abuse.
- How parking would be charged/collected.

It was noted that Tarmac did offer in the past to build a car park near the Dutch Barn, but that this had come to nothing and was not now possible since the land has been sold.

- ii. **Allotments.** Cllr Taft had previously researched the amount of revenue that could be generated by this facility and the Clerk reported the following on her behalf: "The price charged by Droitwich Council per allotment is £35 per annum plus water. This is for an allotment the size of 10 rods. They also let out the size of 5 rods too. The size of the field would need to be ascertained (i.e. how many allotments would fit on the site) in order to ascertain the income".

67
/17

Optional reports from:

- i. **Monkwood Green volunteers and management team;**

The Clerk reported a conversation with NE: Some acceptable burning has taken place on site in order to get rid of cut brush and bramble. It is important that if burning takes place in the future (after permissions sought from NE) then burning must take place on these same sites, in order to prevent alteration of soil chemistry in other areas. Burn sites are sites that are lost to the ecosystem. Preparations for sheep grazing continue, as do security measures for the site.

The presence of Great Crested Newts on site has put a stop to considerations for ditch clearing until a survey and licence from Natural England has been obtained.

- ii. **Scouts and Guides;**

A report was provided by email with thanks, see Appendix 4.

- iii. **Nora Parsons Day Centre;**

A letter making contact had been sent by the Clerk but no response received.

- iv. **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust;**

Representatives are due to attend the meeting on 22 May 2017.

	<p>v. Worcester Birding. Response discussed above.</p> <p>vi. Tree warden. This service has been discontinued by WCC. The Parish Council is considering a tree survey, due for discussion 22nd May 2017.</p>
68 /17	<p>Open Forum - To invite the public to raise any matters of interest. Topics already put forward by residents for discussion:</p> <p>a) Damage to verge on Walton Lane by vehicles entering the business park. Repairs conducted by residents in 2016 have again been eradicated by reversing vehicles. A letter sent to Westlands Hyundai in July 2016 received no response. The County Council has been approached by the Parish Council asking for a site visit with a view to placing bollards on site. Cllr instructed the Clerk to write to Westlands again and to report the matter to Highways.</p> <p>b) Maintaining and repairing the private service roads on the Common. The County Council & Ringway have been approached by the Parish Council asking for a site visit in order to advise on the options and level of repairs necessary. This is likely to take place in July/August. Residents who have in the past obtained quotations in relation to these roads have been invited to provide this information in writing to the Parish Council. A full list has been obtained (from SME solicitors) of those properties with legal obligations to contribute to the 'Parish Council requirement to maintain, repair or renew the tracks so as to keep the same in reasonable condition'. A site visit with residents is planned (date unknown), to ascertain what they consider 'reasonable condition' to be and, to ask them to choose between 1) light repair (filling potholes) or 2) complete repair (replacing entire road surface). Further information will be sent out by post to those residents affected, once quotations for repair scenarios have been obtained.</p> <p>c) Improved signage for the Common and the private drives on the Common. This item was previously rejected by residents in 2016 but is now put forward by the Parish Council again, as a way of preventing further damage to the private service roads. Quotations are to be sought for signage referring to speed restrictions 5/10mph, loose/grazing livestock and a map of houses on the common (displayed on the noticeboard – listing those houses that provide their consent).</p> <p>d) To accept comments and debate on the future of Monkwood Green Common and SSSI, where not already discussed. No additional comments from the public.</p> <p>e) Speeding on Monkwood Green To be added to the agenda 22nd May 2017.</p>
69 /17	<p>Chair to <u>close</u> Annual Parish Meeting and Chair of Parish Council to <u>open</u> Meeting of Grimley Parish Council</p>

**At the Meeting of Grimley Parish Council held on
10 April 2017
in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green commencing at 8.00pm**

Attendance as above.

70/17 Declarations of Interest – There were none.

71/17 General Finance

a.	To consider & motion to approve the payment of Parish Council accounts. Duly approved.
b.	A Statement on the Parish Council financial accounts for Year ending 31 Mar 17. See Appendix 5 (<i>Due to length, appendices are not published on noticeboards, but available via the parish council website</i>)
c.	To note that the deadline for completing the Grant Thornton external audit Annual Return is 23rd June 2017. Duly noted
d.	To receive and motion to accept the following: i. end of year (2016/17) financial report (see above) ii. accept the final monthly bank reconciliations for 16/17. (up to 17 March, sheet 90, from original bank statement) (up to 31 March, partial sheet 91 - internet banking). Duly accepted
e.	To nominate additional signatories for the bank account. Cllr Marsh and Cllr Lewis accepted. Clerk to obtain and provide the necessary forms.

