



OLDBURY ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 03 May 2016 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Parish Councillors: Mr Keith Sullivan (Chair), Mr Glynn Poole (Vice-Chair), Mr Matthew Clothier, Mr Matthew Riddle, Mr Dylan Griffiths, Mrs Marie Baker.

Clerk: Eirian Vaughan Lewis Parishioners: 5 Parishioners

1. APOLOGIES

Mr John Cornock

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

May I start by thanking all of my fellow Councillors, and others, who have supported me greatly during the last year. They have been a great team and without their support nothing could be achieved.

I must particularly mention Barry Turner, last year's Chairman, who has been a rock on whom I have relied heavily. Thank you Barry, your support is greatly appreciated.

Our Clerk, Dawn Bramley, resigned in July and we thank her for all her hard work in the past and her help in the handover. We were fortunate in appointing Eirian Vaughan-Lewis as our new Clerk, Eirian and I are learning the job together and Eirian is supporting me tremendously. Thank you Eirian

So what have we been doing?

I will mention a few success stories if I may. The first is the completion of the Playing Fields project, after the new children's play equipment was installed, the car park has been better secured, to prevent night time disturbances, the Cricket Club entrance moved to a more suitable place and the whole play area secured for children to play safely. I believe that is down to a very large degree, in fact almost entirely, to Barry's hard work.

Next is the defibrillator. Organised and delivered by Glynn Poole's project, helped by Marie Baker with the training. But let us not forget John Rudrum, whose efforts financed the whole project.

The year finished with HM the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the lighting of the beacon at the Sailing Club. A great evening organised by Matthew Clothier, thank you Matt.

Much of the Council work is perhaps mundane and less attractive than these very visible projects, but nevertheless very important, perhaps more important.

We have formed a sub committee to look at the "New Nuclear Build". This will consider how we can ensure we get the best out of the consultation process, when it starts, and how we can fund this. It will not, at this stage, address what issues are to be considered.

“The Old Stores” has been an ongoing blot on the landscape for many years. We have had a very good meeting with South Gloucestershire Council Officers and I believe the result shows some promise. At least they are now trying to resolve who owns the property so that action can be taken.

In his report last year, Barry mentioned the difficulties we had been having with forward planning for a few houses, some of which would be affordable, and the need for a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA2) which South Gloucestershire Council were not prepared to pay for. We have been working hard to move this forward and I can report that South Gloucestershire Council now appear to be prepared to pay half, we expect to make some contribution from the Parish Council and we are looking to other sources to fund the difference. We sincerely hope this will proceed in the near future.

This leads to what is a major concern to Oldbury on Severn Parish Council and I am sure to many parishioners, that of flooding. You will perhaps know that we have been trying to find a resolution to the flooding issue at the bottom of Church Hill, this effects several properties as well as the road. There are a number of different solutions that are feasible, but once again the resolution is marred by cost issues and disagreement on responsibility.

Latterly we have had two occasions where we have had a “near miss” on 8th February and a “minor flood” on 9th March (sorry if the term “minor flood offends, but the damage was minimal). Our concern is that it would not take much escalation to turn minor into major.

The connection between all of these things is that the SFRA2 will provide us with much information that we need to help us resolve these difficulties.

We have written to South Gloucestershire Council, Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency at length with many questions. All three have now responded and we are analysing their answers, which may result in more questions. However we are meeting them now and we hope that some actions will be identified.

South Gloucestershire Council are suggesting a “flood risk and drainage drop in session to understand the flood in Oldbury”, I believe this will be a public event and I will make sure everyone is aware if this happens.

I wish I could give you some assurance that we will succeed in either improving the flood defences or reducing the risk. Unfortunately, anything that will do this will cost money. We hear “no money will be spent until you are flooded, other areas have higher priority”.

What I can do is assure you we are, and will continue, to try.

So once again, thank you to all of you who have helped us at least to try and understand these problems.

Thank you for listening.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE

Flooding in the village that took place on the 9th March was raised; Cllr Keith Sullivan discussed the SFRA meetings that have taken place this year. This is the key to everything in resolving the issues. Drainage system we have is designed to guarantee 1% risk (or so we thought). He informed parishioners that this issue is heading in the right direction, a public meeting is planned in the village sometime in June (date to be confirmed) and a meeting with South Gloucestershire Council on flooding is scheduled for June/July. A parishioner discussed the memories they had of the flooding in the village that took place in 1981.

A new Parishioner that has moved to live in the village, raised concerns about house contents insurance, is Oldbury on Severn considered a high risk area for flooding? The Parishioner asked if a house had been flooded in the past, would that would be historic and held against the owner? Cllr Dylan Griffiths discussed the new Government scheme on a surcharge in insurance, in place from April 2016, which will provide a pool of money for people who have trouble in insuring their property and contents. Councillors and local parishioners discussed the face that Oldbury on Severn is considered a low flood risk area?

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS

None

5. CLOSE OF MEETING at 7.55pm

Signed by

Chairman 05 July 2016