

Bredon, Bredon's Norton and Westmancote Parish Council

The minutes of Bredon Annual Parish Meeting held at Bredon Village Hall on Monday 30th April 2012.

Present.

Councillors Mrs Alison Palmer, Mrs Gail Whiting, Mr Matt Darby, Mr Allen Frampton, Mr Phil Handy, Mr John Masters, Mr Andrew Rhodes, Mr Declan Shiels, Mr Rob Sly and Mr Andrew Woodward (Chairman).

Ms Jackie Shields (Clerk). Cllr Adrian Hardman (County and District), Cllr Adrian Darby (District Westmancote),

Mrs I Masters, Mrs Bates, Ms Bevan and Charlie Palmer.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from CSO Simon Williams and Cllrs Mr Kevin Falvey and Mr David Newcombe.

2. Minutes Of Annual Parish Meeting Held 9TH May 2011.

The minutes, having been circulated, were agreed by all and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report.

Good Evening ladies and gentleman I can hardly believe it's this time of year again- another year has passed by and what a busy year it has been.

I am only going to summarise some of the work the Council has undertaken and some of which is on going.

2011 saw a Parish Election and co option with new members joining the council and some who had served for many years standing down and I would like to once again pass on my thanks to all those that have previously served this Parish.

In no particular order I just want to run through a few key areas and we will be happy to answer any questions.

- Introduction of the Localism Bill. Which will have a considerable impact on the business of the Parish Council?
- Completion of Phase One of the Playing Fields redevelopment and we continue to oversee further work which is being planned and run by BCPR. Once again I would like to pass on my personal thanks to all those involved because without the effort and commitment of so many this fantastic project would not have been possible.
- The draft proposals around the Governments Strategic housing Plans - this is a key area which is likely to effect the Parish in coming years and already the Council has been actively involved in discussions around proposals relating to Mitton Bank and Ashchurch. We will continue to work with other Parish Councils and Wychavon on these proposals.
- The completion of the latest housing development "The Orchards" and I am sure everyone will join with me when we extend a welcome to all the new residents who have and will move into the community shortly.
- Taken out a new ten year lease on the land at the rear of the playing field.

- Forging stronger links with the Village School with the children now placing pictures and displays on the notice boards in the Village Hall and I have regular contact with Mrs Miller at the school.
- The completion of a new parish office for the Clerk - In order for her to work from the Village hall
- Started the process of reviewing the leases for the sports clubs, and adjust their rents.
- Continuing the negotiations with the Rugby Club in order to find them a permanent Club house facility.
- We continue to work towards putting the playing fields into trust, and hope that this process will be complete by June/July.
- The review and awarding of new grass cutting contracts.
- PCSO Williams - a huge thank you for all the work Simon continues to do for the Parish in particular as he has been doing this largely on his own for the last 12 months.

These main items all being over and above the routine work of a Parish Council ;

I have to mention the council themselves - as you know we are all volunteers and the past 12 months has seen some fairly long meetings. As Chairman they have certainly made my job easier and I am grateful that we have people who are willing to get take the lead. In particular I just want to make mention of the following;

- Councillors Palmer and Darby for their work in relation to the proposals around development of Mitton Bank.
- Councillor Sly for his work in relation to placing the Fields In Trust.
- Councillors Frampton and Rhodes for their work in relation to the leases
- The ongoing work of the planning group, their overseeing of this important matter has been a great success.

2012 plans to be just a busy and I hope that during the celebrations that are taking place around the Jubilee and the forthcoming Olympics it will provide a chance for the community to come together once more and I extend a huge thank you to all those who are involved in planning various events that will be taking place.

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

4. County and District Councillor, Adrian Hardman.

Dear Parishioners

This has been a very challenging year to be in Local Government, not only because the economic crisis continues to roll on but also the current coalition government is introducing two large strands of reform through the Localism Bill and the reform of the Planning System. Both of which will have an impact on the Parish of Bredon in due course.

The economic crisis has meant that over the past financial year the County Council has had to reduce its expenditure by £31m and in the year that we have just commenced, a further £20m. I do estimate that we will at the end of this financial year be half way through reducing our expenditure

to a level that will put the country's books in balance and so I anticipate that the County Council will have to make a further £30m - £40m worth of savings over the next two or three financial years.