Clerk

72/17 Planning – to consider, comment and resolve to respond to the following planning applications

i.	Application Number : 17/00134/HP Location: The Fold South, C2256 Sinton Green, Sinton Green, HALLOW, WR2 6NP. Description of Proposal: Erection of single-storey rear extension to provide 2 bedrooms. Mr Jon Bowdige No objections.
ii.	Application Number : 17/00496/HP Location: Thornton, Grimley, Worcester, WR2 6LU Description of Proposal: Proposed Granny flat. Applicant : Mr Andrew Jeffery Cllr expressed some concerns over the extension excessively overtaking the original footprint. However, no overall objections.
iii.	Application Number : 17/00487/HP. Location: The Gables, Grimley, Worcester, WR2 6LU. Description of Proposal: Single storey rear extension and detached garage/home office building. No objections.
iv.	Applicant : Mr C Embleton. PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF:- APP/J1860/W/17/3168475. Appeal Start Date 17 March 2017. Appellant(s) Name Mr Peter Norris. Proposal: Demolition of

	Full invoice amount is for £509.90 (£611.88 including VAT) Remainder to be paid by WCC. <i>This payment was not included on original published agenda, but was included on the republished version dated 05/04/2017.</i>		NB.VAT to be paid by WCC
Lisa Stevens	Clerk wages [March] (£350.08)	£340.08	£10.00 income tax
Lisa Stevens	1 month general expenses £50.66 (recalculated and reduced).	£50.66	£2.33
Lisa Stevens	Ink cartridges HP Inkjet printer black & colour inks. Estimated 8 months worth of ink.	£85.99	£14.33
Lisa Stevens	Notice board blue felt. Monkwood Consultation and for use at future monthly meetings.	£109.98	£18.33

Chair (22 May 2017)

Appendix 1

Grimley Parish Council - Summary of Achievements and Projects for 2016/17
April 2017. LStevens Parish Clerk

- **Planning:** Diligence regarding all other planning applications is ongoing. The Parish Council has both objected to and supported a number of applications over the past 12 months. Enforcement matters at Grimley Raceway continue to be carefully monitored by Parish Cllrs.
- **Grimley village:**
 - o Bollards (knee rail) have been purchased for the approach road (with assistance from WCC) and are due to be installed shortly. This is to prevent dangerous parking on the verges and in particular to protect the school bus, which has had several near misses in recent months. It is disheartening to see that some motorists persist in parking on and damaging verges that are clearly coned off. The Parish Council will monitor this situation once the knee rail is in place.
 - o The damaged verge at Grimley lower triangle is being monitored and WCC and the police are liaising with residents in the area.
 - o Installation of a new mixed waste bin in Grimley village (re-siting further into hedge is being investigated) and at the layby A443. *Thanks to Cllr Taft for her donation towards purchase.*
 - o Parking in the vicinity of the school remains of concern. The Parish Council has liaised with WCC to get white H-Markers in the cul-de-sac entranceways. These are to be in place shortly.
 - o Speeding continues to be monitored.
 - o Phone box in process of being adopted by Parish Council.
- **Flooding:** The ongoing issue of flooding continues to be monitored parish wide. After a full drainage survey of the area, work is due to commence in Grimley village this summer to address the blocked and broken drains and to upgrade the system.
- **Grimley Retreat Farm/ Church Farm South:** Active participation continues via the Tarmac Quarry Liaison Meetings, to pursue delivery of work to reinstate the landscape in accordance with the planning requirements, and further enhance the outcome where possible. Parish Cllrs are generally pleased with the improved relationship with Tarmac and, the progress that has been recently taking place. The Parish Council is looking forward to the possibility of aspects of Church Farm reinstatement becoming an example of best practice.
- **Monkwood Green:** Maintenance of Monkwood Green Common and SSSI remains high on the Parish Council agenda. Cllrs have stepped up efforts to care for the area in as cost effective a way as possible, whilst adhering to the maintenance regulations imposed on the Council. Serious efforts must now be made to ensure that the hard work of the locals, who regularly look after the area, is not wasted.

