

MAMBLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors: Mr J Pepper (Chairman), Mr R Jones, Mrs S Rawlins, Mr S Finney and Mr C Bunn.

In Attendance: Mrs A Watson (Clerk), Councillor Mr C Dell and Mr & Mrs L Evans.

1. Welcome & Introduction:

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of PCSO V Snape and County Councillor Dr K Pollock.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2016.

The minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were taken as correct, approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Community Police Report

PCSO V Snape was unable to attend, but sent a written report read out by the Clerk, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

5. County Council and District Council Reports

5.1 District Council Report

Cllr. Dell reported on how the District Council, whilst protecting frontline services, is moving towards efficient ways of operating which includes sharing resources and senior staff and streamlining bin collections. By 2020 the figures forecast will see Government funding reduced by 60%, so everything will be affected. The new Leader of the Council is Mr David Chambers. Cllr. Dell also has a ward budget of £500 to be split over 5 parishes, which enables him to make small grants locally; anyone who would like more information is welcome to contact him directly.

5.2 County Council Report

County Councillor Pollock sent his apologies, but kindly provided a report that was read out by the Clerk. A copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

6. Mamble Reports:

6.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman delivered his annual report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

6.2 Bayton School Report

A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

6.3 Individual Reports

6.3.a: Parish Paths Warden: Mrs J Evans kindly gave an update on her new role as Parish Paths Warden. Having undertaken the PPW training in December, she has now ensured that three quarters of parish footpaths have been covered, organised way-marking and clearance by stiles and gates. Mrs Evans was now using the computer system linked with the County Access department and was delighted to have re-established some old footpaths with the help of Cllr. Bunn.

6.3.b: Mamble Volunteer Emergency Telephone System: Mr L Evans kindly presented a report to the meeting, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

7. Public question time: There were no members of the public present.

8. Lengthsman Risk Assessment: Cllr. Bunn and Cllr. Finney will complete this on a date to be agreed.

9. Annual Risk Assessment: This was agreed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....

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Item 4: Community Police Report

Mamble Report 2017

We have received 14 reports of break in's in sheds, outbuildings and garages and also car /van break in's. As reports go although there is reported crime, compared to other Parishes not too far away, it is a significantly lower number of reported crimes, which is good.

As an area, we are still continuing to see sheds, outbuildings, and garages broken into, with gardening items stolen. Vehicles are also being targeted on driveways for items from within, as well as thefts of Ifor Williams trailers and quad Bikes. Security of anything valuable is obviously important, whether this is within the home or in an outbuilding. There is lots of information on security on West Mercia Website.

Also there is a scheme called 'stop that thief'. This is endorsed by NFU, and has been very successful in the Herefordshire area, where rural crime has dropped significantly. NFU have teamed up with WestFlight Security, and together they have shown that with good security advice and installation, re victimization has vanished, and crimes have dropped. This is a 'win win' for everyone concerned.

If anyone would like further information on this please contact the team on the details at the end of this report.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Neighbourhood Watch for all your support. It is a testament to Neighbourhood Watch supporters though reports Police receive regarding, suspicious vehicles, and suspicious folks. Without this information, it would make Policing so much harder. It is really important to report anything at the time, so that Police may respond as soon as they can by getting a patrol out to the area. This has worked in the past resulting in arrests being made.

The 'Team' are still based in Tenbury Wells, and may still be contacted by voicemail, 01905 725780, or email.

If you need to report a crime please call 101, or 999 in an emergency.

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Item 5.2: County Councillor's Report

1. Elections, 4th May 2017

I am very gratified to have been re-elected two weeks ago for a third term as your County Councillor. There are serious challenges ahead for the organisation during a period of financial stringency. I will endeavour to continue to represent all residents and businesses in the Division over the next four years, and would welcome any enquiries or requests over that period, where I might be able to help solve problems and offer advice.

Overall the election results were encouraging for the administration, as we now have 40 Conservative councillors and a majority of 23 over all other parties, the largest being Labour with 10.

It was good to see four other candidates in the local contest and I pay tribute to Tenbury Town Councillor Jonathan Morgan for his standing for Labour. It was pleased to note that he agrees with our (former) MP Harriett Baldwin and me about the importance of keeping open the Tenbury Hospital. The plans to re-organise the balance between hospitals, run by the NHS, and social care, run by the local authority, originate with the NHS itself, and are not a policy coming from Jeremy Hunt's government or the local authority.

One of the first matters WCC needs to decide is the process of replacing our Chief Executive, Clare Marchant, who has accepted the job of running the university admissions service, UCAS. She will be leaving next month and we will need an interim CEO in the period before a new permanent person can be appointed.

