

# PARISH OF OLDBURY ON SEVERN

## Minutes of the

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at The Memorial Hall, Oldbury, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at 7.30 pm

Present

**Parish Councillors:** Mr B Turner (Chairman), Mr M Riddle, Mr A Knapp, Mr G Poole and Mrs. J. Hales.

**Clerk:** Mrs D. Bramley **Public:** 3 Parishioners

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllr K Sullivan and Cllr M Baker

### 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Turner circulated a report below outlining activities during the past financial year.

*Following on from the 2011 report we now know that Oldbury remains on the National Policy list as a potential New Build Power Station Site. The recent announcements regarding Horizon are a bit misleading because although the German parent companies have said they intend to withdraw from the project Horizon is in fact a standalone company and work would in all probability continue if investors are found who wish to pick up where the German company's leave off. Meetings of the Shadow Review group overseeing the arrangements for the considerable amount of pre work required prior to an application being submitted to Infrastructure Planning Unit are planned to continue although I suspect that major decisions will not be made. Your Parish Council is represented at these meetings.*

*Remaining on the power topic most of you will know that the Wind Farm developers appeal against refusal to allow the Development at Stone Yard Lane did not succeed, the Planning Inspector agreed with the Parish Council on many of the issues raised. This was an important decision for the Severn Vale and Oldbury in particular, hopefully it will direct Wind Farm developers to more suitable sites where their chances of success will be better. We continue to watch the renewable energy issues with interest particularly given the mandate Parishioners gave us regarding the suitability of Wind Farm developments. My thanks go to the help and support provided by affected adjacent parishes during this period it was team work which proved important.*

*A great deal of work has been undertaken regarding the consultation for the Core Strategy which will supersede the current South Gloucestershire local plan. We have made strong representation regarding flooding, low cost housing and renewable energy. The strategy currently in Draft form goes to a Planning Inspector for a hearing in June /July your council will be participating in this. Similarly, we have been actively involved with the Draft National Planning Policy framework, the final version was published on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. This will have a significant bearing on the way communities will be affected by the planning reforms being introduced. The significance of this is something we are trying hard to understand.*

*The Localism Bill also has implications which impact on the way our community develops in the years to come, the need for a clear picture is paramount. Progressively commencement orders will bring changes to many aspects of development including the Right to Build and changes in Planning Enforcement and give more weight to neighbourhood planning.*

*The development of a Parish (community) Plan has a bearing on this and as many of you will know a Steering Group has been working hard to try to understand what it is the community feel are the important issues for the Parish. Most of the analysis is now done. The Steering Group will shortly be in a position to report back to the Parish Council and the Community as a whole. It will be at this stage we hope that more of the community will step up to help construct the detailed plans which will take the needs of the community forward and contribute to the realisation of the plan. There are some topical issues to develop plans for including affordable housing, traffic management and community wellbeing and safety issues*

*So as you can see there has been a lot going on behind the scenes, the way Parish Councils operate and the expectations of Localism are very different now to when I was first elected and demands a great deal of time and resource. It is with thanks that I can say that your councillors are making a significant contribution to ensuring that the Parish is represented, it is very much a team effort.*

*My thanks to my fellow Councillors, Dawn our Parish Clerk and the Steering Group members who have been so supportive over the last 12 months*

*So after the serious side of things it is nice to announce that the Pavilion at the Playing Fields now boasts a new suite of tables and chairs thanks to Magnox. This will improve the versatility of the Pavilion; the furniture is suitable for outdoor use so this will complement the facilities at the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council is supporting the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and hope to see as many parishioners as possible on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Playing fields.*

### 3. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE

None

### 4. ANY OTHER MATTERS

None

### 5. CLOSE OF MEETING at 7.35 pm

Signed by

Chairman

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012