Monkwood Green Key points to note:

- o Formal adoption of the Monkwood Management Plan by the Parish Council and approval by Natural England. *Thanks go to Chris Betts.*
- o Confirmed registration (of Common and SSSI) with Land Registry, Rural Payments Agency and CPH numbers obtained. *Thanks to Arthur Amos in assisting this work.*
- o Sheep to be placed on SSSI end of April. Herbage Contractor sourced Thanks to Chris Betts again for assistance. Vigilance is requested by locals please.
- o Consultation is underway with the public (parish wide) regarding future management and ownership of the Common and SSSI. All residents are encouraged to respond. The Parish Council is fully open to all opinion and ideas.
- o The pond at the Fox has been cleared, whilst the main pond has had considerable scrub/vegetation removed. *Thanks to locals for team efforts and providing tea and cake.*

- Considerable regular scrub and vegetation works by volunteers and Duckworth Trust. The Parish Council is so grateful for this. Special thanks to Mike Johnson and Mark James for their generous loan of heavy machinery, which saved much time and effort.
 - Ditch clearance on hold until autumn 2017, pending Natural England licence reference great crested newts – found mainly in ponds but utilising ditches as well.
 - Voluntary pollarding by residents. Thank you.
 - Two donations from members of the public towards works on the SSSI. Thank you.
 - Considerable work and expense with solicitors to clarify legal issues concerning Deeds of Rights of Way in regard to individual property access and with regard to the condition of the access road themselves. The road repairs will feature highly on the agendas over the next few months. The Parish Council fully understands the urgent nature of this.
 - Life buoy purchased and due to be installed at main pond shortly.
 - Bollards to prevent further damage to the Common in the north-west corner.
 - The owner of the prosthetic limb found in the main pond has been found and reunited.
 - Phone box in process of being adopted by Parish Council.
- **Sinton Green:**
- Parking on verges is being monitored and, where this is occurring on the Common, action can be taken. The Parish Council is seeking legal (and WCC Highways) advice as to what can be done regarding damaged cause by vehicles to un-adopted land in the area.
 - Work on the pond is due shortly, clearing the reeds in order to maintain drainage. *Thanks to residents assisting with this work.*
 - Potholes are being monitored carefully. Residents are advised to take care when walking along the road in the area, especially in the dark. Highways continued to be pressurised to re-surface asap.
 - Life buoy purchased and due to be installed at main pond shortly.
 - Phone box to be removed entirely after consultation with BT.
- **Peace Hall.** This invaluable local facility continues to be under threat and under-funded. The Parish Council has made suitable provision to assist the Management Committee with its major refurbishment project in 2017 and assisted with purchase of fire doors in 2016.

Projects that have not proceeded and why.....

- **Defibrillators** – the nature of the parish (being of three communities) means that the usefulness of this facility is in doubt. In spite of possible grants, costs are prohibitive at this time.
- **Allotments** – An enquiry has been made to the Church Commissioners asking whether they could assist by donating land for this cause. As yet no reply has been received. Residents that would appreciate this facility are invited to come forward.
- **Provision of play equipment at Sinton Green.** Cllrs feel that the costs involved are prohibitive at this time but this is scheduled for re-consideration in Autumn 2017.

-end-

Appendix 2

CCllr Phil Grove - Annual Report 2016-2017. Grimley. Unedited by Parish Clerk.

My report looks back over the past 12 months, However in writing this report I have focused on life in the council and county beyond the need to balance the budget. In no way does this underestimate the challenge we have financially – we are going through the most significant changes in local government financing seen in recent times – however it is the reform that this necessitates, the way we deliver this reform and the impact it has on residents that underpins being able to live within our means. This reform and the staff who deliver reform are the focus of my 2016 annual report. I have started with why we are here – to listen to what our residents say and to continuously improve how we respond to what they say.

Our endeavour to deliver better outcomes for Worcestershire residents in challenging times gets even greater as we move into 2017 and I am confident we can deliver.