Clare Marchant has been an excellent leader during her time with WCC over the last 8 years and has done a great job of piloting the Council through a period of financial stringency and huge demands in the three key areas of adult social care, children's services and road maintenance.

2. Village developments

I am pleased to see that the road to Bayton has been properly resurfaced recently. The county wide programme referred to below should see a lot of minor roads improved and it is important to use the online system for notifying highways of problems. Speeding on the A456 seems to be perennial problem for some residents and the accident record around Broombank is not good. Should any residents feel that more should be done to control traffic; I would be very pleased to hear about their concerns. May I point out that Mamble does not seem to have benefited in the past from the small amounts of money from my Divisional Fund that I can offer? That has now been topped up to £10,000 for the coming year, and I will be very pleased to support worthy activities in the village, where possible. I may not allocate the full amount, but offering a proportion of the necessary funds may make the activity possible.

3. Tesco's in Tenbury

It was good to see Tesco's opening in Tenbury three weeks ago, with large crowds attending on the first few days. The general opinion seems to be that the store is well designed and an enjoyable place to shop. The crucial matter will be how it affects patterns of trade and I am confident that fair and open competition in the area of groceries will be good for the town overall.

We now have a period of four months with no public realm disruption and I trust this will help trade recover in the whole of the town, prior to the last phase in the autumn. This is the principal period for tourist visits and I hope we can all be proud of the quality of the work done so far and the improvement it has brought to the town.

4. Eastham Bridge

Eastham Bridge is now open again, 11 months after the unfortunate collapse. This is a major project for the county to manage and it has been done quickly and efficiently by the contractor Griffiths. No-one should underestimate the seriousness of this sort of undertaking, and I am confident that the final bridge will be a credit to the Council and the County as a whole. Of course, this is not part of the £12 million programme of highway repairs that is underway under the Driving Home banner. That programme and the £6 million work on pavements is also progressing, largely in urban estates and will continue through the summer and into next year. In addition, £5 million has been allocated to solve congestion hot spots.

CIlr Ken Pollock,
Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QA
18.05.17

Item 6.1: Chairman's Report

MAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMANS REPORT.

As ever I must thank our clerk and fellow councillors for their support and dedication to council business over the last year. In particular we must thank Anne for all the work she does behind the scenes and for her vigilance over our behaviour ensuring that we do not stray into trouble. On behalf of all his colleagues and for the village we thank Chris Bunn who as lengthsman keeps the village and surrounds tidy and ensures, despite obstacles, that the road drains do what they should do. We officially welcome Judith Evans as footpath warden and wish her every success in this role.

On the subject of the defibrillator and the volunteers, we must first of all thank them for this fine act of community spirit and care. The introduction of the Village Emergency Telephone system however has caused problems arising from West Midlands Ambulance putting pressure on responders to attend incidences outside of our patch but getting any response/action to remedy this problem is proving impossible. We are in danger of losing volunteers if this problem continues as it totally wrong to inflict the guilt that they undoubtedly would feel by declining to attend. We thank and sympathise with Lester Evans for all his efforts in attempting to secure a solution to this problem and we must attempt to gain support for action from persons that might have influence and/or power over the ambulance service.

Finally we can make pledge that we will continue to serve the people of Mamble to the very best of our abilities.

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Item 6.2: Bayton School Report

Report to Mamble Parish Council from Bayton Primary School April 2017

Priorities this year.

Priorities this year have been:

- Training up subject leaders to increase capacity.
- Increasing the percentage of children working at or towards age related expectations and decreasing the gap between vulnerable children and the rest of the cohort.
- Developing the Maths Mastery curriculum
- Working towards Green Flag status and Science Mark Silver
- Developing the EYFS curriculum
- Developing partnerships with local schools, Worcester University, the local churches, becoming part of the teaching school alliance.
- Developing the wider curriculum including the arts curriculum.
- Developing pupil leadership including playground leaders, the RE CREW team, the Eco team and the school council

At this time results are on track to be much improved in the EYFS, KS1 and KS2. Also staff members have been trained in various aspects of leadership. We have taken part in many arts activities giving the children opportunities to shine in various ways.

Some highlights this year

- Carmina Burana Opera performance at Malvern Theatre when all 5/6 took part in the mass choir event.
- Roald Dahl Dress up day
- Parent & grandparent visits to school to support the curriculum
- Eco Visits and events
- Lacon Child PE partnership

Numbers on roll

Our numbers continue to remain at just over 100 and again, although we were oversubscribed with applications for Reception in September we shall only be accepting 15. Next year we shall keep the classes in the same format.

