

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Bredon Village Hall on Monday 9th May at 7.30 pm.

Present.

Councillors past and present Mr K Brown (Chairman), Mrs S Brown, Mrs Wenham, Mrs Whiting, Mr Darby, Mr K Falvey, Mr Frampton, Mr Handy, Mr J Masters, Mr Rhodes, Mr Sly and Mr Woodward. Ms Shields (Clerk). Cllr Hardman (County and District), Mr Mews, Mr M Dunn, Mrs I Masters and a parishioner.

1. Apologies for Absence.

CSO S Williams.

2. Minutes Of Annual Parish Meeting Held 24th May 2010.

Cllr Handy proposed, Cllr Darby seconded and it was agreed by all to sign the minutes as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report. (In his own words)

Not only is it May again and time for this meeting, it is also Election year too, so I really need to summarize our work for the past four years, it is not for me to set any future objectives, for we will clearly have a new council.

In no order of importance we have;

Bought the village hall. The jubilee field.

Taken out a new ten year lease on the land at the rear of the playing field.

Taken action to prevent further flooding in Kinsham.

Created a proper web site.

Drawn up a Village Design Statement, a first class document a credit to those involved.

Taken out a ten year lease of parking for rail track.

Started to review the leases for the sports clubs, and adjust their rents.

Overseen the considerable development of the playing fields to date.

Began the planning to bring the rugby club into the village hall complex.

We have failed to put the playing fields into trust, but I hope this is done eventually.

We have also tried but failed to date, to create some new "bye laws" these will be important regarding all the development taking place.

These main items all being over and above the routine work of a parish council ; I have to mention the ongoing work of the planning group, their overseeing of this important matter has helped keep meeting times down, and been a great success.

The overall results I believe show good reason why a parish council can serve the local people well.

The next council will in my view have a considerable work load. To that end I tried by way of the parish magazine, to generate a greater interest in the council and cause an election. I failed. I believe there are many good candidates in the parish who just cannot be bothered to face up to the new demands that seem to be inevitable, if the handing down of more control by the Government to local people comes about. These will be new challenges over and above a councils present roll. This is why I think we should seek new young blood to be represented on the council.

Councils have already changed a lot since they were first set up. Today there is pressure to take councillors on training courses at regular intervals, as the demands become more involved. There is a danger of too much push from outside, things like the "Power of well being "are in my view questionable, this training is costly and often considered unnecessary by many of us. With the present financial circumstances we have to think twice about everything.

There is one thing that I would strongly suggest to the new council as I stand down. Look very hard at your involvement with C A L C. You have to subscribe to hold membership, I always thought it was right, they are supposed to be an advisory body to local councils, I think they have in fact gone astray, they seem more like a Council Clerks trade union today. They set down guidance directives that are not realistic with todays technology.

So in conclusion I have to say a big thank you to all the councillors who have served in the past four years. I hope that those of you who wish to go again the best of luck. The future should be

interesting, but you will need to be strong minded to keep the rapacious monster of outside influence out of your way.

4. County And District Councillor A Hardman's Report.

Dear Councillors and Parishioners

It is great to be with you tonight following the elections and I wish the new Parish Council all the best for the future.

I, contrary to what the chairman has just said was delighted to be returned unopposed and I regard this to being a great tribute in some respects. In regard to both Councils, there are two issues that have really dominated the year. The first is the seeming never ending financial crisis which has meant that both the District and the County have had to realign their budgets to face up to the current circumstances that they have.

This has meant in the District that Wychavon has had to make efficiency savings of nearly £1.1m which has been mainly achieved by more internal reform and the removal one or two discretionary services such as the scaling back of community grants. The scale of the problem for the County Council is slightly more problematic just due to the sheer size of it, over the 4 years the County will have to reduce its expenditure by £69.4m which is not an insignificant amount and I am afraid that this cannot be done without some serious decisions being made.

The other issue that seems to have dominated the year was another extremely severe winter with the weather station at Pershore recording on 4 separate nights that we were the coldest place in the UK. I was pleased with the response that the Highways Department gave us and mainly the traffic on the major roads kept moving most of the time, and this was aided by the efforts of volunteers who cleared their own pavements and indeed myself who went out and spread grit from the grit bins. On the Wychavon front the Planning issues following the general election and abolition of the Regional Spatial Planning Strategy have rather dominated other issues, and I was very disappointed that we lost the further extension to the Pye Estate on appeal, on my view due to an erroneous decision by the Planning Inspector.

On the County side of things, as many of you are undoubtedly aware, I am the new Leader of the County Council and I am undertaking a series of reforms and changes at as fast a rate that I can manage. I am setting new direction for the County Council which is going to have 4 principle areas of focus. These being, for want of a better phrase, that Worcestershire is Open for Business, because I do believe that the economy and its re-establishment is going to be absolutely vital to all our citizens. We are going to continue to put emphasis on children and families having just failed our equivalent of an Ofsted inspection in Children's Safeguarding. I am determined that since I think climate change is a reality that we will continue to be the greenest County and with the change of Government there is going to be a series of responsibilities being passed down to the County Council in regards to Health And Well Being.