Worcestershire residents – what residents said and what we did

We have spoken to over 55,000 residents over the last 5 years. Through surveys, roadshows, focus groups and conversations, Worcestershire's residents have told us their priorities are:

- Safeguarding vulnerable children;
- Protecting vulnerable adults;
- Maintaining roads and highways.

In response we have invested an extra £12 million into improving our roads and £500k on footpaths; over the last three years we have spent an extra £11 million on vulnerable children; over the same period we have invested an extra £8 million on the county's most vulnerable adults.

For the first time more than 1,000 residents attended our Public Roadshows this summer.

While more than 7/10 people said they felt that they belonged to their local area, 8/10 people in the county say that Worcestershire is a good place to live and satisfaction with the county council is at 52%, persuading people that they have an ability to influence County Council decisions remains a challenge.

This may be in part because our communication and engagement methods until recently have been fairly traditional. In response this year we have increased our engagement across social media by 120%. We have launched new channels including Instagram to reach younger audiences. Posting much more frequently on Facebook, and Twitter has helped us to establish meaningful conversations with our growing social media communities and we plan to continue utilizing these channels throughout 2017. We also need to get better at demonstrating how resident's views have shaped policy and delivery. A good recent example of this is our commissioning of care for the elderly in Worcestershire, which is amongst the very best in the country, according to the Care Quality Commission.

More people believe that as a Council we are providing value for money in 2016 compared to 2009. This is good but we still have progress to make – often a key measure of value for money for residents is the helpfulness with which enquiries are dealt with and what they can see happening immediately around the area they live. We are making good progress on this with our contact centres for residents achieving an average 67% satisfaction rating and our Driving Home investment having improved 63 miles of road, benefiting over 6,000 homes across the county.

Whilst listening to residents is paramount, we have also spoken to more than 1250 businesses in Worcestershire in this year's Business Viewpoint Survey, which is the biggest survey of business confidence in Worcestershire since the EU referendum. It was encouraging through this survey to see continuing positive growth anticipated by businesses. Of particular note was the appetite from

local businesses for both superfast broadband and voice and data mobile coverage, and the latter will be a focus for us as we go through 2017.

Delivery of change in challenging times

These are unprecedented times we live in. The model of local government finance will have changed beyond recognition by 2020 with our Council's income deriving from local council tax and business rates and not central government grant. This means a medium term challenge we have not seen previously, but by 2020 we will be self-sufficient.

However, the more significant shift we see is that the demands for our services, particularly for those most vulnerable in our county - the elderly and frail and those vulnerable children in need of our protection – are rising and will continue to do so.

Adult Services

We have worked with partners to enable 340 adults with a Learning Disability to live in Supported Living units which supports them to be more independent. They have helped more than 2000 people to be supported in their own home through the home care, - we either commission or provide. Our social workers supporting vulnerable adults have enabled more than 1200 people to have a Direct Payment giving them maximum control over their care and support. In the last year our staff have supported more than 1200 people to leave hospital as soon as they were clinically ready to leave so that they can continue recuperation in their own home.

In parallel we have worked alongside the Worcestershire and Herefordshire health economies to develop their Sustainability and Transformation Plan. This has been difficult at times as the NHS has a very different operating model from that of local government with clear governance through central bodies such as NHS England and NHS Improvement. With a plan finally published in November, our role in local government will be key, working with health colleagues to ensure that the clear 'hospital to home' is effectively implemented. One particular focus for us will be to ensure funding follows increasing demand in social care and that the role of prevention is not seen as purely the role of public health but built into every element of the health service, particularly in primary care. We also have a key role to play in demonstrating to the health service how the back office across the multitude of NHS organisations can be reformed, based on our track record in this area over recent years.

Children's Services

In January 2016 the Chief Executive's stated 'we still have significant challenges to face in improving Safeguarding Services, particularly around caseloads, workforce development and consistency of practice and this will be a major focus in 2017'. Since then the Ofsted judgement as a result of an inspection during October/November 2016 under the Single Inspection Framework, has been published. Services were found to be inadequate apart from adoption services and our Children's Safeguarding Board which were found to require improvement.

As a result of this judgement, the improvement plan has evolved to incorporate all aspects of safeguarding beyond the previous back to basics plan. This plan now incorporates all elements of children's safeguarding including a coherent workforce plan, appropriate thresholds for social care intervention being consistently understood and applied and a real focus on the voice of our children and young people. The plan is backed by further investment, confirmed in the February budget setting process of £3.5m in 2017/18 as well as cross council resource to support the delivery of the plan at pace but in a way that brings about sustainable change and improvement.