Reception/Year 1 - Year 1/Year 2 - Year 3 /Year 4 - Year 5 - Year 6

Each year we have to consider numbers in year groups and make the accommodation and staffing organisation as effective as possible.

Finances

Our current budget seems to be just about adequate for our future plans. Of course we should always like some more money but, with careful managing, we are able to provide our children with the resources that they need to learn in an engaging and rich environment.

Thank you for your support

Helen Hoarle
Head Teacher

Item 6.3.b:

Mamble Volunteer Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

Report to Mamble Parish Council May 18th 2017

Report prepared by Lester Evans

The VETS system was launched in December 2016 with an open day in the village hall and a leafleting campaign and features in Mamble News.

The VETS number is registered with the West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) and the system should work as follows:

- First on scene rings 999
- Ambulance is dispatched as required
- Emergency services decide whether an AED (defibrillator) is required sooner than ambulance will arrive. They will ring our VETS number if incident is within our designated area of activation (1500 metres)
- VETS number rings simultaneously in the homes of 15 volunteers
- one of 15 volunteers in Mamble picks up the call and attends incident with AED

Since December the VETS number has been rung 5 times. On three occasions the volunteer picked up the phone only to be cut off. It is not known whether the call was originated by WMAS or some other source.

A call in January was a genuine call and the emergency operator requested that we attend a sudden cardiac arrest in a residence near Tenbury. Despite telling them that was outside our area they were insistent that we were the best option for that incident. We attended the incident and arrived at the address about a minute before the ambulance arrived. Sadly, the patient had been deceased for some time.

Despite several emails and phone calls to WMAS we have not been able to discover why we were asked to attend this incident and we were given no reassurances that a similar incident would not occur in the future. We reported the incident to the Community Heartbeat Trust (who support our VETS service) and they instructed us to tell our volunteers to refuse to attend any incidents outside of our agreed area. They also confirmed that we were neither insured nor trained to operate

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outside of our area and that we were, in effect, being used as first responders by WMAS.

CHT set up a meeting in early February with WMAS where WMAS said they would investigate the issue but no further communication has taken place.

During the period from October 2016 to date I have attempted to get training for one of our volunteers who joined after the initial training meetings and for two new volunteers. Despite several requests via email and phone calls WMAS have still not secured training for these individuals. One of these volunteers has recently said they no longer wish to be involved in the group due to the lack of support from WMAS.

In March 2017 I was made aware that a new head of Community services at WMAS, Nathan Hudson, had been appointed and I made contact with him to report the January incident, training issues and other concerns. Despite written assurances that he would investigate the January incident etc. I have received no answers to my questions.

In early April we received our second genuine call from WMAS. On this occasion we were asked to attend an incident 4 miles away, outside of our activation area. Both of the two responders from our group declined to attend the incident on the grounds that it was outside our area and that the address was unknown to them. The incident took place just 200 metres away from an AED in a telephone kiosk.

I have subsequently contacted WMAS to report this incident and seek assurances that their emergency services computer system clearly identifies our agreed activation area. To date, despite several emails and calls, I have received no answers to my questions and no reassurances that this issue has been resolved. Equally, I have had no response to my request that WMAS send a representative to a meeting of the group and the parish council to listen to our concerns.

I can only assume that this state of affairs will continue and our VETS service will be used by WMAS to fill gaps in their response service as and when required. The good will of our volunteers, meanwhile, is being eroded with several in fear of picking up the phone to a VETS call and the subsequent unwarranted guilt that comes with refusing to go to the

help of someone within our community but outside our parish. I am sure none of us wish to see the initiative fail after all the hard work that has gone in to getting the service in place.

I suggest we have three options open to us.

1. The Parish Council act on our behalf and seek responses from WMAS by escalating the issue via the council network in order to get firm assurances that the VETS system can continue to operate via WMAS as previously agreed.
2. The VETS team is taken out of the WMAS system and local residents are given the VETS number so that they can summon someone when they need (after ringing 999)
3. The VETS team is disbanded and the residents are made aware of individual neighbours who they can call upon as they wish.

I suggest that we look to pursue each option in the order as above.

Further information

I have recently made contact with Tony Price, who is the coordinator of the Neen Sollars and Milson group of AED volunteers, to discover their experiences. They too have experienced difficulty in getting responses from WMAS. They have not received any calls to their service in just under two years. They operate a similar system to ours but use Numbers Plus and not VETS. They do not send monthly reports of AED checks to a central database as we do.

I have also contacted Sue Burrows at Bayton PC. While having 3 AEDs registered with WMAS their AEDS were donated by British Heart Foundation. They do not have a response team but do have a number of residents AED trained. Their residents are not formally made aware of these trained individuals. They do not send monthly reports of AED checks.