



OLDBURY ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Thursday 9th May 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Keith Sullivan, Cllr Matthew Clothier, Cllr Matthew Riddle

Clerk: Emma Pattullo **Parishioners:** 4 parishioners were present

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Dylan Griffiths.

2. Chairman's report

Cllr Sullivan gave the following report:

"Good evening everybody. Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting. May I start by thanking all those who stood in and kept the show running while I was unwell from October last year until January this year. I will not try to mention you all by name, as frankly I am not sure who you all are; that is because I was as they say "out of it". I thank you for your hard work and also for all the good wishes I received.

In order to write an annual report to the Parish, of the Council's work over the last year, I have to look back and see what I said last year. And then it becomes obvious that I could simply repeat what I said last year. I will try not to do that but some of it may sound familiar!

It is still all about people, in fact most annual reports always will, or should, be just that. For it is the people who work hard to achieve the objectives. Therefore I particularly want to thank our Clerk, Emma, who has yet again had an increased workload and all the Councillors who have worked hard to make the Council and the Committees get things done. And let us not forget the volunteer committee members for their time and expertise, without them we could not function.

I wish to especially thank Glynn Poole, who is retiring after 35 years service. I am sure you will all wish to join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement. He will be missed.

Last year I spoke of the new committees we were forming to spread the workload, we now have six. That is beginning to work, but at full strength we only have seven Councillors, not enough to properly manage six subjects. Just to add to the difficulty we only had five people put themselves forward for election this year. I hope we will be able to fill that gap by co-opting another two. We are also talking to the electoral commission to try and increase the number of Councillors from seven to nine. That will be a great help and I believe will be successful. How long it will take maybe a bit of a guess. The fact is we have quite a large area and alongside that a number of tasks that some parish councils do not have. We have major planning issues not in our parish, but next door and from where flood water comes to us. It is then our problem, not theirs and we have to manage it. We also have one existing power station and one potential. Many parishes have nine councillors and less problems than us.

So what have we done in the past twelve months?

The major effort has still gone into the flood relief for Church Hill, Church Road and Chapel Road. On the surface it appears we have achieved very little. However, we are, believe it or not, nearer a solution. Funding has been secured, in itself quite an achievement. The outline plan for Church Hill is agreed, details are being drawn up "as we speak" and work should be completed by the winter. Chapel Road details are drawn up and will also be complete by the winter I hope. Church Road is not so far advanced and we are still discussing solutions. More general things towards improvements for the prevention of flooding in Oldbury have either been completed or are under way, I will write more on this in 4Ward in time.

We are now challenging SGC to give us more details about water management plans for Thornbury and the effect they have on Oldbury. We are also examining the work done on the Somerset Levels where a recent report has severely criticised flood prevention measures not only in Somerset but throughout the UK. What is being done in SGC?

We continue to discuss many planning matters, one in particular encouraged 13 parishioners to attend the special Council Meeting called to discuss it, is this a record?

The Clerk has been busy dealing with GDPR and changed audit requirements. At this point I must thank Mr Bill Pearce who has carried out our internal audit for many years.

We completed the white lines adjacent to the Pill Bridge and it is pleasing to note that people park tidily within the lines.

We erected a new flagpole on the Pound where it can be seen by all who pass through the village.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing well, and recently held another Community Engagement Meeting which was well attended. I hope you are all reading the regular reports produced by the group.

The Pavillion will hopefully have a new heating system by the coming winter, details are coming together and contractors are being sought.

We have invited neighbouring parishes to join us for discussions on the Horizon project, however this is currently on hold until financial issues are resolved. We are still monitoring the properties held by Horizon in Shepperdine.

Following the closure of the Forgotten Landscape project much of the output from that project has been incorporated on the Community Website.

We are just beginning to look at Road Safety and already several projects are under review and you will no doubt see more in the future.

I hope that what I have said gives you an idea of the range of topics that your Parish Council considers on your behalf.

Thank you for listening. I welcome any questions, comments or suggestions.”

3. Questions from the Electorate

No questions were raised.

4. Presentation by Mr Peter Tyzack on ‘Forgotten Landscape Festival’

Mr Tyzack is a member of the project board for the Forgotten Landscape Project. Although the project itself is in its closing stages, the Board are keen to ensure that it leaves a lasting legacy.

Mr Tyzack gave a brief presentation covering the background of the project, how it came to be set up and some of its many achievements, for example the excavations at The Toot. He explained that the project had culminated in the “Lower Severn Vale Festival” which aimed to bring together communities in the Severn vale to learn more about the area and what had been achieved. It is intended that the festival should continue to be held annually; the next is on Saturday 13th July 2019.

The Festival is held in Severn Beach due to suitable facilities being available, but the organising committee would welcome new members from across the Lower Severn Vale area. They would also be pleased to hear from potential stallholders or local groups who would like to be involved.

A draft flyer for the event was circulated and Mr Ian Bell agreed to put details on the ‘News Desk’ area of the Oldbury website.

5. Any other matters

A parishioner asked whether the Severn Estuary Partnership was still in operation, as they did not seem to be sending information as regularly as in the past. The Clerk agreed to investigate.

A parishioner asked whether the council had considered the recent Environment Agency report which suggests that many coastal communities will be severely impacted by rising sea levels as a result of climate change. The Chair responded that the matter would be raised during the council meeting later in the evening.

A parishioner noted his continuing admiration for the vibrancy of the Parish and the excellent support given by parishioners to many groups and organisations within it.

6. Close of meeting

The meeting was closed at 8:00 pm.