

CASTLEMORTON PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6th May 2014 at the Parish Hall, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

This meeting was preceded at 6.30pm informally by a police surgery led by local officer PC Allen Naulls, an opportunity to meet the newly appointed Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Champions, the new owner of the Robin Hood caravan Site, Mr Barry Moss in addition to other parish information available on display.

Present: Parish Councillors: Angus Golightly (Chairman), Mary Watts, Barbara Wilkes, Anne Cotterell, Jerry Fryman, David Smallwood, Beverley Bradshaw* & Don Lupton

In Attendance: County Councillor: Tom Wells
District Councillor: Roger Cousins
PC Allen Naulls
Christina Leake (PC Clerk)

Members of the Public: 11

1/14. Apologies: Cllr. Ben Wiggins

2/14. Police Report

Local Police team (Safer Neighbourhood Team) made up of PC Allen Naulls, 2CSOs Sally Mcpherson and Carol Marsh. Report to Sgt Blanchard and Insp. Brighton. Based in Upton Library , where regular police surgeries are held but would hold them in the village if residents so request. Response officers for Malvern from Ledbury and initially for Castlemorton from Pershore.

PC Naulls Report included

Statistics (Last year) covering all the types of incidents within the village over the year including Thefts (2), Burglary(2), Criminal Damage(4), Vehicle/Possession theft(2), Vehicle damage(1), Sex Crime(1), Trespass(2) and ASB(66).

Still considered a safe part of the country unless you are a victim of crime and the team conduct follow up visits in these situations.

Question re Gullet Quarry since the installation of a new security fence following last year's 2 drownings. Police working with MHC and will patrol the area in particularly hot weather.

The chairman expressed his thanks to PC Naulls who left the meeting.

3/14. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2013 be signed by the Chairman as being a true record of that meeting with the addition of Cllr. Bradshaw in attendance arriving after the start of the meeting.

4/14. Matters arising from Minutes

*Cllr. Bradshaw arrived.

Ref 7: Capt Howick asked for an update on the matter of flooding at the boundary with Birtsmorton along the B4208. The chairman reported that although various inspections had taken place, to understand the full extent of the problem, at last remedial action was proposed by WCC, jetting of the culvert pipes, but as yet disappointingly still to be carried out. This would be followed up.

Ref 9: Capt Howick thanked the PC for its financial contribution towards churchyard maintenance through Section 137 funding. Upon a suggestion of increased contribution this

year the Parochial Church Council was advised to present a formal request seeking increased funding.

5/14. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented his Report (attached at Appendix 1) in addition to planning report (Appendix 2) and update on Hollybush Church Room (Appendix 3) from Cllr Fryman.

Question: Dr B Smith in chairman's report about Lawful Development Certificates. Definition? How issued? Democratic? Enforcement officers? Number confirmed at MHDC as 3.

Cllr Fryman responded and explained in broad terms originally once extra space/room was considered used after a period of time it became a lawful development. Now reversed procedure in that application is in advance of a proposal, put to test in planning law to permitted development. There is no consultation with Parish Council and so no democratic accountability. Once permission granted the regular legal requirements of building control, environmental aspects etc must be all adhered to. This has become a very popular route for development within the parish and experience shows those applications refused have been overturned on appeal, a cost to the local authority. The whole procedure is tested against the National Planning Policy Framework which is a key part of the government's reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible.

In response Dr Smith expressed his concerns on this matter and future parish development and sought Parish Council's proposed action. The chairman reported that indeed this very week he was due to meet with Harriet Baldwin MP at one of her local surgeries with a letter of concern on this matter from the Parish Council with copies to be sent to MHDC and Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils.

6/14. Finance Report by the Responsible Finance Officer

Details as attached **Appendix 4**

Opening balance of £9,534.44, receipts of £4754.38 and expenditure of £3,880.67. This leaving a **closing balance of £10,408.15**

- The RFO reported again on a more regular accounting year.
- Change in Lengthsman shows increased expenditure with most recent repayment from WCC outstanding as at the end of the financial year.
- Only one section 137 Grant this year.
- No audit fee with change of auditor and new policy agreement on charges.

7/14. Report by District Councillor – Roger Cousins

Details as attached (Appendix 5) with particular mention

- Wheelie bins.
- New Off Road parking regime implemented in November in MHDC area.
- Completion of Strategic Review
- SWDP- still progressing.
- Localism
- Success of further broadband funding.

Question. Mr Milne, Upon the news of the extra funding of £1.3m so providing funds to those 10% residents who are not part of the 90% package for improved broadband speed what chance for the village? If the area continues to show poor communication infrastructure this will not benefit future business or new residents seeking homes and therefore no generation of income.

Cllr Cousins in response acknowledged discussions are under way to determine which areas will benefit from this extra funding and Hanley Swan is identified as one area. No clear

information can be provided presently but Cllr Cousins would make further investigations of WCC.

Cllr. Fryman acknowledged overall poor communications infrastructure in the area covering both broadband and mobile phones.

8/14. Report by County Councillor – Tom Wells

- Acknowledgement to local residents for a good attendance at this meeting.
- The matter of highways repair at the school has been mismanaged and will be corrected at a cost to WCC with a clearly identified plan as advised by Cllr. Smallwood. The latter also suggested that reps from the school should also attend during work. Chase up Gerry Brienza WCC for update on plan.
- Vehicle Activated Sign (Speed) now on rota in Hollybush.
- Bus meetings to save local services were well supported and further discussions taking place to try and retain some of the local services including 363/362 and the Worcester connections
- Broadband- Suggested writing to WCC keeping the parish in discussions. Acknowledged it was a shame that local authorities could not work together when physical infrastructure crosses boundaries. Maybe BT would see the link. Suggested a campaign across the parish seeking support.
- Removal of caravan from the bottom of Hollybed Street
- Gullet Quarry aware of the ROSPA report and new fencing which will require regular warden patrols.

9/14. Parish Hall Trust Report

Cllr. Anne Cotterell, Chairman of the Parish Hall Trust Committee presented her report (attached at **Appendix 6**). particular mention of the new alcohol license and the exciting news of a substantial financial donation from Mr Richard Armitage with his vision to enhance facilities at the Hall especially the establishment of a car park following the opportunity to purchase a piece of land at the rear of the hall.

10/14. Reports from Village Organisations

- Mrs Bedford had sent in a report on behalf of the United Castlemorton Charities, (Poors Land and Almshouses). (Appendix 7)

11/14. Public Comments

Mrs M Howells remarked on the number of pot holes along Hollybed Street near her property and the dog fouling at the Fish Pond.

Cllr Smallwood agreed to examine the potholes and report to WCC.

The dog fouling is becoming a parish issue and for the present the use of signs is being implemented to at least encourage dog walkers to remove any mess or face a fine.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9 pm.

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