

At the Annual Parish Meeting of Whittington Parish, held on Tuesday 27th April 2010 at 19:30 Hrs. at Whittington Village Hall.

2010.00 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

2010.01 Attendance.

Ten parishioners were present and five guests

Apologies had been received from Rev. Duncan Ballard, Roger A. Phillips. Gary Richards (Head - Whittington School)

2010.02 Minutes of Parish Meeting Held 29th April 2009.

Copies of the Draft Minutes were distributed to participants immediately following the 2009 meeting and appropriate comments received had been incorporated. Copies of the finalised Draft Minutes were available to those present. Their adoption was proposed by A. Lodge, seconded by S. MacLeod and agreed without demur.

2010.03 Matters Arising from item 2010.02 - not dealt with elsewhere on agenda.

None

2010.04 Whittington Parish Council - Chairman's Report.

Martin Baker began by thanking his fellow councillors for their efforts and exhorting eligible people to apply to fill the present vacancy on the Council. He noted specifically the retirement of Roger Phillips a previous Chairman and a stalwart of the Council over many years.

He complimented the Police on their excellent support during the year and thanked them for their efforts, and the County and District Councillor for his efforts on the Parish's behalf.

He reported on Steve Tanner's memorial (erected a year ago), and the excellent work of the Lengthsman in maintaining the roads, and general appearances in the village with monthly litter picking.

He advised that the Council had purchased "Aqua sacs" (which could be used like sandbags) under flood conditions. Householders feeling they were at risk should contact any Parish Councillor to gain access to these - they were stored in a shed at the rear of the Village Hall.

He remarked on the Norton EnviroSort facility (the subject of a later presentation) and complimented the developers and operators on their facility, though the increased traffic on the B4084 remained of real concern.

He explained the problems of access to Whittington Tump and sought the co-operation of villagers in establishing the case for a right of way.

He closed by advising the Council's aspirations regarding driver feedback (speed) signs.

2010.05 Police Report.

P.C. Sean Woods presented a comprehensive police report of the last 12 months' or so activities. He took up his post 11 months ago and was unable to comment on previous years. He stressed that he and CSO Fogwill were a team and informed those present of CSO Fogwill's selection as CSO of the year.

He thanked the Parish Council and parishioners and others for their help and support during the year indicating that the feedback he received was most valuable and contributed to the approx 39% reduction in recorded crime in the ward (Norton & Whittington - police statistics being "WDC ward" based). He gave a detailed breakdown of the crime reports. In response to a question regarding detection rates he advised that the term now meant the conviction of an offender (as opposed to a charge being brought) and although he had no hard statistics he doubted that the rate exceeded the 20%-30% average.

The main issues addressed in Whittington were:

- School parking: an initial "soft" approach had been partially successful and was followed up with enforcement action against continuing offenders, and the use of police no waiting cones. He considered that the problem was reduced to acceptable levels at present, and would take the matter up again in the new school year. A good relationship had been established with the school and liaison visits occurred at least termly.
- Motor Cycling on bridleways: He and PCSO had taken action last year but the problem was now recurring. It had been made a priority under the PACT scheme (60 min. response time target) and already 3 S59 (warning) notices had been issued - repeat offenders were liable to have their bikes confiscated. The campaign would be continued through the summer holidays when it became most prevalent.

He closed by encouraging villagers to let him know of any concerns - however small - often it was such "small" matters which brought together others & enabled effective response.

2010.06 Presentation of Village Charities Accounts.

Les Wiltshire presented a short report on the dormant Fanny Clifton & Elizabeth Stephens charities indicating that the only changes over the last year was the accumulation of a very small amount of interest

2010.07 Village Hall - Report by Past Chairman of Village Hall Mgt. Committee.

Les Wiltshire spoke as the outgoing chairman, Roger Phillips having taken over this position at the end of March being unable to attend. He reported a successful year with a slight operating loss due to reduced interest rates and an anomalous receipt/payment in respect of a grant. He thanked all involved in running and maintaining the Hall, and exhorted users to leave the Hall as they would expect to find it. He encouraged new and younger people to get involved with the Hall, and sought ideas for the rebuilding/refurbishment of the Hall which was still actively being pursued.

Having been chairman for 17 years he now had less time available and had therefore stood down, he would continue as a member of the Management Committee. He thanked all who had been involved in the running, care, and finances of

the Hall over that time which had resulted in an accumulated fund of some £70,000 towards the building works, and closed by thanking the regular users whose use of the Hall ensured its continuance.

