

WHITBOURNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 7.00pm in Whitbourne Village Hall

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman), Cllr M Williams (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs J Bromley, P Woods, N Knight, G Cupper, A Evans, C White

In attendance: Cllr N Shaw (Ward Councillor) and Mr K Phillips (Clerk) and two members of the public, plus CSO Steph Annette from 7.20pm.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr J Cummins

2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held: May 2016

Proposed Cllr Williams, seconded Cllr Wood and resolved.

3 Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

See attached report given by Cllr James

4 Public Discussion of any matters relating to Whitbourne

The chairman of the Bringsty Commoners thanked the Parish Council for support in maintaining the football pitch. He also noted that there has been nothing formal seen concerning the sale of Bringsty common, although it had been discussed at the Manorial Court. He asked if the Parish Council would seek to provide a grit bin on the newly resurfaced track leading to the Live and Let Live pub from the A44. Proposed Cllr Evans, seconded Cllr Williams and resolved.

5 Report from Ward Councillor Shaw

Cllr Shaw had been in touch with the planning office.

Ref 161690/161691 - Wheatsheaf Inn. The planning committee would hear the appeal very soon.

Ref 162753 – Rosemore Grange. Going to the planning committee 14/6/17

Ref 163902 – Crumplebury. A transport report highlighted concerns for traffic movements at the A44 due to restricted access. A meeting will be held with the applicant on 12/5/17.

Ref 170329 – Lower Tedney. Passed

Ref 163165 – Glamping pods. Passed.

S106 monies being chased, although getting a response is proving difficult.

Meeting Closed at 19:28

Signed Cllr James (Chairman)

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Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The last twelve months have been a difficult period for the Parish Council mainly due to the fact that we have had three different Parish Council Clerks and also quite a long period with no clerk in post at all. We are thankful to Keith Butler for standing in as a temporary clerk on several occasions. Our present clerk Kevin Phillips took the post at the beginning of February with little experience of local government procedures but has quickly settled into the job so we are looking forward to a period of stability for the future.

But despite these problems we have seen some very encouraging developments within the parish, the first being that after three long years and twenty drafts the Neighbourhood Development Plan was put forward for a referendum on 3rd November 2016 and was supported by 83.2% of those that voted. This means that Herefordshire Planning Committee will use it when making their decisions on planning applications. We as a Parish Council have already used it on several occasions to support our comments on applications. I would like to thank the working party who spent very many long evenings working on the many drafts and amending the plan to take in the comments and concerns of the parishioners that were put forward during the consultation process. I would like to thank in particular Dorian and Maureen Williams for the many hours they spent on putting the drafts into plain, easy to understand English and also Colin White for his IT experience which was invaluable in printing the many drafts. Because of the hard work of all those involved we managed to produce the Neighbourhood Plan with very little expense to the Parish unlike other parishes that have spent vast amounts on outside consultants.

The council budget has had an expensive year mainly due to administrative costs such as the 2015 election expenses and subscription to HALC, but we have still managed to help towards the cost of grass cutting on Bringsty Common and the Upper Churchyard (cemetery) and helping with the fees for maintaining the Church clock.

One project we have decided to defer a decision on is the plan to landscape the garden around the War Memorial, we have spent some time on rejuvenating the existing rose beds so hopefully they will put on a better display this year. The council is looking for someone who is prepared to spend a few hours throughout the year maintaining this area.

During the last twelve months we have seen the completion of the Ardley Meadows estate and all the houses are now occupied, mostly by people from outside the parish. A few of the new residents have already joined in local activities and it is hoped more will volunteer in the future to join some of the committees that keep this village alive.

One of the advantages of the completion of Ardley Meadows is that the developers are asked to donate a sum towards local projects that will improve the local environment. Peter Wood as head of the working party has been working hard liaising with Hereford Council on the projects that we believe will most benefit our community.

On planning matters we are awaiting the decision of the county's planning committee on the ambitious plans to develop the Green Cow Kitchen facilities. We had no objections to this project but commented that we hoped the signage and access be improved from off the A44. However we still believe that it may offer more employment for the local area.

The other planning matter that is still outstanding is the appeal against the decision to refuse the planning application to develop the Wheatsheaf site. We could not support this application because it would be in contradiction to several policies in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Both the Village Hall committee under the chairmanship of Peter Wood and the Playing Fields committee under Clive Pickering have gone from strength to strength during the last twelve months with the Village Hall having increased their bookings and the playing fields planning to improve on their facilities with the help of some of the young people that use them.

So to conclude I am looking forward to a more stable year ahead in which the projects that I have mentioned above will come to fruition. I would also like to encourage anyone who is able to, to join one of the groups or committees which help to make the Parish a more enjoyable and pleasant place to live.

Ron James Chairman Whitbourne Parish Council