The governance arrangements for improvement have been refreshed with a new Independent Service Improvement Board Chair Nigel Richardson starting in March 2017 and cross party

membership is now in place. The Department for Education have appointed Trevor Doughty from Cornwall Council to review services and the team are committed to supporting his work.

In parallel the Children and Young People's Plan will be developed from 2017 – 2021 (current plan runs to 2017) and there will be a critical role for all partners, including police, health, education, district. in supporting the development of this plan between now and the summer.

The implementation of the family 'front door' in July was a huge step forward for Worcestershire's most vulnerable children, providing a single point of access for referrals to social care, supported by many of our Worcestershire partners, including West Mercia Police who have played a key role in its establishment

The arrival of a permanent Assistant Director, Tina Russell in October was a step forward in leadership of children's safeguarding services. Ofsted inspection to highlight both as significant changes to improve our safeguarding of children despite having a long way to go to ensure workforce planning is implemented effectively.

Our fostering and adoption services have also seen improvements with 49% of children looked after by the Council placed with in-house carers, an increase from 39% last year.

Time taken to progress adoption improved to 70% being adopted within 14 months. We still have significant challenges to face in improving Safeguarding Services, particularly around caseloads, workforce development and consistency of practice and this will be a major focus in 2017.

The Director of Public Health's report this year was compelling with the links between physical activity and healthy older age endorsed by the Health and Well Being Board. Public health staff have begun to harness the positivity and incredible kindness of Worcestershire's residents and communities with over 10,000 Dementia Friends now trained to raise awareness. We are working with communities and partners through the GO ON Worcestershire Partnership to help residents get on line and develop basic digital skills. Digital Connectors based in each of our districts have recruited 102 volunteer Digital Champions. These officers and volunteers have supported 3409 of our residents to develop basic digital skills to go online, for example to apply for jobs, access better details on fuel tariffs and access other online services.

Economic development and infrastructure

WCC have had a busy year, with our second year of delivering an unprecedented level of major infrastructure schemes. Early evidence suggests this is making a real impact on our county's economy with Worcestershire LEP.

Figures released by the Office of National Statistics reveal that the county's productivity between 2010 and 2015 grew by an annual average rate of three per cent – the fastest growth out of all counties in England.

The Southern Link Road has made significant strides forward with Phase 3 well underway, Hoobrook Link Road (or Silverwoods Way) is now open and reducing traffic congestion as well as making the area more accessible for housing and employment and Bromsgrove station opened in July. These planned programmes of work are alongside needing to respond in a timely way to emerging issues such as the collapse of Eastham Bridge, where a scheme has been developed and is well underway to construct a new permanent bridge.

Much is still to do but with approvals for Worcestershire Parkway obtained in December, key infrastructure projects which have waited years to become a reality will do just that over the next

two years, including the Energy from Waste plant EnviRecover which is well into its commissioning phase.

In July the Superfast Worcestershire Broadband programme achieved a key milestone by increasing broadband coverage to business premises from 44% to over 90%. A further 60,000 premises overall now have access to improved speeds as a result of the programme, over 2,000 more than originally expected, with take up beyond 35%. The progress on these and other projects is a testament to the increasing maturity of the major projects team within the Council.

With an already established ambition to deliver 100% of our services online we have transformed over twenty key services and enabled more than £2m savings. These include new 'registration services,' enabling customers to request and pay for copy certificates online with online self-service rising from 40% to 78%. Customer self-service in libraries has risen from 67% to 97%..

Investing in the future

Our staff are our biggest asset as a council. Their passion, desire to deliver excellent public services and willingness to champion different ways of doing things are what will stand us in the best possible position to face challenges ahead. With 2456 full time equivalents or approximately 3200 individual members of staff.

These staff survey findings have been invaluable. Staff told us that they wanted to feel more informed about the decisions made by the Strategic Leadership Team so we now record a podcast of the key points discussed following every weekly senior meeting and upload on our staff intranet.

