

Stockton on Teme Parish Meeting
Thursday 25 September 2014
7.30pm St Andrews Church

Apologies:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Sally and Bill Webb

Attendees:

Councillor Chris Dell, Lucy Dell (Teme Valley News), Joe Gaunt, Paul Danby, Susan Dufton, Terry May, Margaret Danby (Chair), Sioux Breeze-Derrigan (Clerk)

Welcome, Minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair opened the meeting. Minutes from the meeting in April were agreed. There were no matters arising.

The Chair welcomed and introduced **Councillor Dell (Malvern Hills District Council)**.

Councillor Dell thanked everyone for the invitation to attend the meeting and went on to give an overview of his role and responsibilities. Councillor stated that he had moved to the Teme valley in 1994 and was elected in May this year to the Lindridge ward. His role is to represent the ward at Malvern District Council, to represent local views and to present them to the District Council to ensure that it makes decisions that are right for the whole District. His responsibilities cover objections/conflict relating to planning applications, licencing, highways (including issues with litter and litter bins not being emptied) and to flag issues to Councillor Ken Pollock (Worcestershire County Council) where appropriate. Councillor Dell also outlined activity relating to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), which is likely to be adopted at the end of the month. Also that the proposal to have one Chief Executive that operates across Wychaven and Malvern Hills was going ahead. This would realise savings of 60k.

South Worcestershire Development Plan

The Chair updated everyone with a report from a SWDP briefing she had attended that week. A Government inspector has determined that 28,320 homes are to be built across Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester City districts. 8,900 homes are to be built in Malvern Hills District over the next 16 years. The SWDP has a shortfall of 5,150 houses, some of which will be built in MH District, Wychavon and Worcester City with the remainder being built in the 'wider Worcester area' around the outskirts of Worcester. The three councils are due to meet separately on Sept 30th to decide whether each wants to adopt the revised plan. There will then be a consultation period before the plan goes back to the Government inspector for approval. Until the plan is approved, the councils are at the mercy of the Secretary of State (Mr Pickles) who, so far, has over-ruled several major planning decisions and granted developers planning permission on appeal.

The post of **Parish Paths Warden** is vacant. The Chair stated that if anyone was interested in this voluntary role they would need to undertake essential training, but in essence it exits to clear vegetation (with hand tools), to identify land owners if they need to be contacted regarding hedging etc, changes to pathways . Any expenses associated with undertaking this role would be met by the Council. Further details to follow via the email list.

The Chair has been given an **electrical emergency box** from E-ON listing useful items that residents should keep by them in case of a power cut, these include a wind up mobile phone charger and a battery operated radio. The full list will be emailed out to everyone.

The Clerk gave a **financial update** stating that there is a £98 balance in the Parish Meeting bank account. Worcestershire County Council will pay up to £1723.30 (based on the metres of highway) to the Lengthsman Scheme. From April 2014 to date £972.00 had been spent.

The Annual Audit had been submitted and two points noted:

- That the paperwork had not been submitted by the original request date. This was noted even though permission had been granted to extend the original date due to the Clerk and Chair both being on holiday.
- That £6 relating to the Council Tax support grant had been entered into an incorrect box. It was noted that this had not been raised in the previous four years submissions but will now be applied.

The Chair raised the issue of **setting the precept** for 2015-6. It currently stands at £376.00 per year, on average £8 per property. This money pays for the insurance required to operate the Lengthsman scheme. It was recommended that this sum remain the same and was unanimously agreed by those present.

A.O.B. The Lengthsman stated that there now existed a 'Parish Lengthsman Plus' Scheme. This consisted of 2 people who are able to assist with clearing ditches, cutting back hedging and the replacement of roadside reflector posts.

There was no further business. The Chair and Clerk thanked all those who had attended.

The AGM will take place in April 2015. Further details to follow.

8.15pm The meeting was declared closed.