

The minutes of Kemerton Annual Parish Meeting held at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 19th March 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present

Cllr's Mrs K Cartwright, Mr A Darby OBE (District), Mrs C Ford, Sir D Logan, Cllr Dr C Renfrew (Chair) and Mr A Hardman (County), Mr N Coleman, Mr and Mrs Long, Mr P Truscott, Lady Logan, Dr and Mrs Phillips, Mrs D Attwell, Mrs J James, Mrs J Evershed, Mr and Mrs Witt, CSO B Allchurch and Ms J Shields (Parish Clerk).

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs R Workman, Mr S Papacostantinou and Mrs A Marsh (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee)

2. Minutes Of Annual Parish Meeting Held 20th March 2012.

The minutes, having been circulated, were signed as a true record.

3. Report From CSO S Williams, West Mercia Police.

CSO B Allchurch attended in place of CSO S William.

As the policing of Pershore Rural South and North have been combined and covered by PC Woods, the two CSO now work together to cover the whole area.

Pershore Police Station will be closing, it is hoped a post will be installed in Pershore.

The reduction in crime may be due to the diligence of parishioners' who report suspicious or 'out of the ordinary' people or situations. The police are grateful for these calls and especially to Mrs Whitt for the Neighbourhood watch scheme.

Areas of increasing concern are theft from Oil tanks and catalytic converters.

There has also been a spate of house burglaries carried out between 1.00pm and 6.00 pm.

Crime Figures Kemerton Village

01/03/2012-01/03/2013

Burglary Dwelling: Three crimes recorded, none detected

Burglary Non: Two Crimes recorded, non detected

Theft: Four crimes recorded, none detected

Vehicle Crime: Three recorded, none detected

Other (Poaching): One crime recorded, which was detected

Total: 13 Crimes

01/03/2011-01/03/2012

Burglary Dwelling: Four crimes recorded, none detected

Burglary Non: One crime recorded, none detected

Criminal Damage: One crime recorded, none detected

Theft: One crime recorded, none detected

Vehicle Crime: Ten crimes recorded, none detected

Total: 17 crimes

4. County Councillor's Report.

Dear All

I am delighted to be able to be with you tonight at your Annual Parish Council meeting and to be able to give you your annual report in person. Quite obviously this has been an extremely difficult year for the County Council since we have currently had to reduce our

expenditure by some £51m over the past 2 financial years and this has not been done without care and consideration.

We have put engagement with the public absolutely at the forefront of how we deal with this budgetary challenge and so through our Have your Say Roadshows and our viewpoint surveys, along with the feedback we have had from Parish Councils such as yourselves at consultation events, we have been able to manage this challenge with I believe a degree of understanding that it has been driven by the people of Worcestershire and by and large I would maintain that our front line services, while different, have been reformed rather than cut, and so by vigorously reviewing our internal procedures we have achieved over 2/3rds of the budget reductions through straight forward efficiency and reform and have removed some expenditure such as some bus subsidy, but clearly at the guidance of the people of Worcestershire. The challenge is just beginning in some ways, since think that to deal with our cost pressure and the reduced grant we will need to alter our budget by some £20M o year over the next four years.

The County has seen a significant increase in the amount of children in care.

The 540 bus service has seen a rise in users.

Q. Why has the amount of children placed in care increased?

A. Two factors: the introduction of the governments scheme to help 'troubled' families; a family intervention unit has been set up and has indentified that these family's have no sense of authority, some children are deemed to have a better stat in life within the care system. A tendency in the North or Worcestershire for 16/17 year olds to place them selves in care.

Q. What is the County going to do about flooding in Kemerton.

A. The County is committed 4 million to flood elevation, the parish is hoping to work with the County and District to alleviate the problem.

5. District Councillor's Report.

At the Council Meeting on 19th February we approved the Wychavon budget for 2013/2014 which left the council tax unchanged from 2012/2013. We were compensated for this freezing of the tax by a government grant which compensated us for one year only, at the cost of permanently lowering our tax base in the face of inflation. This means that we will run into considerable difficulty in future years unless we can cut spending further or raise additional revenue. The obvious source of future funding is the new homes bonus which is now paid for each new house for six years after it is occupied. So far 40% of Wychavon's share of this (20% goes to the County Council) has been pledged to the villages under its New Homes Bonus Protocol, but it seems likely that Wychavon will have to take an increasing share in the future.

The Government National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has reduced the amount of planning regulations from over 2,000.0 to 60, local housing authorities have to provide a five year housing land supply.

Wychavon have combined with Worcester City and Malvern Hills to create the South Worcestershire Development Plan SWDP, the plan has just completed its last consultation

and will go to the Inspectors this summer and hopefully will be in place this time next year. At the moment Wychavon is vulnerable to unwelcome planning applications which were not in the preferred options, Honeybourne will see an increase of 30% in housing over the next 5 years, as two of the three sites recommended in the SWDP, were allowed on appeal.

Kemerton is fortunate in being a category three village, in the Conservation Area and in the Area of Outstanding Beauty. (AONB).

Cllr Darby has been deputy Vice Chair of the Planning Committee due to illness.

Q. Planning between Bredons Hardwicke and Tewkesbury (Mitton).

A. The area, although sited in Worcestershire is sited in Tewkesbury Borough, they with Cheltenham and Gloucester have their own Joint Core Strategy and are suffering with Wychavon as they do not have their plan formalized. Planning has just been approved at Bishops Cleeve by the Planning Inspectorate which was turned down by Tewkesbury. To date no planning application has been submitted for Mitton.