This is an enormous challenge and means that without doubt we are having to change the way that we deliver services and work in partnership with others but so far I would think that the effect on the residents of Bredon has been minimal since most of the efficiency savings have either been through reform of pay and conditions, better use of Property, commissioning our services in a different and more streamlined way and continuing to save every bean that we can and we will continue to drive on with this central message that there is still a lot that we can do before just straightforwardly reaching out and applying the cuts box. We have been driven in the County Council very much by the three key priorities of the people of Worcestershire following our road shows, and other consultations which are to safeguard and care for the elderly, maintain our road structure and road maintenance and ensure that our safeguarding of the most vulnerable children is of a high standard.

This year we have been able to fulfil some of this for the residents of Bredon since we have seen considerable work on the road network in the area with improved footpaths being laid and a considerable programme of patching which will shortly be surface dressed during the course of the coming month. I look forward to the missing link of footway along the front of the main road being completed with the use of my local member's divisional budget and a contribution from the Parish Council from their New Homes Bonus. This is a very different way of working.

The National Planning Framework is a much needed reform but has led to a lot of speculation as to what was really meant by sustainable development and has led to a period of uncertainty around the Parish particularly in Bredons Hardwick and to some degree in Kinsham as to whether speculative planning development would come forward and be granted planning permission in areas which was not the wish of the community and I have done everything I can to ensure that Tewkesbury Borough Council knew our feelings on this and that Wychavon was in a position where it was able to fend off through its new local plan, any unwanted development on our green fields and I think that we are very nearly in a position where if an unwanted planning application for a large number of houses came forward this could now be resisted. I continue to be extremely concerned about the redevelopment of Ashchurch Camp and the effect that a new Sainsbury's would have on traffic through the village but this is outside our County boundary and we are to some degree going to be reasonably neutered on the eventual outcome, since this is a decision for Tewkesbury BC.

Moving on to more local issues, I was delighted to be able to attend with the Bishop of Worcester, the opening of the school extension this year which the County Council put a fair tranche of capital monies into and it does improve and transform our school but I continue to work to try and get much needed funds for the renewal of two sections of school roof. But I do think that Colin March has done an excellent job as the Governor in charge of property and fabric at the school.

I have also been able to get small grants and funding in to support such things as the brownies sleepover in Birmingham this year, a small grant to help the Bredon First Scouts on their expedition to Austria and has been the case in previous years, managed to get a larger grant to support the Bredon Outward Bound Association and I will continue to do everything I can to support these

valuable youth organisations in the village. I was delighted by the work Bredon Parish put into saving the 540 bus service.

Looking forward, I am hopeful in the forthcoming year that we will be able to do more work on the road in Lower Westmancote which is much needed. Renew some of the footways along by the village hall, continue to improve the road structure and complete when conditions allow, the flood drainage works for Kinsham. But I am aware how controversial the raising to 40mph of the Kinsham speed limit will be but I do think that while it appears to be counter intuitive the raising of this speed limit will be a step for road safety since, with the other works that we have planned at the entrance and exit of the village it should lower the average speed through the village which is what the County Council's aim is.

There is always more that could be done and I do apologise that as your local Member being Leader of the County Council has inevitably meant that I have had a shift of focus away from Bredon to a wider county perspective but can I reassure you that, as those of you who have followed me on Twitter will know, my heart and thoughts are with the Parish always.

Thank you.

Adrian Hardman
Your County Councillor

Report by Wychavon District Councillor Adrian Darby

I do not usually attend Bredon Parish Council meetings, since I only have responsibility for Westmancote, and Adrian Hardman, whose ward covers all the rest of the parish, normally provides you with feedback from Wychavon. However I think it proper to report to you at your Annual Parish Meeting. As well as my responsibility for the villages in South Bredon Hill Ward, I am the Council's Heritage Champion, covering both the built and natural heritage and am a member of the Planning Committee. I am also one of Wychavon's representatives on the Joint Advisory Panel which is overseeing the preparation of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) by the three district councils of Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon. As a Liberal Democrat in a Conservative controlled council I cannot sit on the Executive Board, but I am happy to say that my views are listened to.

