

PARISH OF OLDBURY ON SEVERN

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at The Memorial Hall, Oldbury, Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 7.30 pm

Present

Parish Councillors: Mr B Turner (Chair), Mr M Riddle, Mr A Knapp, Mr G Poole, Mr. K Sullivan and Mrs M Baker.

Clerk: Mrs D. Bramley **Public:** 2 Parishioners

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Hales

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Turner circulated the following report which will be included in the 4 Ward magazine.

The last 12 months have been interesting and a significant amount of time has been spent dealing with issues which have an impact of the future of the Parish. Your Council has made representation regarding the Core Strategy which is the key document in South Gloucestershire's Local Plan. It sets out the vision for South Gloucestershire and the spatial strategy for future development up to 2027. It includes policies and programmes for the general location of development, its type and scale, and the resources to deliver it, as well as protecting what is valued about the area. The document has been subject to examination by an Independent Planning Inspector. Oldbury on Severn Councillors spoke at the enquiry on a range of issues which it was felt had an impact of our Parish and the surrounding area. The document is now very near to being adopted. For rural areas a number of policies are particularly important, in particular Policy CS34 which describes the vision for the development of rural areas such as ours and how it can be realised. It includes the use of Neighbourhood Planning to set out the what where and how development is appropriate for rural areas covering a range of subjects including housing, management of flood risk, rural transport, and renewable energy. To do this correctly is a big task, far too large for your elected representatives alone to manage.

Back in 2010 a Parish Plan Steering Group was established by your Parish Council, this aimed to determine what it was Parishioners felt was needed to take the Parish forward for the future. The results of the questionnaire circulated throughout the Parish were very useful, a very good return has provided the platform to try and move some of the issues raised forward, so far with varying degrees of success. The Parish Plan Steering Group has formed Working Groups to try and develop specific subjects, those of you who have attended the public meetings will know more about this than I can cover in this report, and some of you have volunteered to get involved in trying to make things happen, thank you for that. Over the coming months the working groups will hopefully start to provide the platform to stimulate the initiatives into positive action, we should not underestimate the effort required to achieve a good outcome.

The questionnaire results showed significant support for a Community Shop using volunteers to keep operating costs low. To be successful this would need to be sited in a position which encouraged maximum footfall. Planning Consent will be required; the Parish Council gave the go ahead so see if consent can be obtained on a temporary basis to prove the viability of the venture. At the time of writing the application is now with South Gloucestershire Planning Department for consideration.

Climate Change has caused the Environment Agency to reassess the flood risk map for the area and it has been deemed that tides could in the fullness of time increase the water levels by up to a metre thereby increasing the risk of flooding. At the same time the Shore Management Plan for the Severn Estuary has a policy to 'hold the defensive line' this effectively means to maintain the same level of protection from tidal flooding that we currently enjoy. Flooding from both tidal and fluvial sources is and continues to be one of the main subjects of discussion. The Environmental Working Group and your Council will be pursuing this during the coming year.

Improving Communications in the Parish is another area where a Working Group is striving to keep parishioners informed and provide the means for meaningful communication which forgive me for saying needs to be a two way process to be effective. Your Parish Council wishes to encourage wider participation and involvement in the way Parish Matters are managed.

Finally, I hope Parishioners feel that they are getting value for the money they pay towards the precept. Once again this year we have not increased the amount despite demands on our finances. Some of you may wonder why it is that an increase is shown on your Council Tax Bills if there has been no increase in the precept. The reason for this increase arises from a decrease in the Tax base caused principally by the introduction of the new Local Tax Support Scheme (LCTS). I think we will leave the matter at that and blame central government.

Overall, it has been a busy but interesting year, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who have helped and supported me and in particular our Parish Clerk for the work she has done and those Parishioners who have provided time and resource to help manage the Parish Council activity.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE

None

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS

None

5. CLOSE OF MEETING at 7.40 pm

Signed by

Chairman

2nd July 2013