I was pleased with the amount of road resurfacing that has been done so far this year in Bredon, it was nice to get Blenheim Drive back up to standards that it should be and most of the roads off it. The school remains in excellent heart and had a very good Ofsted last year and I am always very pleased to hear such good reports of our local school. I, with the Bishop of Worcester, am due next Monday to open the new school hall. I have had no reports of concerns on Adult Social Care this year but would always welcome any feedback in this area.

There are 3 issues that still are unresolved. Firstly, we are going to have to make some changes to the 540 bus routes and also the 383 bus which runs through Bredons Norton on a Wednesday. I am afraid the 383 is likely to be withdrawn. Secondly, I am also aware that there are still one or two flooding issues that still need tidying up. We still have to improve the culverts across the main road in Kinsham, although the majority of the work, after investment by the Parish Council, and I have to say to a large amount by the County Council of well over £100,000 has hopefully removed the danger of flooding from Kinsham for the foreseeable future. The third issue that still remains unresolved in my view, which is constantly raised with me, is the issue of speeding traffic through the village. I am working with our Highways unit to see if I can find a solution to this, but it is a very hard nut to crack and our review of speed limits is likely to possibly lead to a change in the speed limit in Kinsham. I am willing to take questions and look forward to hearing your comments.

Thank you.
Adrian Hardman
Your County & District Councillor

5. Police Report.

Crimes figures are between the period 01/05/10-01/05/11

Burglary

22 crimes have been recorded, however not all of those are houses some of them are from the allotments near to Mitton.

Assault

Three crimes recorded, one of which has been detected.

Criminal Damage

Three crimes recorded.

Theft

Three crimes recorded.

Vehicle Crime

5 crimes recorded.

Other (which can include motoring offences)

Two crimes recorded, one of which has been detected.

As you are aware we have been subject to a few burglaries since the Christmas period. They appear to have slowed down but we will continue to conduct hi-visibility patrols in and around the village.

6. Bredon Community Play and Recreation Report.

It is great to be able to report that Stage 1 of the enhancements to Bredon Playing Fields is well underway.

Stage 1 includes the development of

- 3 x play spaces
- Entrance garden and wildlife areas
- Path network and social seating
- Multi use games area (replacing the existing playground)

The junior / youth & natural play spaces are complete and have been available for use since end March. Response has been very positive.

Funding

The project is being financed by support from the local community and 10 funding bodies. Key ones being RDPE LEADER; Big Lottery's Community Spaces programme; Playbuilder and S106 development funds. (A full list of funders is attached to this report)

Community involvement

All ages have been involved in the development of this project. A prime example of this was the hugely successful event 'Bredon's Got Talent' that had performers ranging from age 5 to 75. The sell-out final had more than 75 people performing, watched by an audience in excess of 220. It also raised more than £2K for the project.

There have also been successful volunteer action days (involved more than 100 people) and fun days over the last 12 months (involved more than 400 people). We will be building on this in the next 12 months.

Support

This has come from all age groups and organisations. We are very fortunate to have a vibrant community in Bredon with many people giving of their free time to make it a special place. Without this support and energy this project could not have succeeded.

Support has come from organisations ranging from Bredon baby & toddler group to Bredon WI. Thank you especially to the local sports clubs for their support and flexibility, which have been invaluable.

This project has also benefited significantly from the backing provided by Bredon Parish Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council. Aside from the time devoted by both volunteers and paid staff of these organisations, the \$106 funding that we have been able to access, due to the support of the Parish Council and Wychavon District Council, is making a big difference.

Finally, there are many individuals that have contributed to this project but two that deserve particular mention are Councillors John Masters and Ken Brown. Again without your support the opportunity to make our playing fields a real hub for the whole community would not have been possible.

We look forward to providing an update on further progress at next year's Annual meeting.

Funders

RDPE LEADER

Big Lottery Fund - Community Spaces

Big Lottery Fund – Awards for All

Big Lottery Fund – Community Wildlife

Grassroots Grants

Severn Waste Environmental Fund

Rooftop Community Fund

Wychavon Community Grants

Playbuilder

Worcestershire Community Foundation

Wychavon District Council (\$106 funds)

7. Questions from the Floor.

Mr Mews informed the council of his involvement with Cllr Brown in negotiating and obtaining the lease with Railtrack, updating the leases with the 'clubs' the purchase of the Jubilee Land including the 106 monies and the purchase of the village hall. Mr Mews is keen to continue working with the council in any future projects and to finish those not yet complete, including the repair of the footbridge over the railway line.

Cllr Brown thanked Mr Mews for his help and guidance.

Cllr Brown also thanked Cllr Hardman, CSO Williams and PC G Sheppard for their involvement in the parish.

Mrs I Masters thanked Mr Dunn for his hardwork enthusiasm and dedication to the playing field development and to the members of the parish council for their work over the past year.

A parishioners raised concerns over the development at Mid Barns, Bredon Hardwick, Cllr's Rhodes and Darby to investigate) vegetation overhanging the pavement on the Tewkesbury Road (clerk to write to owner) and the garden of Walnut Cottage encroaching on the Highway (Cllr Harman to pursue).

Cllr Brown informed the meeting the PC Shepherd has been re allocated to Worcester City for the next 6 months, which will leave CSO Williams to cover the Bredon Villages.