

**At Grimley Parish Meeting held in The Peace Hall, Sinton Green
on Monday, 15th April 2013 at 8pm**

Present: Robin Woodhouse (Chairman of the Parish Council) 6 parishioners
Police Inspector Jane Francis, DCllr D Clarke, Paddy Harrison, Tree Warden
Mrs S Hughes (Clerk to the Parish Council)

Apologies: CCllr A E Davies Annette Davies and Simon Skeys, Parish Lengthsman.

Welcome: Cllr Woodhouse welcomed parishioners and police to the meeting.

1 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2012, having been circulated were approved and signed by the chairman.

Matters Arising: There were none

2 Chairman's Report: The report chairman of the Parish Council, Robin Woodhouse, opened by offering the thanks of all to County Councillor Alwyn Davies for his help and service over the past twenty years, it had been much appreciated.

He advised that the Parish Council had:

- continued with participation in the WCC Lengthsman Scheme;
- continued to monitor planning applications and decisions but lack of enforcement and consistency in planning decisions by MHDC was a frustration to all eg Thorngrove poultry units, Grimley Raceway;
- sold the cattle previously grazing the Common.

The chairman concluded by thanking and acknowledging the great work of the Lengthsman, Simon Skeys, the Tree Warden, Paddy Harrison and the great improvements in heating, decoration and new windows by the Peace Hall Management Committee.

3 Report of the County Councillor, A Davies

Cllr Davies had tendered his apologies due to family illness but had submitted a full report, including:

- further decreases in County Council funding from Central Government and the need to undertake further efficiency savings;
- local issues of repairing potholes and footways, SDWDP & the County infrastructure proposals and local broadband provision.

Cllr Davies had decided not to seek re-election in May having completed 20 years as a County Councillor. Some of the initial issues and problems from those years remained, eg those arising from sand and gravel extraction, Grimley Raceway and the SSSI on Monkwood Green but other matters such as the improvements at Grimley Primary School had been a positive step forwards.

Cllr Davies had attended as many meetings as possible during the past year and at other times had been effective as a conduit between the various County Departments, District and Parish Councils.

In his absence, Robin Woodhouse thanked Cllr Davies for his many years of service and fortitude, the Parish Council has much to be thankful over. He wished Cllr Davies a long and happy retirement.

4 Report of the District Councillor

DCllr Clarke gave no Annual Report but commented on the various planning issues raised in the Chairman's Report.

5 To Receive the Report of the Local Police Officer

The chairman welcomed Police Inspector Jane Francis to the meeting. Inspector Francis advised that:

the village of Grimley sits within West Mercia Police beat number CC21; between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013 there were just four crimes recorded in Grimley, compared to six the year before; there had been offences in April (burglary - shed), June (theft from vehicle), August (allow dog to be dangerously out of control), and December (theft of motor vehicle); there had been eight incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) recorded by police in Grimley, the same number as the year before. All ASB in 2012-13 were related to nuisance; two logs relating to off-road motorbikes.

In response to questions, Inspector Francis agreed to ask the local police to monitor the parking in Grimley Lane and Village and on the A443 when the opportunity allowed and to suggest some wording for letters to persons parking on Sinton Green.

She also advised that changes would be made in the number of local stations and the response equipment carried by local officers.

6 Report from the Tree Warden

The chairman welcomed Paddy Harrison and invited him to address the meeting.

Paddy provided a comprehensive report detailing:

How the copious amounts of autumn and winter rainfall had benefitted the majority of trees and hedgerows;

the clearance work (felling & coppicing) undertaken in Monkwood that had re-invigorated the area, the insects, birds, wildflowers and trees. There had been a discussion on the benefits or otherwise of retaining the ivy growing up many of the trees, it had been agreed to remove the majority within the area of work;

major concerns over the effect of ash die-back throughout the country. The disease, possibly brought over from mainland Europe with imported trees, had spread from the south, northward with one reported case in Worcestershire. He emphasised the importance of early notification of the disease and circulated photographs to aid with identifying symptoms.

7 Report from the Parish Lengthsman, Simon Skeys

Simon had tendered his apologies for the meeting.

8 To Receive an Update on the Peace Hall Management Cttee

On behalf of the Committee, Bryan Jones gave an update on the completion of the replacement windows, dry-lining and heating systems. Bookings during the past year had increased thanks to the improvements.

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

Gwyn Rowberry advised that work had commenced on the Sacred Field but that problems remained in relation to the re-instatement of the land at Retreat Farm. The water levels were clearly not under control and public footpaths were not accessible.

10 To Receive the Accounts from Grimley Smaller Charities

There were no accounts available as all were still with the accountant.

11 Open Forum

There were no matters raised.

Thanks: Cllr Woodhouse thanked the parishioners for their attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45

Chairman
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