

Whittington Parish Council

WHITTINGTON PARISH MEETING - 2013

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting was held on Tuesday 30th April 2013 at 19.30 Hrs, at Whittington Village Hall

Notes taken by Councillor Jean Chamberlain in the absence of a Clerk

- 2013.00 Welcome**
The Chairman welcomed everyone present including guests.
- 2013.01 Attendance**
The meeting was attended by Parish Electors, Guests and Councillors
- 2013.02 Minutes**
The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2012 were accepted as accurate and signed by the Chairman.
- 2013.03 Matters arising from 2012 not dealt with elsewhere on agenda**
None
- 2013.04 Whittington Parish Council – Chairman’s Report**
The Chairman Mr Steve Brooker presented a comprehensive three page report, which is summarised here.
- Expenses and Income**
With only 250 houses, income generated is very limited. Approx. £8,000. This has to cover the services of a Clerk, services of a Lengthsman, subscriptions, training insurance, contributions to the up keep of the Churchyard and community safety. The Parish Council has kept the precept to a minimum, with an increase of 0.5% on a band D property from last year. It is hoped that funds will come from Section 106 opportunities and New Homes bonus. The pursuance of a Neighbourhood Development Plan could also attract further funding,
- Full Council with 7 members. Council objectives for the following year;**
- **Consider** ways of increasing attendance and contribution by Parishioners
 - **Extend** the use of email to communicate information on Council and Neighbourhood Watch
- Issues on the Parish Council Agenda**
- Road safety** – damage to the pedestrian barriers on the Swinesherd Way traffic island is a major concern. Excessive speeding on the B44048, Pershore Road. Parking in Old Road and Church Lane.
- Environmental Issues** – Litter and rubbish continue to be a concern along the dual carriageway, the motorway island and the Pershore Road. Largely believed to be from the Environmental Sorting Depot near Norton Cllr Martin Baker is the dedicated liaison on behalf of the Parish Council, and has been doing excellent work on our behalf organising clean up operations and liaising with the company.
- Purchase** of ‘gates’ at either end of the village. Supported by Councillor Rob Adams, these gates have proven to be effective in giving the village an identity and reducing the numbers of persons using the village as a service station.
- Introduction** of a 20 mph speed limit. This requires the support of the village
- Significant Planning Applications**

Approval has been given to build 17 homes on the corner of Kilbury Drive, Walkers Lane, Swinesherd way/traffic island. A further application has come before the Parish Council for consultation in respect of 257 houses on land known as Uffnells Farm. The Council stands to benefit through the New Homes Bonus, and possibly Section 106 funding, however, there are concerns over increased traffic.

2013.05 Police Report

No Police presence

2013.06 Presentation of Village Charities Accounts of the Fanny Clifton Charity and the Elizabeth Stephens Charity

A report was made by Mr Les Wiltshire a trustee of the above charities. He commenced by revisiting the history of the charities. He presented the accounts and identified that the accounts show that no payments have been made and only a small amount of income in the form of interest has been received.

2013.07 Village Hall –Report by Chairman of Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)

Mr Les Wiltshire in the absence of the Chairman Roger Philips presented the report. He stated that the past year had seen a period of consolidation in the financial affairs of the Hall, which had resulted in the hall being in a stronger financial position. This result was due to careful management and the work of volunteers. However, there are financial concerns over the impact of weather on the driveway.

The VHMC have been successful in their application to Wychavon District Council's Community Grant Fund and have received £9,000.

The VHMC are awaiting the outcome of the Bloor Homes planning application for Kilbury Drive.

The VHMC are exploring the possibility of redeveloping a Community Hall on the adjacent site of Pond Farm, however, there are funding issues to be considered.

2013.08 County & District Councillor's Report

Councillor Rob Adams reported he had enjoyed his term of office as County Chairman. He had continued also to Chair the Armed Forces Community Covenant Working Group for Worcestershire and at Wychavon District Council remained a member of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Adams reported there were tough times ahead financially at County and District but both Councils had frozen council tax for the year 2013/14.

