



OLDBURY ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 02 May 2017 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Keith Sullivan (Chair), Dylan Griffiths (Vice-Chair), Matthew Clothier, Ian Bell, John Cornock, Glynn Poole

Clerk: Emma Pattullo **Parishioners:** 3 parishioners attended

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Matthew Riddle

2. Chairman's Report

I am going to start by talking about people, for without them, nothing would be achieved. And I think we have achieved a lot this year. A lot of what I have to say today is very similar to last year. I have to thank all of our Parish Councillors, for the support they have given me and also for all the hard work they have done. Then there are those who are not Councillors but contribute in many ways, by sitting on Committees, joining working groups, and also helping with things like the Fun Run, that maybe have nothing to do with the Parish Council, but are part of what makes our Parish great. There are too many to mention individually, so please forgive me.

I must, however, particularly mention Barry Turner, whose contribution has yet again been immeasurable. Without Barry there would not be a Neighbourhood Development Plan, (which of course includes the SFRA2).

This year Marie Baker resigned as a Councillor and we thank her for her contribution. We are pleased to welcome Ian Bell who is already making a valuable contribution.

Still on people, we are very sad to be losing Eirian as our Parish Clerk and RFO. Eirian is leaving to support her husband Gethin who has been poorly, we wish them both well. Eirian has done so much in the two years she has been with us to modernise the systems we use and the way we communicate, Eirian will be sadly missed.

At this point Cllr Sullivan presented Eirian with a bouquet of flowers.

But then we welcome Emma who I am sure will soon find her feet, please give her the support she needs.

I would like to say a bit about community projects and working together. "Project Tarmac" is perhaps the best example we have had recently, where we can achieve so much more by working together. If anyone had said six months ago that we would complete such a project in that timescale we would have laughed, but the Shop, the Anchor, the Sailing Club, the Parish Council and SGC worked together. And it is done. Well done.

Now look at this Hall. The Film Club bought a projector, with help from the Fun Run. The Parish Council installed the phone line and Wi Fi (in spite of BT!). The PC, the historical Society and the Film Club shared the cost of the dongles. Now we have a system that we can use as you see. Thanks to Robin Pitman for showing idiots like me how to use it. We have also funded a set of display boards for use in the Hall and a White Board (on wheels) is on its way.

So I say, let's continue to work together where we can and do so much more.

I will briefly mention the defib unit installed on the Shop wall. Some of you will know that when it was required in a genuine emergency the Ambulance Service would not release the code. Their reason was that it was too far away to be of use. (In fact it could not be used anyway.) That may be so, but that should have been explained to us when it was installed. And they should have listened to the people on the ground. We have now changed the system and when it was again needed in an emergency it was available.

On the safety front we have failed to solve the problem of cyclists coming down Church Hill, and some parishioners still complain about speeding in Oldbury village. Matthew and I are meeting with the Police tomorrow, so watch this spot.

Some things have been done in the Playing Fields. A recent working party tidied up a lot of loose ends, removed finger traps from the slide and several other jobs on the MUGA. We now have a cleaning contract in place to regularly clean the Pavilion and the outside toilet. A new notice board has been obtained and will be erected in a few days.

The New Nuclear Build Committee is doing sterling work researching how consultation has been done in Hinkley and Wylfa, what has been achieved, and even more importantly, what has failed to be achieved. How is it funded? Watch this space.

I will now turn to planning matters, which of course, includes flooding. (You may have to stop me if I go on after 10pm.) To be serious I will be concise, but please ask any questions in the public forum, or at any Council Meeting, or talk to any Councillor.

Normal planning applications in the Parish are proceeding as always, some we support, some we do not; and all Parishioners are entitled to have a say on these. We sometimes have difficulty with applications in adjacent Parishes if they are likely to impact on Oldbury, for example everything from Butt Lane to Morton Way. We do our best, but we do need support from our Parishioners.

There is a stream of long term planning work, which I know has been extremely frustrating to those wrestling with it. This started some years ago with a Local Plan and the PSP (Policies, Sites and Places). That was dismissed by SGC for flooding reasons. We then proposed a SFRA2 to attempt to overcome this difficulty. That was overtaken by the need for a Neighbourhood Plan, which in turn needed the SFRA2. That is still proceeding, we hope to have some results soon. Barry will talk further on this in the monthly meeting.

On the 9th March 2016, as I am sure you all know, there was a minor flood in the village of Oldbury. While I define it as minor, this is simply because few properties were flooded and none seriously. However, there would need to have been very little extra water, to make this a very major flood indeed. I can assure you the Parish Council took this situation very seriously and have worked extremely hard to find causes and solutions. We have worked closely with SGC, the LSIDB and to a lesser extent, the EA. Earlier this year we were fortunate to obtain (through the good auspices of Cllr Riddle and SGC officers) a considerable amount of money from the EA budget to put towards the necessary work.

SGC are responsible for producing a report that will identify the causes and recommend some solutions (not necessarily all). The draft report has been prepared and an action plan is being worked on. Some actions have orders placed to carry out the work. Whether there is enough money left to do it all is uncertain.

We have met regularly with these authorities and we thank them for their co-operation and help. I hope we will be able to close most of this in the next year, but I rather expect that there will be some actions for which money is not available.

There are two areas from the above that give me some particular concerns. Church Hill is included in this but I am unclear what the proposal is as yet. We are still in dispute with the LSIDB on the responsibility for Flap Valves

Thank you for listening.

Now it is your turn.

3. Questions from the Electorate

A parishioner congratulated the Chair and requested further information regarding Church Hill. KS explained that little more information was available at the moment but that it would be discussed once available.

4. Any Other Matters

Cllr Bell raised the issue of changes to rubbish & recycling arrangements due in the near future. Leaflets explaining the changes have been available in the shop, information placed on the parish website and a notice was included in '4ward' magazine. SITA are also arranging a roadshow to be held at the school.

5. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.