

SOUTH LENCHES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14th May 2018 at 7.00 pm in Church Lench Village Hall, Church Lench.

Present:	Cllr. Mr. Shore (Chair of the Parish Council), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), County Cllr. Mr. Hopkins, Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel, , Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator, Secretary Lenches Sports & Recreation Club, Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and 4 parishioners. No reports or apologies received from the Police, Tree Warden or Social Club.
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1.	Welcome , apologies received from Mr. J. Fletcher.
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2.	Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2017. Resolved that the minutes were of a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.
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3.	Matters arising from minutes - nil.
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4.	<p>Report from Chairman of the Parish Council:</p> <p>There has been one change in the Councillor membership since the last Annual Parish Meeting. Councillor Mike Worton, MBE, sadly passed away in December last year. Mike was very involved in Council matters and we miss his presence greatly. Mike was well known in the Parish. He was a successful business man and set up a Charity delivering aid to Belarus having been moved by their plight, He made numerous trips I believe 15 or 16 trips and it is a measure of his character that he was able to overcome the red tape of several countries. He had a wicked sense of humour to the last he was carried to his funeral in a coach at his request. On a website he is described as a working class hero. He was awarded a richly deserved MBE for his endeavours.</p> <p><u>Projects for the year include:</u></p> <p><u>Planning:</u> With the adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan the number of applications for planning has reduced considerably. Some 15 dwelling have been approved and will be created by converting redundant agricultural buildings and holiday lets. This adds significantly to the number of houses with very little disturbance.</p> <p><u>New Homes Bonus:</u> This is being reformed in the way it is allocated. Wychavon District Council wish to concentrate on larger projects that will leave a lasting legacy.</p> <p><u>Parish Assets:</u> The principle asset is the playground. Because of the age, various elements it was in need of renewing/refurbishment. A recent ROSPA inspection highlighted a few minor problems which will be addressed during the year. Unfortunately damage was caused to the swings which required their removal for safety reason. The Clerk is pursuing an insurance claim.</p> <p><u>Neighbourhood Plan:</u> The plan continues at a pace thanks to the Chair of 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. We would also like to congratulate Mr. Jackson for being nominated for the Chairman's Diamond Jubilee Community Recognition Award 2017/18, and received a Certificate of Commendation.</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>Thanks go to the Footpaths Warden and Tree Warden who carry out volunteer work in the Parish in their respective roles.</p>
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5.	<p>County and District Councillor reports.</p> <p>County Cllr. Mr. Hopkins:</p> <p><u>Speeding:</u> Enforcement commences when speeds reach 35mph and above. County Council speed assessment will take place along Low Road once machinery is available.</p> <p><u>Road to Ab Lench</u> is in a very poor condition. Highways Officer to visit.</p> <p><u>Planning Appeal</u> - written to Planning Inspectorate and Highways re the road access.</p> <p><u>Lenches Sports & Recreation Club</u> - given a contribution from the Divisional Fund for hard court refurbishment.</p> <p>Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel reported: New protocol for New Homes Bonus funding to be released shortly. New projects will be larger and that will leave a legacy to the community. Propositions for Village of Culture required.</p>
6.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan, Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that progress continues to be made and we are now moving along very positively. In the Summer and Autumn the committee members and other volunteers walked the 4 villages with maps and cameras to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Record the character and style of the villages.2. Identify important views and green spaces we might want to protect.3. Prepare detailed maps. <p>Over 400 photographs were taken. The information gained, along with other historical and relevant local information is being written into a Parish Character Assessment which will be an essential part of the Plan.</p> <p>Considerable work has been done and continues apace constructing the first full draft Plan and completing the detailed character assessment.</p> <p>We had organised a walk-in parish communications exercise at the beginning of April in the Village Hall, but this had to be cancelled last minute because of the heavy snow storm.</p> <p>This has now been booked in for Saturday the 19th May and will consist of a display of relevant parts of the draft plan with our proposed recommendations as well as details of the valued landscapes and green spaces we feel should be protected. The display will be open from 10am to 4pm.</p> <p>Visitors will be invited to provide both oral and written feedback which will be considered and applied, where necessary, into the Draft Plan before it goes to our consultants - Avon Planning Services - for detailed review and advice and structuring.</p> <p>I am sure there will be some tidying up and additional research to be done but I would hope to be in a position to pass over the final draft to the consultants to prepare for submission to Wychavon District Council by the end of June.</p> <p>I have now just updated the project's detailed timetable with advice from consultants and the planned completion date is now January 2020. This has been an onerous and time consuming task and I have spent, in total, several months of my time working on the project, and clearly it is far from finished. However, I believe there is daylight at the end of the tunnel.</p> <p>It was with considerable pride - and surprise - that I was nominated by my colleagues on the Parish Council for the Queen's Jubilee Award. I did not win, as there were many more deserving nominees, but I had the great pleasure of being awarded a Certificate of Commendation by Wychavon District Council at an awards ceremony a few weeks ago. My thanks to the Parish Council for your recognition and support.</p>

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7.	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator report: New co-ordinator took over the role 6months ago and has been updating the existing email update in accordance with new GDPR regulations. Facebook page has 562 regular users. Attended West Mercia neighbourhood Watch session at Hindlip, Worcester and gained lots of information. Police resources are limited. <u>Items available:</u> Smart Water; CCTV home and outside; Engagement drive with Neighbouring Villages. Regular updates in the Arch Messenger.</p>
8.	<p>Lenches Sports & Recreation Club: <u>Operations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cricket, Tennis, Soccer and Netball played regularly. • Footfall estimate to be the same as 2016. Increased footfall expected in 2017/18 did not materialise as weather conditions affected completion of the new pitch • Boules Court fully resurfaced. Grand opening in June.2017 • Orchard continues to be used by First School and Pre School • Infill completed by end September 2017. Seeded in October2017. • Bishampton way footpath levelled and widened. Intrusive vegetation removed from edges. • Phone Box Project. Waiting for box to be refurbished. • Negotiations completed with new Soccer Team starting in 2018 • Removal of temporary fencing along Bishampton way. Replaced at top of new area • Bee area improved and some new trees planted to shade the hives • Orchard Shelter vandalised. Now repaired • Steps and walkways have had non slip material renewed. • Pavilion railings replaced. <p><u>Fundraising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant from Councillor Hopkins for Hard Court refurbishment (£1250) • Grants from requested from SLPC and RLPC towards hard courts • Wedding, Big Village Party and FRAME festival held in July 2017 • In 2018 a Private Function, Big Village Party and FRAME will take place. • Five Valentines show held in February 2018. Very successful • Burns Night planned and booked for January 2019. • GLADS will produce a pantomime to raise funds for the LSRC in 2019 <p><u>Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSRC is in a financially healthy position with enough income to cover operating costs in 2018/19. • Income from infill has been allocated to the Courts resurfacing fund. So far Tenders suggest this will cost c£43k. Capital finance arranged to cover difference between fund and cost. This will be repaid by mid-2019. • Remainder of current available 106 approvals drawn down to complete phase 1 of infill. <p><u>Future</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water problem mentioned last year appears to not affect the court resurfacing project. • Phone box project. Once the Box is ready the area will be fenced and surfaced. A grant request from New Homes Bonus by the Phone Box group was successful. • Funding application for fencing remainder of Field with ball retention fence will need to wait until field settles. • Initialisation of planting scheme.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five a side football expected in view of change to surface on MUGA.• Ongoing work to bring new pitch up to standard.• Elimination of any hard court capital loan debt during 2018/19.
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Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.