

Minutes of Worminghall Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 1st May 2014

Present: Cllrs: Dr Weaver (Chairman), Showell (Vice Chairman), Rowe, Tasker, Grierson, Dst Cllrs: Edmonds & Hawkett, County Cllr: Aston and 20 members of the public.

Dr Weaver welcomed the County Councillor to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held 19th May 2013: Agreed and signed as a true record.

No matters arose from those minutes.

The Chairman gave out her report:

This is my first report as Chair of Worminghall Parish Council having been elected last year when the previous chairperson, Rhona Meade, resigned to allow her to go travelling. I would like to formally thank her for taking the time to give such a useful and substantive handover which helped enormously as I had a great deal to learn being new to the job.

It has been an eventful year. After all of the work of the committee the previous year the results of the Worminghall Community Plan questionnaire were published on the website and it was time to look at these results and use them to create a Worminghall Community Plan. A steering committee was set up, including Councillors Tasker and Grierson, who met regularly throughout the year and have worked incredibly hard to turn the results into plan. The draft document of this has been produced and it is hoped that the final plan will be available by July of this year. I would like to thank every member of the steering group for all the time and effort they have put into this.

Many villagers had expressed their concern about road safety and it was decided to invest in a Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS). This was financed with the help of the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Area Forum and has recently been installed so speeding cars, beware!

The other recent change has been the installation of new Worminghall signs with the Bernwode logo at the entries to the village. I am sure everyone will agree this was long overdue and has certainly made the village more attractive.

The ongoing improvement to ditches and hedges has continued, with Councillor Rowe spear-heading the campaign and working tirelessly liaising with the Aylesbury Vale District Councillors and local landowners to achieve the improvement in the condition of the ditches and hedges. Huge thanks need to go to Penny and to the local landowners.

With one of the wettest winters on record, it has been a joy to see no major problems with flooding in the village.

There is now a Village Contingency Plan in place in the case of emergencies and, again, thanks must go to Councillor Rowe for organising this.

A great deal of work goes on in the village without most of us noticing but, if it didn't happen we would live in a much less-pleasant environment, examples being the telephone box has been tidied up and the ivy cleared and the notice boards and bus stops are kept pristine; thanks must go to the villagers involved in doing these jobs, including Adele, our Parish Clerk and Councillor Rowe. Dare I mention pot-holes?! The weather has not helped with these but the "find and fix" team from Buckinghamshire seem to be having to make regular visits to the village. No doubt this will continue!

I have mentioned various members of the Parish Council already. One person I haven't mentioned is Councillor Bryan Showell, a stalwart member of the council who, in spite of severe illness, has managed to attend the vast majority of our meetings and continued to give his advice, gained from his many years of service to the local community. Being a member of the Parish Council is entirely voluntary and can be a thankless task at times and his commitment is outstanding.

You may have noticed that the frequency of the meetings has changed. While the work was going on formulating the logistics around the community plan meetings were held monthly. At the end of last year we decided to change the meetings to bimonthly but it was difficult to keep continuity and momentum in decision-making at these intervals as it relies on numerous email notifications. We are going to trial having meetings at 6 week intervals as a compromise.

From the financial perspective, the precept for the village has been increased by 10% from £3500 to £3850. I hope the village feels that the money is used wisely. It is gratifying to see village residents at our meetings and I would encourage you to keep attending – we value your support and your input so that the Parish Council can truly represent the village.

No Matters were raised by the public:

Local organisations were invited to the meeting and gave a summary of their activities over the year, a copy of their accounts was submitted to the Parish Council.

Time Out – Mr Wallhouse

Susan Small – Christian Aid

Susan Small – Mother & toddler

David Small – Worminghall Village Lunch

June Slade – The Parochial Church Council

Trevor Drummond - The Almshouses

Charmian Dunford - Village Hall Committee

Nick Hughes – Village Fete Committee.

The Chairman thanked them all and asked that it be made an annual event.
All Agreed.

Meeting closed 8pm