My main concern over the past year has been with planning policy, both in response to the government's proposed National Planning Policy Framework and, at a local level, the development of the South Worcestershire Development Plan and Wychavon's response to the Cheltenham-Gloucester-Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

In July the government published a draft of its new NPPF for consultation. In common with many other organisations, Wychavon had a number of problems with this. My particular concern was the sweeping away of national protection for all but the most highly designated heritage assets and for the wider countryside. I was involved in the drafting of our response in so far as it involved these issues. The final version of the NPPF was published last month and happily is greatly improved.

South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

Most of you will have been aware of the public consultation on the 'Preferred Options' for this plan which took place last autumn. The response was most impressive, with many more comments than was anticipated. As a result, it has taken longer to process these than expected and the whole process has been set back six months. The revised version of the plan, taking account of the representations will be presented to the three councils in July, with further targeted partial consultation following that to cover any proposed amendments. The final version should be approved by the councils in October, although it has to undergo further scrutiny for soundness before it is actually submitted to the Secretary of State in February next year. After that it still has to be reviewed in a public hearing before being finally adopted at the end of 2013.

At the moment, Wychavon is vulnerable to unwelcome speculative planning applications which were not in the Preferred Options, such as that at Mitton Bank, because it cannot show that it has a five year housing land supply. The situation may be improved if a major application already in the pipeline is passed, and it should be much better after October 2012 when the final version of the plan has been approved for submission. However, we will not be entirely safe from speculative applications until the plan has completed all its stages. **CGT-JCS**

The three north Gloucestershire authorities have recently published their own. '*Developing the Preferred Option Consultation Document*'. Wychavon and the other South Worcestershire Authorities have made a detailed response to this, emphasizing the problems that development to the north of Tewkesbury and Ashchurch would have for Bredon and its neighbouring villages.

Westmancote planning

There has not been anything very controversial in the last year; although there was anxiety that the Caravan Club might approve a temporary site which does not need planning consent. I understand that following local concern they have decided not to proceed.

Neighbourhood Plans and the New Homes Bonus

Under the Localism Act, neighbourhoods will be able to produce their own 'Neighbourhood Plans' which will be able to overrule the local plan (the SWDP). However, the procedure for this is likely to be long and expensive. Wychavon is trying to make the SWDP sufficiently flexible, so that parishes can build more housing than the plan provides for if this is strongly supported locally without the need for a Neighbourhood Plan. It should be stressed that Neighbourhood Plans **cannot limit the amount of development to less than that provided in the local plan.**

The Government is now paying part of its grant to local authorities in the form of a bonus for new homes occupied. Wychavon has agreed that its share of this grant should be divided with parish councils – and I believe Bredon has been notified about the first payments.

Finance

The district council approved its budget at its meeting of 21 February. There is to be no increase in Council Tax in the current year, and Central Government will compensate Wychavon by a special grant for one year only. This means that next year when we increase the Council Tax in line with inflation, we will be doing so from a smaller base – with the result that in all future years there will be a permanent loss of income for which we will receive no Government compensation.

Cllr Adrian Darby

5. Police Report.

Unfortunately, I am on rest days so I will be unable to attend.

Please see below a breakdown of the crime figures for the Bredon Ward.

Bredon/Bredon's Hardwick/Kinsham/Westmancote (01/05/2011 - 01/05/2012)

Burglary Dwelling - Three Crimes reported

Burglary Non Dwelling - Seven crimes reported

Criminal Damage - Four crimes reported

Theft - Sixteen crimes reported

Vehicle Crime - Two crimes reported

Assault - Four crimes reported, one of which has been detected

Other (which can include motoring offences etc.) Two crimes reported, both have been detected.

Bredon's Norton (01/05/2011 - 01/05/2012)

Criminal Damage - One crime reported

Theft - One crime reported

Other - One crime recorded

As you can probably see we have a large amount of theft's and burglary non - dwellings recorded in the Bredon Ward. This is due to the allotments near to Mitton, Tewkesbury being targeted by person/s unknown.

