

Rous Lench and Radford Parish.

Draft minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2012 at 7.35 pm in Rous Lench Village Hall.

Present: Mr. C. Dudley (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk to the Parish Council), County Cllr. Mr. Holt, District Cllr. Mr. Lee and 10 parishioners.

1. Welcome – the Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting,

2. Apologies: PC Tony Carter, PCSO Jenny Hawkins, Anne Freer, Head Teacher Church Lench First School,

3. Minutes: of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 21st March 2011 were signed as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising: Nil.

5. Parish Council – The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Dudley gave the following report:

Since the last Annual Parish meeting we have had an election. Sadly only 2 people stood for election, so we needed to co-opt one other councillor to make a quorum. We have since had a further election which resulted in one more councillor being elected and we then co-opted a further three more councillors. We are now up to a full strength of 7.

During the year we have held 5 full meetings and a further 4 planning meetings.

As usual the most popular topic raised by parishioners during the year is the excess speed through both Radford & Rous Lench. A number of years ago the Parish Council sought advice from the County Council on possible traffic calming measures. The councillors inquired whether it would be possible to install gates at the entrance to the village in the hope that it would slow the traffic down. At the time this option was not available to us, however recently the opportunity arose to have them installed so we took up the offer. The next step we are pursuing is speed activated signage.

I am aware that whatever measures we introduce it will not suit everyone. However, I think we should pursue every option available.

The other major issue this year was a planning application on the Radford Road. Many rumours were circulating, but although there has been some issues which the Parish Council has commented on so far the rumours were somewhat exaggerated.

During the last 12 months there has been a new scheme called New Homes Bonus Scheme – The District Council has allocated part of this funding received from the Government to local parishes which depends on the number of new homes built and houses that were empty reoccupied.

Rous Lench allocation annually for a period of 6 years is £1330. This money can be used for the benefit of the community, any suggestions you may have on how the money should be used will be appreciated. One thing we are considering is using some of it to go towards the funding of vehicle Activated Signage.

Finally I would like to thank the parish councillors for their support during the year. We all become members of the Parish Council and give our time because we care about the village. I am also grateful to our Clerk, Nicky Holland, for all her assistance throughout the year. Nicky is always well informed and professional and we are lucky to have such a good Clerk.

6. Police report: in the past 4 weeks an attempted break-in took place in a shed along Mill Lane and two vehicles were stolen from the Radford Autograss event.

7. Church Lench First School: Mrs. Freer sent her apologies due to a previous engagement. Copies of her comprehensive report and newsletters published by the School were circulated to those present. Bullet points from the report are:

- Numbers of children at the school range from 59 -67.
- £11K slashed from budget which will be extremely tight unless numbers rise.
- 27% children are on the Special Needs Register.
- Outstanding progress has been made in 2 of the 3 classes based on points progress.

Rous Lench and Radford Parish.

- Local authority has moved the School up to a Category 2 which is good.
- Chair of Governors David Sommers.
- Staffing at the School is stable.
- Full Governor and sub-committee meetings have taken place every term
- Strong links with the Church continues.
- Children's Church Council formed who help plan Family Services.
- The School raised about £500 per year for charity.
- School Council meet to help with making decisions around the School.
- Clubs held during lunch time and after School run by Sport's Challenge, WI members, volunteers and staff.
- Badger's Breakfast Club open from 8am.
- The School is able to text parents.
- Joined in with National Events such as 'World Book Day', 'Sport Relief', 'and Red Nose Day'.
- French is taught throughout School.
- Music lessons are taught through Worcestershire Youth Music.
- Swimming continues at the Evesham Pool from Year 2 upwards.
- Malvern residential has taken place for children in Class 3.
- Building is in need of window replacements and internal decoration.
- New gas boilers installed.
- Many outside agencies work with the School i.e. 'Nurse, learning support team, educational psychologist and Gypsy Roma Traveller support liaison.
- FOCLS raised approximately £3500 per year.
- Hot meals continue to be successful and Class Catering have organised special day lunches for the children e.g. Mothers Day and St. Patrick's Day.
- Students from Newman and University of Worcester have trained with the school.

8. County and Dist. Cllrs. reports:

County Cllr. Mr. Holt reported:

- BOLD (Better Outcome Leaner Delivery) scheme is working well in the financial climate by merging departments.
- Parish Lengthsman scheme continues to be funded by the County Council.
- County Cllr. Divisional Fund of which £10,000 has been allocated to each County member in order that they can assist with community funding in their local area. The funding has been used towards repairs to Village Halls, Pre-School publicity programme, new mowers for the Lenches Sports & Recreation Club.

Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee reported:

- Wychavon District Council has successfully prosecuted a person in Wychavon District for allowing their dog to foul in the churchyard.
- The Olympic Torch will be arriving in Droitwich on the 24th May 2012.
- Chairman of the District Council is now Cllr. Richard Morris with Cllr. Jerry O'Donnell as the Vice Chair. Their charities for this coming year will be the Army, Air Force Sea Cadets, Young carers and St. Richards Hospice.

9. Village Hall Committee report: no report received.

10. Parish Paths Warden: report submitted and read out to those present. In summary the whole of the Wychavon Way has been furnished with new furniture. Most of the paths in the Parish show increased use by local residents and visitors.

11. Parochial Church Council: Mrs Wild gave a report on behalf of the Parochial Church Council: The Church continues to be well attended for Lay-led family services each month. Unfortunately at other times the congregation is very small. This has resulted in our inability to pay our Parish Share of £8,000 to the

Rous Lench and Radford Parish.

Worcester Diocese. We are currently developing a wild flower area in the churchyard. Nineteen members of the University of the Third Age were given a talk on the history of the Church. The monthly coffee mornings continue to be popular. Maintenance work carried out this year included plastering of walls, repairing roof leaks and burning furniture with woodworm.

12. Tree Warden: no report submitted.

13. Matters raised by Parishioners:

- a) Grips require digging out along the Bishampton Road.
- b) The County and Parish Council were thanked for the work carried out along the footpath in Radford Road.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers and parishioners' for attending.

Meeting declared closed at 8.00 pm.