The Chairman thanked Les Wiltshire for his long and valued service to the Hall, which was echoed by all present.

2010.08 County & District Councillor's Report/s.

Councillor Rob Adams expressed his delight at being returned at last year's County Council elections at the Member for Norton and Whittington. Having previously held a role in the scrutiny panel he now maintained similar role in relation to the Council's performance in relation to Adult Community and Cultural Services. He thanked the Parish Council for its support and congratulated Members on their initiative and the efficiency of their Clerk.

Looking forward he saw hard times whatever the outcome of the general election and although this year's budgets had been set both County and district Councils would have to achieve savings in future years (a target of 5% cumulative over the next 3 years would mean a reduction in outlay of some £90m)

He encouraged parishioners and others to use him as their voice at Council, or to attend and speak at meetings.

He noted that the "Norton Parkway" project was ongoing but experienced difficulty in obtaining DoT support (and train connections) but that a feasibility study was being undertaken to support the case when operator franchises came up for renewal in 2016-2018. Until then little tangible was likely to happen.

He referred to the new recycling facilities at Norton and referred to the forthcoming presentation from S. Birch. He noted M. Baker's concerns regarding traffic and supported them, in particular with regard to the junction of Woodbury Lane with the B4084.

A new concern had set up near the Envirosort facility to recycle Gypsum products, the operators had been persuaded to submit a Planning Application which WCC would determine in its capacity as Waste Disposal Authority.

He referred to the Worcester Transport Strategy (WTS) and noted that the second version omitted the dualling of the Southern link, originally proposed, and he noted the ongoing SWJCS which would require input from the WTS in terms of transport infrastructure.

2010.09 Whittington Church.

David Chestney submitted a brief report indicating that a copy of the Church's full report was lodged with the Clerk.

He referred to the joining of Whittington and St Mark's churches, meaning that the Vicar, Duncan Ballard, now served Whittington and St Peter the Great, with potential future increases with the proposed development nearby.

With regard to Whittington there were two "unusual services which he drew to parishioners' attention the forthcoming "Whittington Sunday" (2nd May) with a family service and a "clipping service" which were designed to "include" the community; and the Pet's Service in September. Last year's pets service had gone well and been widely appreciated.

He noted the death last year, by drowning, of Tony Ballard and the effect on the Vicar both personally and in relation to his duties, he noted that although the loss was permanent the Vicar and Parish were now "motoring" again.

With the exception of the foregoing the church had had a good year and kept its head (financially) above water.

2010.10 Whittington School.

The Head Teacher, Mr. Richards, was unable to be present. His written report was read out by the Clerk.

This expressed the vibrant nature of the school, which was proud of its achievements, but strove to improve. With 207 pupils on roll (3 under capacity) the school was both popular and maintained a high standard having been adjudged "good" in its last Ofsted report, with several areas graded as 'outstanding' - the highest judgement offered.

Children enjoyed coming to the School with its engaging curriculum and innovative teaching methods. Pupils undertook work which was relevant to them, encouraging adaptability. Children "owned" their work and thus understood the reasons for, and need to complete projects. Use was made of the latest technology to support learning, with a variety of computers and display facilities.

Good health and wellbeing were vital ingredients in the life of the school with children participating in daily exercise as well as a wide range of individual and team sports, and participation in interschool competitions and intraschool events. We are very proud of our work in the arts which culminated in us receiving the 'Artsmark Silver' award. Submissions to the Voices and Visions art exhibition at the cathedral and performance at the related dance festival in Malvern, along with every pupil receiving at least three years free music tuition, and termly 'Musical Assemblies' were indicative of the artistic aims of the School.

The School maintained strong links with other local schools with Whittington Church, with members of the congregation working closely with the school through our Governing Body, as classroom helpers, and hosting events in the church itself. It was also developing international links with a school in Tanzania and planned to send two teachers over to Africa this summer with a reciprocal visit expected next spring.

Visitors to the school were welcome and events were advertised through the Parish Magazine.

2010.11 Any Other Business.

J.W. Stanford asked more about the flooding precautions (Aquasacs) provided by the Parish Council and congratulated the parish and County Councillors on the improvement of Church Lane.

2010.12 Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting.

This would be Tuesday April 26th 2011 subject to availability of venue.

The chairman closed the meeting temporarily for refreshments following which Steve Birch Head of Trading Standards and Waste Management at Worcestershire County Council, gave a very interesting short presentation on the new Envirosort facility at Norton, and related topics.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 21.25 hrs. thanking all participants and attendees.