

PARISHES OF LITTLE MALVERN AND WELLAND

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 24th APRIL 2017 IN WELLAND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Nine Members of the Parish Council, Mr D Sharp (Clerk) and 55 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs. Mr P Gillet, Mrs E Horton-Smith , Mr J Gibbs and District Cllr. Chris O'Donnell.

2. TO CONSIDER FOR ADOPTION THE MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – A review of the year

Cllr. Nelson thanked all councillors and clerk for their work over the past year and also county and district councillors. Also for all volunteers including those on the Neighbourhood Plan Group and others who deliver the newsletter and Ann Brookes the footpath warden.

She reviewed the progress made over the year: The installation of village gates and school warning sign; the creation of a dedicated parish council web site; wifi broadband in the village hall and the ongoing development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

There were still some ongoing issues that the Parish Council was considering: The speed of vehicles through the village; the development of the Pheasant Inn site and the traffic problems associated with the Steam Rally.

Finally she thanked residents for their attendance and input at meetings.

4. THE FUTURE OF PURSER'S ORCHARD

Mrs Maureen Lamb, member of the Orchard Working Group, reviewed current progress. 73% of responses to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had indicated that open spaces in the middle of the village were important and negotiations with the landowner to purchase about 3 acres of land were ongoing. Some of the trees were believed to be over 150 years old and it was hoped that the site could be well used by the school as well as local residents. S106 and other funding was being sought.

A question and answer session followed that included discussions on future use and how to alleviate flooding on the adjoining stream.

Forms were distributed asking residents for suggestions as well as those offering help in future maintenance of the area.

5. THE PHEASANT INN - A presentation by Mark Haslam from CAMRA regarding community pubs

Cllr. Mick Davies gave a brief history of the pub which had been closed for 7 years. The interior had been badly damaged by looting but responses to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had demonstrated an overwhelming wish by residents to have it reinstated as an important focal point of the village.

The site around the pub had recently had outline planning approval for up to 14 houses and the pub building was currently on the market for £195,000. Being an Asset of Community Value the Parish Council was to deliberate at the Parish Council meeting this Wednesday whether to invoke the moratorium period to allow them to investigate the feasibility of purchasing the property and seek funding.

Mark Haslam outlined the benefits of running a community owned pub; total control how the pub was run and developed, ability to invest in the building, and not being dependant on the whim of a landlord. Of course there were disadvantages, notably the need to raise money and to form a committee to run and appoint a manager. But he gave examples where this had been achieved successfully. He mentioned the Plunket Foundation that financially helped cooperatives set up shops and pubs and also helped with the setting up of legal entities.

6. PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END MARCH 31ST 2016: These would be published on the web site within the next week

7. QUESTION TIME - For residents to raise any other issues of local importance: No other matters were discussed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9,00 pm.