Our first Talent Programme for 'growing our own' was formally launched in October 2016. We are recognising the value of investing in our existing workforce, exploiting the 'grow your own' philosophy for the benefit of both the employee and the organisation. On our first cohort we have 1 Strategic Talent (Future Directors), 3 Top Talent (Future Heads of Service), 15 Key Talent (Future Senior Managers) and 18 Aspiring managers, focused in our recruitment hotspot areas; Adults and Children's Social Care.

We have also launched our very first Graduate Scheme and successfully appointed 8 graduates working in key services across the Authority. We have invested in additional Apprenticeships again in some of our key service areas.

We brought some excellent talent into the organisation during 2016 including a new Director of Children, Families and Communities Catherine Driscoll and demonstrated agility in development of existing talent when Sander Kristel moved to take on the role of Director of Adult Services. We have 'grown our own' starting at the top of the organisation when Frances Howie became Director of Public Health in August 2016. At the same time during 2016 we reduced our overall number of managers by a further 13%.

We will develop our 2015 launch of 'Investing in the workforce' further as we move forwards – in 2016 this included building on Front Line Manager and Senior Management, one to one coaching and mentoring in areas of particular focus such as Children's Safeguarding.

There is always more to be done on developing and investing in our workforce and we will continue this through 2017.

Looking forwards to 2017

2017 will see county elections happen across Worcestershire and so we will look forward to

welcoming new and returning councillors in May. The financial challenge is as acute as ever as we look forward to 2018/19. However we should not lose sight of the fact that we become financially self-sufficient by 2020 and this amount of self-determination will be a game changer in how we can set priorities and allocate resource.

In conclusion WCC each and every day are helping those most vulnerable in our society, working to make communities more cohesive and deliver the infrastructure to improve our prosperity in years to come. In 2016 we delivered this in a climate which is challenging and offers little thanks.

I've enjoyed the opportunity to represent you all at WCC in my role as your County Councillors, there are many challenges ahead, saying that I'm determined to make sure your voice is heard at the highest level.

Grants

Grimley Peace Hall Foundation Committee Upgrade of electrics in kitchen £ 12000

Many thanks to Grimley Parish Council, for your support, its been a good working partnership. Whatever happens in May, Its been a honour and pleasure to represent your interest at County Hall over the past 4yrs. It's been a fantastic experience returning to the area where one was brought up in my early years. For those who are not aware my family lived in Mosley Road, and schooled here at Grimley.

Phil Grove
County Councillor.

- End -

Appendix 3

Ness Snape - Police Community Support Officer - Martley & Tenbury Safer Neighbourhood Team

Crime No: **22CC/40804B/16** Incident No: [0141S 300516](#)

Between times stated Person(s) Unknown has tried to get into the loche in order to operate the rotork manually. Person(s) Unknown has smashed the padlock off to try and operate it manually, but was unable to do so. Only damage caused is lock damage,

Crime No: **22CC/46502V/16** Incident No: [0399S 170616](#)

Location is a residential property on farm house land, directly in front of the house there is a storage area. offender(s) have removed and stolen two mountain bikes by unknown means.

Crime No: **22CC/79824P/16** Incident No: [0392S 021016](#)

Entry gained to shed, by cutting the hasp. 2 pushbikes have been stolen from within.

Crime No: **22CC/7181E/17** Incident No: [0244S 270117](#)

Victim owns a field off Walton Lane, Grimley, She recently planted 300 small miniature trees on this land. They were planted away from the public footpath that runs across the land. However they were viewable from the path. Person(s) unknown have cut the tops of 43 trees, this has caused some of the trees to die.

I have listed the last twelve months worth activity for Grimley Parish. All these reports have been shared with Neighbourhood Watch, and so I hope that most will be aware of the Crime trends. West Mercia Police Website is easily accessed, and anyone can then sign up to receive Neighbourhood Watch alerts, which arrive as an email to your phone, laptop, or computer. There are also very many Watch schemes available and you can join as many as you wish.

Crime trends have not really changed from the year before, but we are seeing increasingly vehicles being targeted for tools. Work vans taken to home addresses especially. Please remember to remove everything from the vehicle that you are able to do so, and alarm the vehicle.

Sheds, garages and outbuilding continue to be targets for thefts. Again it is important to ensure that you have adequate security in place on these buildings. Very often sheds are located far away from the main address, and with little or no security in place, but inside there is a treasure trove of very valuable items.