In his report he made comment on the South Worcestershire Development Plan; Whittington Roundabout; speeding; parking and consultation over white lines proposed for Church Lane corner

The Worcestershire Parkway Station project had moved on and Councillor Adams was of the opinion there could well be a Planning application in 2015.

Finalising his report he thanked the Council for their support in particular Cllr Martin Baker for representing the Parish on the EnviroSort liaison working.

2013.09 Whittington Church Report

A report was presented by Mr David Chestney, who identified that the Church faced many financial pressures. The church continued to work

towards becoming a separate Parish; at the moment it is part of the Worcester Parish of St Martin with St Peter and Whittington.

The church was delighted to welcome Vicar Clare Griffiths almost a year ago and that she had spent the last year getting used to us and the way things work.

A major disappointment of the year was the withdrawal of a Planning application for a permanent building to replace the Jubilee Room. The planning permission on the present building had expired. Alternative facilities were being sought.

Efforts were being made to encourage further developing the community use of the Church. Steps have been taken in this direction on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons with the provision of tea and coffee through the "Great Yew Brew".

Finally the Magazine was circulated to every house in the Parish to notify people about the annual meeting and consideration of the Neighbourhood Plan and it is hoped that its circulation will be encouraged as a useful means of communication.

2013.10 Whittington C.E Primary School Report

Head Teacher Mr G Richards presented a report on behalf of the school. He identified that there were currently 203 pupils, when the numbers reach 210 the school would be full to capacity. An OFSTED report in March 2013 had graded the school as 'good' which was an improvement on the outcome from the previous inspection which had been 'satisfactory'. This was down to the commitment of the staff and governors at the school and the hard work of the pupils.

The school offered a vibrant curriculum which aimed to make the best of the pupil's talents. The school runs a range of day trips linked to specific topics, such as the Horrible Histories play in Cardiff. It also runs two residential visits each year for example the Malvern Outdoor Centre. Great emphasis and encouragement is placed on music, drama and sport. The football and netball teams are thriving, and children are encouraged to try out golf, gymnastics, golf and athletics. The school celebrated the Olympics with a range of activities including a 'Welcome the Flame' Day.

Stronger links were being established with the Church, with the pupils regularly visiting the church for services or activity mornings which celebrate the key festivals of the Anglican calendar.

He concluded by stating that the school provided an environment for which all pupils can thrive.

2013.11 Any Other Business/Neighbourhood Plan

The Chair updated the meeting with a report on the progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. He identified that it was in the interests of the Parish. Discussions took place over Uffnals Farm, Kempsey, Worcester Parkway, and Nunnery Way Business Park. Under SWDP – if Uffnal Farm goes ahead (256) we will not have to provide any other development. The Neighbourhood Plan is our option to have a say over what takes place. The Chair identified the possibility of having a Mr Tom Woof, who was involved in the Upper Eden

County Plan Group, and for which Eden District Council gave the green light for the first Neighbourhood Plan in Cumbria to be produced to come to the Parish and talk to residents about what is Involved. Chair to discuss with Mr Woof.

Andrew Guy then addressed the meeting and listed all the land recently developed, under development, allocated for development and optioned for future development in and around the parish. He described the village as under siege from developers. He observed that if the one development at Uffnells Farm went ahead it would more than double the number of dwellings in the parish from 240 to 496 and that as a result there would be no obligation nor expectation that any more land would have to be provided for development under the emerging South Worcestershire Development Plan. He concluded by inviting parishioners to consider whether those individuals nominated for membership of the parish's forum tasked with formulating the Neighbourhood Plan would be for or against more development. Responses were not pursued by the Chair.

The Chair invited those who were interested in becoming Independent Members to put themselves forward for nomination.

The following persons were nominated as Independent Members to the Forum.

Independent Member	Proposer	Second
Geraldine Hodgetts	Nicky Rogers	Elizabeth Brooker
Francis Sizer	Andrew Pickett	Les Wiltshire
Mike Merlin	Nicky Rogers	Geraldine Hodgetts

2013.12 **Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting**
29th April 2014 at Whittington Parish Hall at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed:
S.L.Brooker, Chairman, Whittington Parish Council

Date: