



OLDBURY ON SEVERN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 01 May 2018 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Keith Sullivan (Chair), Cllr Dylan Griffiths (Vice Chair), Cllr Matthew Clothier, Cllr John Cornock.

Clerk: Emma Pattullo **Parishioners:** 2 parishioners were present

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Bell, Cllr Glynn Poole, Cllr Matthew Riddle & Mr Malcolm Lynden.

2. Chairman's Report

Cllr Sullivan gave the following report:

"Last year I spoke about people. Today I will continue with that line. The work load for this Council seems to get larger every year and this year is no different. We are only seven Councillors and frankly that is not enough to share the workload. We have to thank everyone, the Councillors, the volunteers whether they are elected representatives, co-optees, or simply helpers; they all do a remarkable job and we thank them all. Included in this is our Clerk, Emma; we have had to increase her hours to cover the extra workload.

I endeavour to finish all meetings by 9.30 p.m., frankly after that we start to rush matters and make wrong decisions, but several times recently that has not been possible and we have to either go on later or adjourn the meeting, that may even happen tonight looking at our agenda. If this continues we may have to start meeting monthly.

We have tried to improve matters by forming sub committees to look at certain subjects and report back to the full Council. That spreads the workload and involves more people, some who have particular expertise. That is beginning to work but we have not yet learned to read the papers before the meeting and then not to revisit the subject, hopefully that will come.

Again I am not going to mention individuals here as there are too many but thank you one and all.

Perhaps the most important area raised last year that has not been resolved is the potential flooding from water coming down Church Hill. This has been under discussion with SGC for at least five years now, without resolution. For the last two plus years this has been dealt with by the FPC and there have been several meetings between the two sides, without results. There have been many promises and promises and promises. The money has been found and a decision has been promised on the action to be taken, but no delivery. We are told that when a decision is made there will then be a consultation, i.e. another delay. I can assure you that we are now raising this every fortnight and will not stop until we get a result. Any help you can give by talking or writing to SGC will be useful.

Another issue raised last year was marking parking bays on the new tarmac area, and also parking on the bridge. We had hoped to get the tarmac area adopted as highway and the marking done by SGC but no luck at present. On a similar vein there has been discussion on the speed of cyclists down the hill and in the village. These two matters will now be dealt with by the new Road Safety Committee, more of that later.

Another ongoing sore is the Old Stores. Still no progress, again a SGC issue. It seems to me that anything that SGC are involved with will either be in the too difficult or too expensive basket.

On a more positive note, thanks to Colin Johnstone and his team who worked so hard to clean up the village.

Ian Bell has carried out a full review of our insurance policies.

There have been a number of individual planning issues that have been considered over the last year, some we have supported, some we have not, but all have been considered.

Committees

The work of the committees is recorded in the minutes and can be accessed on the website, so I will give a very short description here.

The Playing Fields Committee has, as you know, been going for many years, and has worked hard this year, maintaining the outdoor facilities and putting finishing touches to the children's play area. Plans are taking shape for a new heating system for the pavilion.

Barry Turner and his team are working incredibly hard on the NDP and are making good progress in spite of many obstacles being put in place. Please read Barry's reports.

The New Nuclear Build committee has visited Wylfa to talk with people there and see how they are getting on in negotiations with Horizon. They have carried out a residents survey in Shepperdine and several other consultative matters.

The Flooding & Planning Committee have done a lot of flooding work with SGC and LSIDB, not only on Church Hill but many other areas. They are also investigating the responsibility of riparian owners for maintenance of the flaps. They have also spent a lot of energy on the plans for huge developments in Thornbury and the new SGC Local Plan.

The Communications Committee have worked hard on updating the website and particularly the calendar which enables anyone to check what dates are available in the Memorial Hall and hopefully other places in future.

Last but not least is the newly formed Road Safety Committee that Ian Bell is chairing. I understand the first meeting is scheduled for early June. It already has a full agenda

Thank you for listening. Now it is your turn."

3. Questions from the Electorate

A parishioner asked what the parish council was doing in relation to the major developments in Thornbury and consequent impact on flood risk in Oldbury.

Cllr Griffiths responded that the council was aware of the issue and was working to raise it with SGC. Councillors have visited the attenuation ponds at the Park Farm development and been assured by SGC officers that run-off from such systems will be equivalent to that of a green field; SGC have been informed that Oldbury parishioners are yet to be convinced of this. In addition, the drainage systems seem to be being connected very late in the build process such that a significant amount of building can have taken place without an adequate drainage system being already in place. The Flooding and Planning Committee recently held a joint meeting with relevant SGC officers and the drainage board at which this issue was one of those raised. The FPC continue to push for progress.

Cllr Sullivan noted that a key problem was how to measure increases in run-off and prove any impacts. A parishioner commented that the flood defence system along the rhines is reported to be at or near capacity, having been designed before climate change impacts were understood. Electronic level gauges are being installed now or in the near future so these should allow better monitoring of levels.

4. Any Other Matters

No other matters were raised.

5. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.