

PARISH OF OLDBURY-ON-SEVERN

Minutes of

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at The Memorial Hall, Oldbury, Tuesday 17th May 2011, 7.30 pm

Present

Councillors: Turner, Hales, Sullivan, Poole, Knapp, Riddle and Baker. **Clerk:** Ms S Bailey **Public:** One member

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Cllr Turner circulated a report below outlining activities during the past financial year.

The last year has been a busy one for the council dominated by infrastructure planning issues which have consumed a great deal of time.

The Coalition Government decided to hold a further consultation on the creation of the National Policy Statements for Energy which as many of you are aware include a section on Nuclear Power (EN6) and a section on Renewable Energy (EN3) . Your council responded to these documents and hope that the representations we have made have some bearing on the final outcome.

The unprecedented events in Japan will delay the publishing of the revised National Policy statements to provide an opportunity for the Nuclear Inspectorate to consider the implications for Nuclear in this country. However whilst Oldbury remains listed as a potential site some preparatory work has to continue which involves the Local Planning Authority.

Under the Planning Act 2008 a number of activities are required to be carried out in preparation for a potential application (probably 3 years away at least) .This work will be carried out under a Planning Performance Agreement which enables SGC the to operate with the independence and impartiality necessary to maintain the integrity of the Council . Your Parish Council has a seat on the Committee set up to oversee this work which will include the preparation of a Local Impact Report. It is early days and whilst the implications of Japan are being considered and the fact that the Developers are focussing their attention on their other proposed site at Wylfa take precedence there is not a lot to report at present.

The outcome of the Stoneyard Lane Wind Farm application was a recommendation by the Planning Officers to accept the application but a refusal by the Planning Committee. Taking in to account the survey undertaken of Parishioner opinion in the three Parishes affected where circa 85% objected to the application this was a good result as it shows that local democracy can have constructive influence. Regrettably but not unexpectedly the Developers have decided to appeal, they have everything to gain and little to lose. We will continue to oppose this development not because we are opposed to Wind Farms in general but because this particular development is out of keeping with the setting in which it is proposed.

Your council has made representations regarding the SGC Core Strategy which is the proposed blue print/vision for South Gloucestershire up to 2026; our main concerns being the increased potential for flooding in the Parish and the traffic issues relating to the proposed Park Farm development. The issue of flooding is foremost in our minds when considering further development in Thornbury irrespective of which if any of the sites being proposed moves forward for development consent.

On a more general note the Parish Council website is beginning to look quite good it can be accessed by going to www.oldburyonsevern.org.uk increasingly but not exclusively it will be used to communicate and receive feedback, please use it.

The work necessary to create a Parish Plan is proceeding well thanks to the work done by the Parish Plan Steering Group and the other volunteers who try to keep everyone informed. The Questionnaire soon to be issued will provide the means for Parishioners to say what it is they feel is necessary to make the Parish a desirable place to live in years to come , the Parish Council looks forward with interest to the outcome of this work so please take the opportunity to respond .

I have enjoyed the challenges that we have faced throughout the last 12 months, your Parish Council is very much a team and it is through the team that the work gets done. We now know the outcome of the Parish Council elections, it is with some sadness we say goodbye to the members of the old team who were not re-elected. I would like to say thank you for the support given to me and the energy they brought to many of the issues we have dealt with and continue to face. I would also like to say thank you to our outgoing Clerk for the work she has done for us over the last three years or so and wish her well for the future.

Looking forward to the new Council I would like to welcome the new members of the team and hope that we can continue to work together for the betterment of our Parish and those who live here.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - None

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS - None

5. CLOSE OF MEETING - 7:36 pm

Signed by

Chairman

5th July 2011