

PARISH OF OLDBURY ON SEVERN

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at The Chapel Schoolroom, Oldbury, Monday 18th May 2015 at 7.35 pm

Present

Parish Councillors: Mr. K Sullivan (Chairman), Mr. G Poole (Vice - Chairman), Mr. M Riddle, Mrs. M Baker, Mr. M Clothier, Mr. J Cornock and Mr. D Griffiths.

Clerk: Mrs. D. Bramley **Public:** Barry Turner (Outgoing Chair), 6 Parishioners

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Turner, Outgoing Chairman circulated the following report.

Oldbury on Severn Parish Council - Chairman's Annual Report May 2015

"My report last year outlined the work that was being done in conjunction with South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) on the Non-Strategic Policies following adoption of the Core Strategy.

Work has continued in detail and some of you participated in a consultation regarding the Policies Sites and Places Development Plan and the Call for Sites. This work was aimed at identifying sites to provide some modest development including affordable housing that would benefit local people. The Parish Plan responses dating back to 2010 identified a need; the resultant target figure for the Parish was 14 dwellings of various types over the next 10/12 years.

The outcome of this so far is not particularly encouraging due largely to the conclusions drawn by SGC that due to the high risk of flooding and other significant environmental constraints in the area, opportunities for further development are very limited. There were a couple of potential development sites with a lower risk of flooding but these have significant disadvantages (in planning terms) relating in particular to impact on Green Belt, landscape and the setting of St Arilda's church.

Quite clearly whilst the issue of flood risk remains the opportunity to realise some modest development is questionable. Your Parish Council have taken the tidal flood risk issue as far as the Department of Communities and Local Government. The reason for this is that flood risk for planning purposes assumes that no defences exist when in reality they do and will continue to provide protection in the future. The advice we have been given is that it is necessary for a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to be undertaken which will take into account the existing defences. This I am confident would identify areas where it would be safe to site new dwellings. In the short term SGC are not prepared to fund this assessment, your council has sought an undertaking that it will be undertaken at the first opportunity. There is some optimism that the work will be done when SGC are engaged in the Joint Strategic Planning Strategy in conjunction with adjacent unitary authorities. I personally addressed the full SGC on this and believe it will be undertaken probably within the next 12/18 months. It will be for your new Parish Council to take this forward.

The Parish Plan has given focus to those matters the community felt were important and work continues under the auspices of the Parish Plan Steering Group to try to bring to fruition improvements which make life in the Parish better. A lot of work has been done to improve communications and the community website now contains much useful information and a link Parishioners can use to sign up to receive e-mail. If you go to www.oldburyonsevern.org.uk you can check it out, signing up is easy and it will enable an effective means of two way communication on important matters.

The end of this term sees three of your Councillors including me not seeking re-election, between us we have circa 75 years of service. This figure is greatly influenced by Allan Knapp with over 50 years to his credit. On your behalf I thank him for all the support he has given to the community over such a long period of time. Also making way for new blood is Jenny Hales who joined the council the same time as me back in 2003. I wish to thank all my Councillor Colleagues for the support they have given to me and the community throughout the time I have spent both as Councillor and as Chairman. Thanks also go to our Clerk Dawn Bramley who has been a great support and kept me on the straight and narrow at times.

As we move forward to a new Council term I wish the old stalwarts and the newly elected Councillors the best of luck in steering the Parish to a prosperous and sustainable future. "

Cllr Sullivan thanked Mr Turner for his service as a Cllr and then Chairman of the Parish Council and expressed what an excellent job he had done. Cllr Sullivan went on to thank both Mrs Jenny Hales for her 12 years on the Parish Council and Mr Allan Knapp who has served the community for over 50 years.

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3. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE

Mr Lynden asked if anyone had seen the consultation regarding the changes to the A38/B4061 junction in Whitfield as he was not aware of any proposed changes and it is difficult for large vehicles to turn there now. It was stated that there had been a consultation.

It was stated that the Parish Council along with Cllr Riddle will continue to liaise with South Gloucestershire Council so that a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the area is undertaken.

Mr Turner mentioned that the Butt Lane/Gloucester Road junction needs to be addressed after the development when the issues will be apparent.

Mr Knapp stated that the work undertaken on Hall Lane had been completed but no one was informed the work was being undertaken. Cllr Riddle will talk to South Gloucestershire Council Public Rights of Way concerning Ham Lane as work is needed on that lane too.

4. ANY OTHER MATTERS

None

5. CLOSE OF MEETING at 8.00 pm

Signed by

Chairman

7th July 2015