- Good padlock which are non bolt 'cropable',
- Alarmed style padlocks are great for outbuildings and sheds
- Door sensors and alarms inside the buildings are also favourable.
- Anything which is going to alert you to the fact that someone is in the building.
- Change screws for coach bolts.
- Mark all items with a visible deterrent marker.
- Register the property with : immobilise.com, or bikeregister.com.
- Make a note of make/model/serial numbers of tools and bikes
- Take photos, and keep in a secure place.
- Planting of prickly shrubs and bushes also deters would be thieves
- CCTV is good, but only if you are alerted at the time that someone is in the building, so that you can make the call to Police.

If anyone would like to receive any advice on security, there is a vast raft of information on the Police Website, and we are more than happy to come along and have a chat with you. Vigilance is key here. As Safer Neighbour Team, we receive lots of important information and intelligence from the Public which helps us plan where Police should patrol.

The 'eyes and ears' of the community are vital for the ongoing battle against criminals.

As a rural Parish Police are really keen for people to report rural crime. We know that there are many poaching incidents which cause an awful lot of heart ache for game keepers, animals and residents alike. Police are working with other partner agencies, and we are keen to stamp this and other crime out.

So please call 101 to report anything you see that is suspicious, or crime taking place.
If anyone wishes to contact the team here please call 01905 725780 (Voicemail) or email mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

- End -

Appendix 4

Parish Council Update Worcester 9th Scout Group

Update to Grimley Parish Council on the activities of the 9th Worcester Scout Group

Scouts are one of the biggest providers of activities in the area for young people, attracting membership from across different parishes in the west of Worcester area. The Scout Group has continued to expand with second sections being opened within the Beavers and Cubs sections. There are 3 sections within the Scout Group that cater for different age ranges of children from age 6 upwards, we have:

- Beavers – for children 6 to 8 years old, which meet on a Monday and a Tuesday night and has 33 members.
- Cubs – for children 8 to 10.5 years old, which meet on a Monday night and has 38 members
- Scouts – for children 10.5 to 14 years old, which meet on a Friday night and has 28 members

Once a young person has reached the age of 14 they are eligible to move into the Explorers unit, who meet on a Thursday night. In addition there are leaders, who are all volunteers – and we do rely on the goodwill of volunteers to run the Group. Retaining leaders and attracting new leaders to support all of the sections has been a challenge during the year, and is a current area of focus for us.

The Group has run many activities during the past year, including several camps away, and attended the International Jamboree in Essex. We offer a programme of activities during school term time, that enable young people to develop skills such as teamwork, self-motivation and communication. The provision of fun, education activities that enable young people to learn by trying new activities and experiences continues to be the primary focus of the Group.

As well as providing activities for young people in the area, the Group is also involved in fundraising activities, which have included donations from the parish, for which we are grateful. The fundraising is to meet the costs of hut running the Group and maintaining the scout hut. The current scout hut continues to need repair to ensure it is safe and usable, and would require extensive and costly renovation to bring it up to modern standards. As the Group grows the size of the hut also poses some challenges. Maintaining the hut, and looking at options for the hut longer term to ensure the Group has a suitable premises to operate from is also an area of focus for the Group.

Regards

David Heywood (Chair)

Sean Flanagan (Group Scout Leader)

Appendix 5
Grimley Parish Council - Financial report 2016/2017

10th April 2017

- **Balance (total assets) - 31st March 2016: £28,439.92.**
 (including £1662.10 in unpresented cheques but NOT including £273.13 in unreceived income – WCC Lengthsman scheme)
- **Balance (total assets) - 31st March 2017: £30,529.59**
 (including £1220.66 in unpresented cheques but NOT including £350.75 in unreceived income – WCC Lengthsman scheme).
- **Total receipts 2016/2017 – £20,228.02**
 (excluding £350.75 unreceived income, due Q1 2017/18, WCC Lengthsman)
 (including £273.13 in payments that were previously unleared from 2015/16).
- **Total expenditure 2016/2017 - £18,138.35**
 (excluding £1662.10 in unpresented cheques from 2015/16 that were cleared in Q1 2016/17, as this figure is included in the overall balance for 2015/16).
 (including £1220.66 unpresented cheques from 2016/17).