Q. Planning at Ashchurch!

A. No application has been received and the repatriation of troops from Germany could extent the life of the depot.

6. Parish Council Report.

Thank you all for attending this evening

As a parish council - what have we observed and achieved this year?

- **Traffic Calming Measures**

Traffic speeds in our villages are a concern. We have discussed this many times and in the light of likely future building development in the area, increasing traffic flow through our villages is likely

We felt it was important for the PC to take some steps to address this issue and over the past year we have investigated how other rural and semi rural communities have dealt with traffic flows through their communities

As a result of our findings, the PC proposed to develop a traffic calming scheme for Kemerton, which has extended to Overbury too, as they have similar issues.

What has happened so far?

The PC had bought a VAS with £1,000 from Cllr Hardman (County Council Budget) £1,126 from New Homes Bonus and £500 from the PC.

Over the past 6 months I have spent some time discussing traffic calming with the Head of Overbury School and during the Autumn of 2012, we agreed that the children of Overbury school would undertake a vehicle & traffic research project which aligned to some extent with their curriculum.

The children have developed a terrific blend of poems, drawings, models and photographs to illustrate the impact of speeding vehicles on our environment

The PC are currently building their findings into a document that will be completed over the coming few weeks

The end product of this project will be a document for the villages of Kemerton and Overbury to inform and support an approach to our local highways officers so that tangible steps may be made to an investment in traffic claming measures throughout our two villages.

- Village Hall.

Cllr Kirsty Cartwright and other Kemerton parishioners have set up The Kemerton Entertainments Committee, to hold community events. The Council agreed to award the group an initial grant to support its development. The Committee is not a charity, nor is it fund raising, it is just seeking to be self sufficient. There have been a four successful events to date which have included;

Kids November 2012 – Sold out with over 100 tickets; First event and a great success.

Family Film Night January 2013 – 100 tickets sold despite heavy snow fall (The film was appropriately 'Ice Age 4')

Fish and Chip night March 2013 – Another sold out event that we look forward to

Kids Disco May 2013 – Following the success of the first disco, tickets will be on sale soon

All events have a licensed bar and a selection of snacks and sweets to allow perpetuation of the self funding evenings.

- Village survey

A survey of all villagers has been undertaken, and from 193 households there have been 51 responses (26.5%). We are very pleased with the breadth of responses from the community and principal issues raised are as follows;

A general recognition that the village hall is a valuable asset to the village – although there was one person who said 'No' to this. Virtually all respondents had used the hall frequently for a variety of activities including WI, Kemerton conservation committee, Preschool, Evening meetings and social events like the Jubilee and apple day to name a few

Many said that the updates (window secondary glazing, floor treatment, cleanliness and new heaters) had made a difference. However, several people also said that kitchen and toilets were not up to scratch and the play school equipment marred their enjoyment of hall usage.

Parking at the village hall was the principal issue that concerned many users who expressed a desire for there to be easier and safer parking on the road in order to maximise the hall's ease of use.

The focus of suggestions on how to improve the hall in question 4 focussed on the following;

Parking; a revamp in order to optimise usage of the hall was an overwhelming response. The Parish council and village Hall committee are exploring the ownership of verges and possible options for the development of extended parking facilities outside the hall (31% respondents)

A hall website (27%), on line booking (18%) and installation of a media system for lectures etc was popular with more than 25% of respondents

A simplified charging system for usage of the whole hall with reduction for Kemerton residents in 20% of respondents

A consideration for playschool to have its own space (14%)

Kitchen modernisation to suit all comers and greater volumes of people was a wish expressed by (12%)

Several parishioners (10%) thought that the only option was to build a new hall

- New Councillor

Resignation of Michele Fittus; Kirsty Cartwright was co opted and is now the village hall representative for the parish council.

- Planning

7 applications had been received for consideration, of which the council had no reason to object, only one refused by Wychavon.

- Police

PC Shepherd will not be returning to Pershore South, the area will be covered by PC Woods who also covers Pershore North. CSO Williams will continue to cover the area on his own.

- Lengthsman

Wet weather over the Autumn 2012 and early 2013 means that Andy Hull has almost grown webbed feet – but has maintained the water courses in particular to a very high standard and I am sure the village would like to extend their thanks to his sterling efforts. Without them we would have submerged

The PC has engaged with the district council and highways and plans are underway to review long term plans with regard to the drainage alongside roads in Kemerton

- Jubilee

The PC had donated £453.90 towards the celebrations which were highly successful; a blend of the tireless work of WI and support of the Village Hall committee helped to make the celebrations something for all the village to enjoy

- Bus Shelter.

Mr White resigned as bus shelter cleaner and had been replaced by Mr Mark Farey.

- Footpath Warden

Cllr David Logan appointed by the County Council and he has now undergone extensive training in how to use a variety of lethal looking instruments to keep our footpaths clear. We must be the only council in the UK with a knight of the realm as a footpath warden.

Thank you all for attending

Q. Will the Parish Council consult with the Victoria Hall Committee re the recent questionnaire findings.

R. A. Yes, already spoken to Mrs A Marsh.

7. Chairman of Victoria Hall Report. (enc).

Q. The hall has no long term plan for development.

A. The committee have responded to comments to improve the hall in the form of heating and decoration. The committee is looking to extent at the back to accommodate a larger kitchen and provide a room for sole use of the playschool.

After several comments Mr Philip invited parishioners to take up the two spare places on the committee.

8. Questions from the Floor.

Q. The village is looking very scruffy, can anything be done to stop cars parking on the verges.

A. The verges are part of the highway.