

Whittington Parish Council



Clerk to the Council: Carol Chambers, 1 Crookbarrow Cottage, Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RL

Email whittingtonpc@live.co.uk: **Tele** 01905 358470

Web Site [Worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish) **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/whittingtonpc>

Minutes of the Annual Whittington Parish Meeting

held on

Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

at

Whittington Village Hall

- 1) **Welcome** The Chairman of Whittington Parish Council welcomed all guest and parishioners to the meeting.
- 2) **Apologies** Fraser Richards (WVHMC), Les Wiltshire (Charities), Steve Tinkler (Police), Mr Jon Fraser Worcestershire Highways Department.
- 3) **Attendance** - Cllr S Macleod and 16 Parishioners
- 4) **Minutes of Parish Meeting Held 12 April 2016**
The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2016 was moved, seconded and adopted as a true record of the meeting.
- 5) **Matters arising from the Meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2016.** None.
- 6) **Whittington Parish Council** - Chairman's Report Attached.

'Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting, thank you for coming. This year I will have been a parish councillor here for ten years. I never thought I would have stayed this long but I enjoy being able to try to make a difference in the area that I live. It has been a pleasure to work with my fellow councillors over the recent years and with our clerk Carol Chambers who demonstrates great enthusiasm about our village and parish. I would like to thank her and my colleagues Andrew Guy, Fraser Richards, Simon Clarke and Ross Pierce for their continued support and work for and on behalf of the parish.

We have a couple of vacancies for parish councillors, so if you know of anyone who would be interested to join the council, please let either me or Carol know.

This past year has seen the growth of the Parish in terms of a substantial number new families moving into the new housing estate at what was the Uffnell farm area on the west side of Swinesherd Way which now adds a new dimension to the parish and our community. We will be looking at the possibility of a parish notice board there to be able to keep in touch. As part of the planning agreement the builders are creating 15 allotments on the new estate and they are nearly ready to take over. If anyone from within Whittington Parish is interested to rent an allotment please give your name and contact details to the clerk as soon as possible. There is already a lot of interest.

On the subject of keeping in touch, as well giving updates in the parish magazine and website, the Parish Council has a Facebook page which, if you use social media, I encourage you to look up and like the page to receive information from the Parish Council. Also recently Cllr Andrew Guy set up some new emails for 'Whittington.life' for the council, the clerk, and for the village hall. Thank you to Andrew for organising this.

As you are all probably aware we have the prospect of another large housing estate being built here in the parish - this time on the east side of Swinesherd Way. The Parish Council are given updates with regard to the planning of this site. Amongst other things, one of the concerns is to retain the heritage of the Parish, we have asked to preserve the ancient oak trees that are home to much wildlife and we also want the name of Swinesherd to be retained, as it has roots back to Anglo Saxon times.

We are keen as a council to look at enhancements for the Parish. So would be pleased to hear about any ideas that you have and want to put forward for consideration.

Over the past year we have continued to carry out enquiries to find out and fully understand the Parish Councils responsibility as a trustee of the land and Village Hall building (it hadn't been clear to this council previously). Last autumn things moved forward with a new interim management committee and more recently in March, new Village Hall Trustees and a management committee were agreed. We support and are in communications with the new team to work towards the future of the hall. We will hear more in a separate report a little later.

A new facility that will be close to this Parish is the Norton Parkway railway station. We are attending meetings that give updates about the plans. I understand that work on the site will start around November time and building is due to start in early 2018. It will be a great asset for the city and county, the impact on our parish though is likely to be additional traffic passing through.

In addition to this concern we have a number of other traffic issues that impact us around the Parish. County Councillor Rob Adams offered to arrange for Jon Fraser from Worcestershire County Councils Highways department to come and speak to us today.

Thank you Rob for arranging this.

