

# Rous Lench and Radford Parish.

---

**Draft minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2013 at 7.32 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, Mrs. A. Freer, Headmistress Church Lench First School. Mr. D. Knight, Parish Paths Warden, Mrs. A. Wild, Parochial Church Council and 7 parishioners.

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

**2. Apologies:** Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel, PC T. Carter, Mr. J. Whitfield, Mrs. Wicks, Mrs. Hughes (Chair of Village Hall Committee).

**3. Minutes:** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 21st May 2012 were signed as a true and accurate record.

**4. Matters arising:**

- a) Bishampton Road – grips need to be cleared regularly.
- b) Ab Lench Road to boundary – water coming off the wood on to the highway and from fields.
- c) Flooding Radford Road – County Cllr. Mr. Holt reported that he was waiting to speak to a resident with regard to the history of the moat, culvert and ditches arranged to be cleared.

**5. Parish Council:**

The Chairman reported that it has been a reasonable quiet year for the Parish Council. 8 meetings have been held in total and 5 planning applications dealt with.

A New Homes Bonus Grant was applied for in behalf of the Village Hall.

Small grants were made to the Jubilee Committee and to the Parochial Church Council for maintenance of the churchyard.

The Council is in the process of installing vehicle activated signs which will be located at various points in the Parish. It is a transportable device which will move from place to place.

Representation from Radford Road residents have been received regarding flooding in their area. The County Council jetted out the relevant drainage and arranged for a camera survey of the pipe work. Other work is being investigated. The Parish Lengthsman has been asked to monitor the area.

**6. Police report:** Nil.

**7. Church Lench First School:** report given by Mrs. Freer, Headmistress.

- a) Outstanding reports received from Ofsted, the Diocese and the Local Authority. School is rated in the top 14% in the County. The Ofsted Inspector reported that he had never seen such a good parental response.
- b) Key Stage 1 - pupils received 100% level 2 or above.
- c) The Government has changed rules on the way schools are funded – budget has been reduced to £21,000. Questions are raised as to how you maintain such standards with a reduction in funding. The likelihood is staff that leave will not be replaced.
- d) Fund raising has taken place, marketing campaign in Abbots Morton, Hillers and in Estate Agents. As the local towns and Harvington places are full the school is gaining in pupil numbers.
- e) Covered walkway is now in place from the front of the school to the back. This was paid out of money in the 'devolved formula' fund which can only be used for building work. Any money remaining in the fund is likely to be taken back by the Government. Railings have been installed and restrictive parking yellow lines outside the school and opening and closing times.

**8. County and Dist. Cllrs. reports:**

County Cllr. Mr. Holt reported: Elected as candidate for the next term.

Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee reported: New Chairman of the District Council elected, Cllr. Mr. Gerry O'Donnell. His charities will be Alzheimer, Cardiac Clinic, Evesham, Soldiers/Sailors Family Association.

## Rous Lench and Radford Parish.

---

### **9. Village Hall Committee report:**

Funding obtained to improve lighting, a new heating system, and a passageway created to the side of the Hall. Fund raising goes on. The Committee welcome ideas for events and would like to thank the Parish Council for their support.

### **10. Parish Paths Warden:**

Mr. Knight gave the following report:

Paths in the parish continue to be clear, accessible and it is encouraging to see that they are well used both by local people and by visiting groups of walkers.

The latter often use the 'Millennium Shelter' on the Village Green, which provides opportunities to get another perspective from the users' points of view. (As one worthy put it "The stiles is alright. We'm just got too many old whimmim with little short legs".) To be fair, there are still a few high stiles, the most notable being on one path 524 as it crosses from the Park Field into the paddock of Rous Lench Court.

Several stiles have been replaced with gates, these being on each end of path 535 (Ab Lench Rd. to the Yeald/Ferndown entrance) and at the Abberton to Radford Road ends of the two 'lost' paths, 513 and 513a.

Footbridges have been replaced on 535 by Yeald Wood and on path 529 (Daddies Barn to Whitsun Brook).

All the requested finger posts have been replaced plus two that I did not ask for, making 7 in all. There are still 2 finger posts missing, one at the Abberton end of 511 on the Wychavon Way and one at the Flyford Flavel Road end on 587, but since neither of these is in our Parish I have just passed the information on.

The crossing point where the 'lost' paths 513 and 513a meet the Kington P.C paths is blocked at the point shown on the maps. However there is an easily passable fence a few yards further S.W. and I have marked this 'pro tem'.

Apart from routine stile and gate clearance from bramble growth, the only major clearance work that has been needed has been on path 529 at 'Daddies Barn' and on path 500 where it passes below the scrapyard between the Radford to Inkberrow Road and Kington boundary.

I try to walk all 36 paths as often as possible and replace missing waymarks routinely. However if anyone does encounter a problem could they please let me know.

### **11. Parochial Church Council:** Mrs Wild gave a report on behalf of the Parochial Church Council:

Attendance at our village church continues to be small – but faithful! The family services tend to be quite well attended, but unfortunately down on last year – other pursuits interfering with a regular Sunday attendance. Consequently, collections are down and funds are scarce to pay for necessary expenses, such as repairs, heating and our Parish Share which has to be paid to the Worcester Diocese every year and which is about £8000. (Difficult to find). Also the maintenance of the churchyard for which we have applied to the Parish Council for a grant to help.

Our church sponsored coffee mornings held here in the Village Hall every third Wednesday is well attended and some new friends have been made. We have appreciated the new heating system set up, despite one month being unable to get in because of the frozen door! (We had coffee at Holly Cottage instead.) We held a raffle to raise £60 for this.

We have enjoyed a variety of Family services including Mothering Sunday, Christingle, (where we collected £42 to send to the Church of England Children's Society) and Christmas and Easter of course.

Visitors to the church during the Flower Festival weekend in June were greatly appreciative and of course the church continues to be a beautiful setting for weddings, christenings and funerals.

We have a box permanently put in aid of the organisation "Caring Hands" in Evesham who help families in need of food, clothing etc in our area. Local people have been very generous in their donations.

We are still trying to get rid of the harmonium.

We had to have a Quinquennial inspection last year. This means the church is examined by an architect to ensure we are keeping it in reasonable repair. However certain things have to be attended to such as dangerously wobbly gravestones and leaking guttering.

We have a beautiful church which is certainly worth looking after, not just its fabric, but by enjoying its Christian presence in our community.

## **Rous Lench and Radford Parish.**

---

**12. Tree Warden:** no report submitted.

**13. Matters raised by Parishioners:**

Thanked the Parish Council for their assistance in the flooding problems along the Radford Road.

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

**Meeting declared closed at 8.10 pm.**