**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Earls Croome Village Hall on Tuesday 21st May, 2019.**

**Apologies** Apologies were received from Charlotte and District Councillor Jeremy Owenson.

**Those Present** Jonathan, Mark, Penny, Robin, Margaret, Malcolm, Bill Ball, County Councillor Paul Middlebrough, the clerk and PCSO Linda Pawley.

**Minutes of the last meeting** These were read by the clerk, unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman.

**Police Report** The chairman introduced PCSO Linda Pawley who is part of the Upton Safer Neighbourhood Team. Linda reported that over the last 12 months 24 calls have been made to the police from Earls Croome. As follows, 3 suspicious circumstances, 7 highway disruptions, 4 information only reports, 1 nuisance call, 1 anti-social behaviour report, 1 civil dispute, 1 alarm which was a false alarm, 1 road traffic collision, 1 domestic, 1 report of vehicle crime (reporting two vehicles stollen), and 2 thefts, one of diesel and one catalytic convertor. We are lucky to live in a crime free area.

Speeding traffic along the A38 and the A4104 was discussed and it may be that this will be referred to The Safer Roads Partnership. Linda also explained about the Community Web Messaging Service and she left leaflets about this, and also Neighbourhood Watch, & Smartwater, which were taken by those present. The chairman thanked Linda for coming.

**Report from County Councillor Paul Middlebrough** Paul reported that that the previous year had been uncertain but what had originally looked as though it might be a £17 million overspend was slashed to £3million, which could be met by balances. 70% of the budget continues to be spent on vulnerable people and children. In October this year Education and Children’s Services, controlled by the C C are to be transferred to a company wholly owner by the C C called “Worcestershire Children’s Trust”.

**Bus Services** During the last year these were withdrawn by First Bus. Unfortunately there was no way of protecting key services through Earls Croome. Later this year the C C are consulting on how rural transport routes can be protected and improved.

**Library** Upton Library has been rund by the trustees and volunteers for the past few years. During the consultation the point was overwhelmingly made that to succeed it needs the support of a professional librarian. Hopefully this will be the outcome.

**A38 Roundabout** Provision for a new roundabout at the A4104/A38 junction has been made and it is hoped that this will be open in 2 years time. Jonathan thanked Paul for his report.

**St. Nicholas Church** The Reverend Jane Fraser attended the last Parish Council Meeting and explained that our church at Earls Croome is in a crisis situation with only a small number of parishioners worshiping on a regular basis. We have reports on the church detailing work that needs to be done in the next ten years, but there are not enough members in the congregation to embark on fundraising or applying for grants. Hill Croome church are also in a similar predicament. It was suggested that may be we have some local expertise in the village and people would be able to help with some of the jobs on the list. Efforts will be made to find out if this is possible.

**Finance** The clerk reported that we commenced the financial year with £4,812.98 in the bank.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.55.p.m. The next Annual Parish Meeting will be at a similar time next year to coincide with the A.G.M Parish Council.