Items appended to this report:

- Bank reconciliations for 17th March 2017 and 31st March 2017. The bank reconciliation for 31st March includes draft figures and working in readiness for completion of the Annual Audit paperwork.
- Q4 report for 2016/17.
- The budget for 2017/18, as approved in December 2016, with February admin amendments by Clerk.

Budget

The above represents a pleasing maintenance of assets and reserves in light of the fact that the Parish Council has struggled to contain increasing costs of Monkwood Green maintenance and the frequent legal advice associated with all variety of Monkwood Green projects.

The donations from both the public and Members must be acknowledged as playing their part in Parish Council ability to keep nicely within overall budget. (Several individual budgets went over – see below).

Reserves - Saving Account

- Going forward, it is intended to strive to maintain a level of reserves (ie monies stored in the savings account) at least equal to the previous years precept. There is currently £19,552.97 in the savings account, with the precept for 2016/17 being £15,750.
- This carries an implied acknowledgement that spending of up to £3802.97 from the Saving Account can and should happen if required in an emergency but only with prior FULL MEMBER agreement. The current **agreed** budget for 2017/18 does NOT rely on or require this expenditure however – ie this should be seen as an appropriate emergency option only.
- This strikes a balance between keeping the council financially viable should the precept fail and yet, provides a policy allowing for savings to be made

available for parish council projects, without inappropriate 'hoarding'.

Reserves – general

- The reserves* in the 'active/daily' business account are also to be maintained where possible and restored (*Reserves exist for: recruitment; SILCA Clerks training; election expenses; Grimley Smaller Charities saving; Peace Hall; bus shelters; grit bins; bin replacement; bollard replacement; well repair and; pool maintenance).
- Plans are in place to gradually replenish (over a series of years) the depleted reserves for Recruitment, Peace Hall and Grit Bins after expenditure in these areas in 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- The Peace Hall Management Committee has already verbally notified the Parish Council that it intends to request the full reserve amount in 2017/18 (£1500). Consequently, the Management Committee may need to be informed in no-uncertain terms that it will NOT be able to apply for Parish Council funding for the foreseeable future (barring dire emergencies) and until the full reserves amount of £3000 has been built back up again at a rate of £200 per annum. This equate to 15 years and Members may feel that they need to discuss this / re-address.

Overspend

- Overspend occurred in 2016/17 in the following areas:
 - o Clerks expenses: Overspend of £135.55 in a budget of £800. Arising as a consequence of much of the purchase of sundry items for electric fencing, office equipment and in particular as a consequence of the monthly ink contract with HP (which has now been cancelled as of January 2017, as it worked out more expensive than going to the shop and buying ink when it was needed).
 - o The Clerk is devising a better system for splitting expenses out into the separate budget areas, though it must be acknowledged that splitting expenses in this way is time consuming – a balance must be struck.
 - o The Clerk is also attempting to cut down the number of visits being made to the Parish from around two a week to merely one or two a month – as this was also a major cause of expenditure to the Parish Council. Members will need to play their part in this, and perhaps be willing to anticipate which sites will need a visit on behalf of the Clerk, as and when they are passing.
 - o Another area where expense could be reduced is postage. The Clerk has already cease posting minutes and agenda to Members, as this was costing over £50 per annum. The Clerk will propose that in future no Christmas cards are sent (£9 spent last Christmas) and that Members play a greater role in distributing cheques once they are signed at Parish Council. (Approx £36 was spent in sending cheques and covering letters to parish based businesses in 2016/17).
 - o CALC & CPRE subscriptions. An overspend of £15 in the subscription rates for CALC - their rate increases need to be better anticipated in future. CPRE subscription quirks have now been sorted out and the 2017/18 financial year will not see an overspend.
 - o Overspend on Monkwood Green – in part due to the increased activity and projects being undertaken by the Parish Council in relation to this site. Additional and unforeseen legal costs have also added to the overspend. The increased costs of mowing/general maintenance are part of a current public consultation. An increase in budget has been allowed this forthcoming year: [*increase from £1800 (2015/16) to £3000 (2016/17) to £4000 in 2017/18*]. The emergency contingency budget of £2000 also remains in place, although the emphasis on 'administrative expenditure' for this contingency has been removed.

Parish Clerk for Grimley & Financially Responsible Officer

Draft