And a big thank you to Jon for coming along this evening. The following are a number of areas we hope Jon can advise about -

1. the timescales for the widening of the carriageway to St Peters.
2. the possibility of traffic lights on the Whittington island to help exiting the village safely. And speed restrictions on the approach from St Peters and Swineherd.
3. Anticipating extra traffic using this major highway, what can be done about countering air and noise pollution?
4. Although the village is access only, there are streams of cars using the village as a rat run to try to avoid queues along the main highways. Whittington has pretty, traditional village narrow lanes which cannot cope with the extra traffic - verges are being destroyed and rutted and deep pot holes are forming. Can Highways put right the damage that has been caused? What measures can be put in place to stop this use of the village roads? How can speed along the village lanes be reduced?
- 5) What can be done to prevent the dual carriages around the parish being used as a Grand Prix circuit, particularly at the weekends?
- 6) What help can be offered around the parking issues within the village itself? Commuters leave vehicles and people park inconsiderately, causing upset to residents.
- 7) over the years there has been numerous collisions on the Swinesherd roundabout and the Parish council has made a number of pleas to WCC on behalf of parishioners for safety measures. In particular for more robust railings to be put in place. What can be done to increase safety in this accident hotspot?

**Clerks Note Mr Jon Fraser Worcestershire Highways Department. Was not able to attend the meeting due to the upcoming elections.*

***7) Mr Jon Fraser Worcestershire Highways Department-Apologies Recieved**

8) **Police Report** - was read out by Carol Chambers Clerk to WPC.

Annual Police Report 2016-17

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our policing area which extends from Whittington, Upton Snodsbury and Dormston in the north to Bredon and Beckford in the south. We have carried out active engagement within our policing area in the form of monthly police surgeries and local parish events. The whole team remain committed to tackling all levels of crime throughout the area including rural crime and poaching and providing security advice and support to victims and vulnerable residents.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 24/04/16 and 24/04/17 the comparison is relating to the corresponding dates in 2015/16.

Overall the police recorded 700 incidents that were reported by members of the public this is compared to 622 incidents reported the previous year. (Unfortunately this does include motorway incidents in and around junction 7)

Of the 700 incidents the Parish had 85 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 46 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

| | 2016/17 | 2015/16 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Burglary Dwellings | 8 | 6 |
| Theft | 6 | 3 |
| Criminal Damage | 8 | 5 |
| Other Offences | 53 | 32 |

(Includes mostly domestic related incidents)

Overall the figures show a steady but low crime rate for the past few years. This year has seen Whittington increase in population with the new estate and which that has shown some teething problems with crime related issues. We have continued with increased patrols in the area and have issued security advice.

The figures clearly present the picture that Whittington and the surrounding area is still a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team

Non-emergency phone number: 101

9) **Presentation of Village Charities Accounts.** was read out by Cllr S Macleod

THE FANNY CLIFTON AND ELIZABETH STEPHENS CHARITIES

As I have reported in previous years, these two village charities have been dormant for quite some time. The Elizabeth Stephens Charity dates back to 1668, and was a legacy of £50 with which three cottages were built in Swinesherd. These were liquidated in 1880 and the interest used to provide grocery parcels for the poor and needy of the parish.

The Fanny Clifton Charity was founded by Miss Clifton's will in 1888. Her legacy of £900 was to be used to provide coal at Christmas for the poor of the parish.

The accounts show that no payments have been made and only a small amount of income in the form of interest has been received.

L Wiltshire
Trustee

18th April 2017

THE FANNY CLIFTON CHARITY

Balances as at 31 March 2016

Deposit a/c 734.79

Income

Deposit a/c interest .36

735.15

Balances as at 31 March 2017

Deposit a/c 735.15

735.15

THE ELIZABETH STEPHENS CHARITY

Balances as at 31 March 2016

Deposit a/c 37.81

Income

Deposit a/c interest .00

37.81

Balances as at 31 March 2017

Deposit a/c 37.81

37.81

L Wiltshire
Trustee

18th April 2017

10) Whittington Village Hall. was read out by Vice Chairman Mr M Macleod.

