

PARISHES OF LITTLE MALVERN AND WELLAND

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 19th MAY 2014 IN WELLAND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

9 Members of the Parish Council, County Cllr. Tom Wells, District Cllr. Roger Cousins, CSO Sally McPherson, Paula Kingston (CAB) and 34 Members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Parish Cllrs. Mr B Downey & Mr S Sharrock.

2. TO CONSIDER FOR ADOPTION THE MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS

CSO Sally McPherson to report on local issues and to take questions from the floor: The past years crime statistics were read out, there had been 2 burglaries, 10 suspicious incidents, 1 antisocial behaviour, no theft from a motor vehicle and 1 RTC involving damage and 1 involving injury. She confirmed that the 999 response officers were now based at Ledbury and the local group was looking at community use of speed monitoring.

Paula Kingston from CAB to brief residents on the Community Champions scheme: The Community Champions scheme was being rolled out in rural areas, allowing local residents access to a team of volunteers who could advise on further specialists who could help with particular problems. A surgery was being held at regular intervals in several local parishes, including Castlemorton, Birtsmorton, Alfric and Leigh Sinton. The meeting indicated that they would like the scheme to be started in Welland. The matter would be discussed at the Parish Council Meeting later.

4. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT HOUSING POLICY FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP

Cllr. Calvesbert gave an overview of progress since the group had been set up in August 2013, she confirmed that the Neighbourhood Area had been approved and a grant of £7,000 had been awarded. Residents were asked to comment on the displays which outlined the draft housing policies. Comments were also requested on the future use of the Pheasant pub.

5. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr. Tom Wells commented on the current bus service review which would lead to revisions in September and although Welland would not be able to escape cutbacks completely he hopes the new service would be adequate for the village.

He was also pleased that Welland would soon be connected to a superfast broadband supply.

Finally he praised the Neighbourhood Plan Group for their hard work

District Cllr. Roger Cousins reported that most households were now using wheelie bins for fortnightly recycling collections and the weekly black bag rubbish collection were to remain.

The District Council had taken control of the enforcement of on-street parking restrictions under the 'ParkRight' scheme to help reduce congestion and encourage sensible parking.

The SWDP was progressing and it was hoped to be adopted sometime in 2015.

He had been leading a group looking at all aspects of localism, in particular closer working relationships between the Parishes, District and County.

Finally he confirmed that many of the services offered by MHDC would in future be shared with other District Councils, mainly Wychaven, or even transferred to outside agencies.

6. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Don Atkinson, the Chairman of the Parish Council, started by thanking all the volunteers of local clubs and societies who give up their free time so that residents, both young and old, can enjoy a wide variety of activities.

The subject of planning had been at the forefront of both Parish and District activity. Several public meetings have been held to allow residents to comment on some of the more contentious applications and the District Council has been concerned with pressing ahead with the SWDP.

He praised the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Group and thanked the other councillors and clerk for their efforts over the year.

7. PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END MARCH 31ST 2014

The Clerk distributed draft accounts and was able to answer several queries.

8. QUESTION TIME

For residents to raise any other issues of local importance

Two queries were raised by residents; the allocation of S106 funding to the primary school, and the responsibility of landowners to cut back hedges from the footway.

The Chairman thanked all residents and speakers for attending and there being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.00pm.