

CASTLEMORTON PARISH

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2019 at the Parish Hall, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Parish Councillors: Barbara Wilkes, Rachel Sargeant, Tim Cotterell, Jeremy Hubbard (Chairman) and Hilary Flanders.

In Attendance: DCllr Mike Davies and Christina Leake (PC Clerk)

Members of the Public: 12 Residents Castlemorton

1/19 Appointment of Chairman.

In the absence of the chairman, the retiring vice chairman Mrs Anne Cotterell, sought nominations for chairman. Mr Jeremy Hubbard, a serving councillor was proposed seconded and elected as chairman for the evening's meeting.

(As Mr Hubbard had only just stepped into the room after train journey, Mrs Cotterell welcomed the guest speaker).

Mr Paul Crumpton, Rural & Business Crime Officer with West Mercia Police.

In an interesting and informative talk lasting about an hour Mr Crumpton mentioned many areas of our daily life potentially subject to crime and how to prevent such incidents occurring. His useful tips and advice covered bank cards, car keys, telephone calls, house callers, internet usage and social media. It was a timely reminder for everyone to take care and consider what actions to take should such incidents happen. He would send further information, which would be available to residents, on his presentation to the parish council.

Mrs Cotterell thanked Mr Crumpton and handed the chair over to Mr Hubbard.

2/19 District Councillor Report

Before District Cllr Davies left the meeting he gave his report which included.

- The new working arrangement within the District Council following the recent local elections.
- The new Reception area at the Council House was now open for visitors to the District Council office
- Tourist Information Office was on the move to rooms in Lyttleton Well under a new 5 year agreement.

Question as to whether the District Council post box was in same place – affirmative.

3/19. Apologies:

Cllrs. Don Lupton, Simon & Mariana Watts and Jeremy Fryman. Parishioners Mr C Milne, Mrs S Merrick.

Following a question by a parishioner about the identity of members of the parish council, the chairman invited those councillors present to introduce themselves. The new parish council consists of 9 members following recent elections with 8 returning and 1 new member, all elected unopposed. Concern was expressed on the publicity of such information when not all residents receive the parish magazine and may not have access to internet. The most efficient communication is probably the Parish Council Newsletter which is delivered to the vast majority of households in the parish, in addition to the notice board. The Council took

on board the positive suggestions for improving communications to parishioners, including the potential for inserting notices in the local newspaper. Discussion ensued further concluding with an acknowledgement and thanks to those residents who had put themselves forward for election and service to the parish for the ensuing period of 4 years.

The matter of communication would be pursued further at the next parish council meeting.

4/19. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2018 be signed by the Chairman as being a true record of that meeting.

5/19 Matters Arising

10/18

- Recent clearance work along Heron Lane had established a water leak which is being investigated by STWA.
- Volunteer Footpath warden in conjunction with WCC is hoping some repairs can take place to damaged stiles. There are very limited funds available from WCC. It is hoped to be able to use the services of the lengthsman in some of these tasks. Noted there are presently poor stiles in the Church Road area requiring attention.
- **Q.** re legal position of cars regularly being advertised for sale in one area in the village. **A.** Clerk **YET** to seek advice. Apologised for this oversight.

2/18

- The Parish Council subsequently asked for a copy of the notes which had been made during the Malvern Hills Trust presentation. However the Trust replied that the notes were not available. They were taken for in-house use by the Trust.

6/19. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented the report as prepared by the present Chairman of the parish council of proceedings and activity over the last 12 months and an acknowledgment to contributions from fellow councillors. This also included thanks to Anne Cotterell, who had recently resigned as councillor and vice chair, for her time and support over the last 8 years. With much information reported in the recent newsletter he highlighted the main challenges presently being addressed, including the proposed changes to the Malvern Hills Act and finding a way to finance fast broadband for Hancocks Lane.

The main opportunity at the moment is the exciting initiative to extend the Parish Hall which the chairman is personally committed to and is receiving great support from residents.

7/19. Finance Report by the Responsible Finance Officer

Details as attached and explained:

Opening balance of £13,215.36, receipts of £5,329.27 & expenditure of £5,191.30 and a **closing balance of £13,215.36**.

- The Responsible Finance Officer reported on an average accounting year similar to the previous year.
- Confirmation of payment to lengthsman but delay in repayment from WCC.
- Payment of grant the previous year supporting the internet service now available in the Parish Hall.

8/19. Parish Hall Trust Report

Cllr. Anne Cotterell, Retiring Chairman of the Parish Hall Trust Committee, presented her

report.

Bookings continue to be encouraging and thanks to new caretaker Mrs Lythgoe. Having been given planning permission a variety of fund raising ideas are being considered.

9/19. Reports from Village Organisations

Parishioners provided information on the following:

- *Mr Smallwood highlighted the sale of books, which he was collecting from around the parish, supporting the fund raising for the hall extension.*
- *Two forthcoming local events Edwardian Elgar evening and Parish Hall gala evening.*
- *Cllr Sargeant updated residents on the efforts to fund ways of providing fibre broadband to Hancocks Lane. With interest from residents established, a mix of private and business, the quote received to supply the service is in the region of £36,000. The voucher scheme will provide £20,000 leaving a shortfall of £15,000. So, looking for other funding routes, rural business grants, etc.*
- *Capt Howick (RN) (Retired): Reminded parishioners of the Church as a village asset. He gave acknowledgement to the Parish Council for its grant towards churchyard upkeep and the personal gifts from parishioners, either financially or practically. Such support does need to be maintained to ensure the Church buildings as an asset to the whole community is maintained, with the leadership of the vicar.*
- *Mary Watts: History Group - Afternoon Tea gathering on Wednesday 12 June - 2.30 until 4pm*
- *A further Parish Hall fund raising event - Ceilidh Friday 21 June.*

10/19. Public Comments

No further comments

11/19. Acknowledgment

The chairman thanked residents for their support in attending this meeting and

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed..... Date.....