6. Bredon Community Play and Recreation Report.

Parish Meeting report – April 2012

Following our progress report at this time last year, it is great to confirm that Stage 1 of the Bredon Playing Fields project has been completed. The following gives a brief overview -

What did we set out to do?

The overall project vision is 'to create a cohesive, inviting and inclusive play and recreation space that appeals to and supports the whole community'. Stage 1 of the vision focussed on the following elements –

Target	Delivered
Improved informal play opportunities for children and young people	New play spaces Floodlit multi use games areas Skate area Seating and shelter features
Innovative and challenging play equipment	Play space features
Walking and cycling facilities	Path access for walking, running and cycling
Community recreation spaces that work with the natural environment	Effective use of available space on fields Products used to blend with local environment Planting and maintenance of green spaces

To support the physical changes we also ran a series of successful 'fun days' last summer.

What difference has the project made so far?

There has been a significant increase in use made of the playing fields and a marked improvement in community spirit. Recent consultation, with more than 350 responses, has confirmed the following –

- **80%** of those consulted are visiting the playing fields more than before
- **70%** of those consulted are spending more time at the playing fields than before
- **98%** of those consulted are enjoying the playing fields more than before (**90%** are enjoying them **a lot more** than before)
- The playing fields scored 4.5/10 before the changes and now scores more than 8/10
- The users of the playing fields are now far more reflective of the population profile
- Women's netball started

Future plans – 2012 & beyond

Stage 1 has clearly helped deliver part of the vision plan that was approved back in 2009/10 by the community and Bredon Parish Council. The 2011 consultation and other recent feedback endorse that 'vision plan'. We are therefore developing Stage 2, as reported to the Parish Council's recent meetings, to include the following –

- **Additional play features for older children**
- **Improving the levels and drainage on the grass surfaces**
- **Enhance the access and path network**
- **Make further improvements to seating, planting and wildlife areas**
- **Deliver a diverse mix of community activities and opportunities**

Support

We would like to say a big thank you again to all those in the community who have supported the development and delivery of the project.

We trust that more and more people will continue to use the playing fields and see it as a place for all. This fantastic space offers so much opportunity that hopefully it will inspire local people to develop and run new activities to complement those already taking place.

We have run 6 'action days' in the last year to support the management & maintenance of the playing fields. This has involved around 50 different local people, as well as the whole of Bredon Hancock's First School and Bredon Guides.

We continue to develop our 'Friends of Bredon Playing Fields' to ensure that we can keep Bredon Playing Fields a special place. If anyone would like to get involved then do get in touch at bredon@live.co.uk or call me on 773 633.

Thanks

Malcolm Dunn on behalf of Bredon Community Play & Recreation
21 April 2012

7. Village Hall Report.

In the year 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012

The hall has generated an income of £17,185.00 from lettings and £17,109.00 excluding VAT from the bar.

The total profit for this year was £10,046.00.

Donations have been received from WI and Probus towards the costs of the hearing loop in the Jubilee Room.

All three rooms are used most days for various weekly activities for all ages. The bar and the halls have been used for 5 x Birthday Parties, 7 x Weddings, 2 x Anniversaries' 2 x Christenings, and 1 x Leaving Party.

During the past 12 months the Old Hall and the Chandler Room has been redecorated.

Works to be carried in the next 12 months are

Resurfacing of the Chandler Room, repair of the door between the Jubilee Room and the kitchen, new flooring for the Toilets, insulation of the Old Hall and redecoration of the Kitchen. Some of this work will be financed by The New Homes Bonus, some of this work would have been carried out by now, but unfortunately we are unable to get contractors to carry out the work!

8. Questions from the Floor.

Mr Sly asked Mr A Darby if he felt that Bredon would merge with Tewkesbury at some time in the future.

Mr Darby replied, it is up to the young Councillors and parishioners to ensure that this does not happen.

Mr Hardman stated that the Worcestershire County Council was trying to keep development to M5 Junctions, however they have no control over Junction 9.

Mr Masters pointed out that all of the cowslips on the Road side in Bredons Hardwick had been planted by Mr and Mrs Bates, the Chairman thanked them.