**Whittington Village Hall Management Committee Report
Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 25th April 2017**

Ladies and gentlemen, a period of uncertainty followed the confirmation by the previous Chair that the outgoing Trustees had voted unanimously to pass a Resolution on 8 September 2016 to change the constitution of the Whittington Village Hall Charity. From that date, an Interim Management Committee looked after the interests of the hall, making sure that it continued to function and support, wherever possible, the ongoing requirements of the community and its user group.

Understandably, that situation could not continue as there was a pressing need to move forward and make sure that the historical issues affecting the hall could be addressed. As such, it was decided that, during a Parish Council meeting in mid-March, Whittington Parish Council would formally nominate six persons to take seats on the Charity's Board of Trustees. On completion of the above, this new Board would then take over from the Interim Management Committee, which would then dissolve. Further, this new Board would then run the Charity.

I am pleased to inform everyone that this was completed successfully and we are currently in the process of transferring the considerable funds so that they can be managed by the new Board. As many of you will be aware, the above undertaking is not inconsiderable and those that have been chosen are very aware of their responsibilities and the challenges that they will potentially face. That said, each and every one of the new Board are totally committed to making sure that Whittington Village Hall becomes a venue that fully supports the growing local community. In essence, each one of these individuals wants to make a difference.

In the short and medium term, it will be our intention to meet again once all of the finances are fully transferred and signatories are recognised by the banking authorities. At this time, discussions and planning will be initiated that will enable us to start bringing to fruition our vision for a rejuvenated, modern and sustainable community facility.

Fraser Richards
Chair - Whittington Village Hall Charity Board of Trustees.

11) Whittington School Report - No report was submitted

12) Whittington Church St Philip & St James --
Report is annexed to these minutes was read out by Mrs J Ryner.

13) County & District Councillor's Reports

The Chairman welcome Cllr R Adams to the meeting.

Planning-He advised that the new parkway station was underway and the site was being cleared. Wellbeck Developments had submitted plans for 2,500 homes on land by St Peters Garden Centre and added that he had asked that all the infrastructure be in place before the homes are built.

Southern Link foot bridge - temporary foot paths needed to be in place.

Ketch Car Boot land - 90 houses with a further 200 had been submitted.

Swinesherd Foot Bridge should be in place before development of the site on Uffnells Farm is started, he added that further allotments may become available.

Cllr Adams added that he would like to keep Whittington in Wychavon and not be moved to Worcester City, Wychavon would allocate New homes bonus money to Whittington and fully

support the Village Hall project. A parishioner added that parking in the village was a problem, Cllr Adams would report to Highways to get problem resolved. Worcestershire County Council are looking at increasing adult services/care and home help services to be improved and well as children's services.

14) Any Other Business. None.

15) Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting-Will be advised in early 2018

Chairman of Whittington Parish Council
Councillor S Macleod

The Rev. Andy Staw was appointed our new vicar in June. He was licensed in a service at St Marks by Bishop Graham. His first service in Whittington was followed by lunch in the Village Hall - not only welcoming Andy, his wife Chris and their son James but also celebrating HM the Queen 90th Birthday.

The Annual Memorial Service was held in July and Harvest Festival in October was followed by lunch in the Village Hall.

The Christmas services were well attended and we were pleased to welcome Archdeacon Robert to celebrate the Midnight Service.

We continue to welcome Guest Speakers to our occasional series of lectures in aid of our Elizabeth Room Appeal with Steve Booker illustrating his walk along the Camino de Compostella. On 11th November to coincide with Armistice Day Ingrid Dixon spoke about her book 'The Bird's Trunk' the true story of the German Mother and English Soldier Father at the end of World War 2.

We continue to have close involvement with Whittington School. Each year group visits Church for workshops and services - in 2 sessions are held for the whole school once a term. Each Year 6 leaver receives a bible from the Church.

The Church shares and helps part in the School Summer event as well as the Christmas Fair.

Although Planning Permission has been granted for the building of an Extension to the North West corner of the Church the application for a faculty has been further delayed by discussion concerning the possible effect on the Ancient Yew Tree. This has curtailed applications for suitable grants but we continue to hold fundraising events in the hope of a successful resolution to the problem.