

At Grimley Parish Meeting held in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green on Monday, 21st March 2011 at 8pm

Present: Robin Woodhouse (Chairman of the Parish Council) 7 parishioners
Paddy Harrison, Tree Warden Mrs S Hughes (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Apologies: Apologies from two parishioners, the County Councillor, District Councillor, and the local police were noted.

Welcome: Cllr Woodhouse welcomed parishioners to the meeting and noted with regret that there were so few present.

1 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2010, having been circulated were approved and signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising: There were none

2 Chairman's Report: The chairman of the Parish Council, Robin Woodhouse, advised on:

the Parish Council continued participation in the WCC Lengthsman Scheme; improvements to the Peace Hall with particular thanks to the Peace Hall Management Committee;
the Parish Council continued to monitor planning decisions and enforcement; the major improvement following hedgecutting and highway clearance at Grimley crossroads;
welcomed improvements and extension to the winter gritting scheme;
the ill-health of former councillor June Sparkes, all present wished her well.

3 Report of the County Councillor, A Davies: Cllr Davies had tendered his apologies for the meeting but had provided a comprehensive report on the past year detailing:

the funding stream had been had been much worse than previously thought with the need to save £70M over four years;
a review of gritting routes and gritbins that had resulted in a very much appreciated service to the parish;
flood alleviation projects in Sinton Green & Worlds End;
the formation of the Ball Mill Liaison Group and the progress in the re-instatement of the land at Retreat Farm.

Copies of the report were provided for all present at the meeting.

In his absence, the chairman thanked Cllr Davies for his attendance at the majority of meetings of the parish council and his help in various matters.

4 Report of the District Councillor

DCllr Clarke had tendered his apologies for the meeting but had provided a comprehensive report detailing:

the withdrawal of the Bloor planning application and the need to be aware of what might follow;
the planning application for poultry units at Thorngrove;

developments and concerns at The Raceway;
concerns over the extremely early refuse collections and missed sacks;
and he expressed concerns over the current state of repair of the pre-school building.

He had thanked the Parish Council members for all of the voluntary work that they undertook for the benefit of the parish and the clerk for the administration of the same.

Copies of the report were provided for all present at the meeting.

In his absence, the chairman thanked Cllr Clarke for his attendance at the majority of meetings of the parish council and his help in various matters.

5 Report from the Tree Warden

Paddy Harrison reported on:

the pollarded black poplar near to The Fox was sprouting well;
the black poplar to the left of The Fox was obviously a female, quite rare: it had shed white, woolly 'snow seeds' last June;
some horse-chestnut trees had suffered from 'horse-chestnut leaf miner', a small moth infestation of the leaves causing them to turn brown and fall off. The total effect of a prolonged infestation, maybe three leaf-falls in a year could cause the death of the tree;
Sudden Oak Death was still prevalent amongst American oaks, beech, camellia, etc but did not harm native oaks.

In response to questions, Paddy advised that 'Bleeding Canker' was affecting alders but predominantly those near water courses: the harsh winter had badly affected many young, autumn planted trees. He advised that it was best to leave these trees until at least the end of May to give them any chance of recovery.

The chairman thanked Mr Harrison for his very interesting, comprehensive talk and advice.

6 To Receive an Update on the Work of the Peace Hall Management Cttee

The chairman thanked the Parish Council representatives, Dave Arr and Bryan Jones for all of the work that they had undertaken on the hall, internal painting, floor cleaning and polishing.

Bryan Jones advised that the Parish Council had contributed to the purchase of new tables and the Management Committee had purchased new curtains. It was proving very difficult to access grants due to the low usage of the hall – a 'chicken and egg' situation! Urgent works were required to the windows and panelling to avoid internal condensation in the main hall.

Those present regretted that so few parishioners supported the wide variety of funding raising functions and agreed to redouble efforts to persuade others to attend, maybe offer professional services or ideas for fundraising.

7 To Receive a Report on the Ball Mill/Tarmac Liaison Committee

Cllr Dave Arr advised that the Committee had met four times the previous year and were making good, combined progress. The Company had listened to the wishes of the parishioners with regard to the re-instatement of Retreat Farm and

the work was progressing well. The next meeting was to be a site meeting prior to the area being formally handed back to Worcestershire County Council.

8 To Receive the Accounts from Grimley Smaller Charities

Summary accounts were circulated to all present.

Cllr Woodhouse advised that the Trustees were currently negotiating a land deal for sand and gravel extraction and the full re-instatement of the land with appropriate fencing, gate and water supply. The paddock could then be leased to provide an income for the charity.

9 Open Forum

Stiles on Footpaths: A parishioner raised concerns over the perilous state of various stiles on footpaths in Grimley Village. The clerk to contact WCC over the matter once full location details were known.

Highways Repairs/Re-instatements: Parishioners present expressed extreme disappointment at the manner of recent repairs to the highway in Grimley Village and Dark Lane. The area in greatest need of resurfacing in the Village had not been touched and continued to flood with each rainfall and Dark Lane required total resurfacing. The item to be detailed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council and the clerk to immediately report a large hole adjacent to Pound Farm, Sinton Green.

Thanks: Cllr Woodhouse thanked the parishioners for their attendance at the meeting and once again regretted that others had not shown equal interest in the parish.

The meeting closed at 8.50

Chairman

.....
(30th April 2012)