

Worminghall Parish Council
Draft Minutes of Annual Meeting
Thursday May 11th, 2017

Present: All Councillors & District Councillor Rand.

Apologies: None received

Minutes of Annual meeting held May 26th 2016 signed as a true record.

Matters Arising from those minutes: None

Chairman gave her Annual Report: Parish Council Members

This year has brought several changes to the members of the Parish Council.

At the end of last year, we lost Mark Tasker and Howard Stones but have welcomed John Hopcroft with his wealth of local knowledge and most recently Sarah Black.

We also have to thank Adele for all her hard work and for keeping us on track.

Finances

We have kept the precept at the previous year's level therefore not increasing costs for the community.

We thank Don Potter for auditing our accounts for yet another year and for ensuring that we are compliant with the new Financial Regulations which have been adopted this year.

Around the village

All the streetlights have been tested for safety and no issues were found.

The grass continues to be mowed by Mr Gregory following the devolution of this service from Buckinghamshire County Council.

The stile between Ickford Church and the Clifden Arms has been repaired.

Gigaclear has now installed broadband throughout the village to those who wanted it and the speeds are vastly improved to what was available before.

WPC donated £300 to the PCC to help with the up-keep of the Churchyard.

A litter pick was held on March 12th and it was fantastic to see so many people turn out to take part.

A MVAS service agreement has been entered into in order to keep it maintained. John has taken on the task of moving it around the village and keeping the battery charged.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Worminghall Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has been set up to manage the process. The key members are Don Potter (Chair), Steven Bramley, Tracey Skates, and Ramsey Hovell. Sally Chapman, a consultant who is experienced with regards to the process has also been enlisted.

So far, potential sites have been identified, a village questionnaire was distributed across the parish, inviting views on what Worminghall needs, and subsequently an open day was held in February giving villagers the chance to see the results of the survey and to give opinion on the sites put forward for development.

The draft plan is now being drawn up and the next stage is to bring it to the Parish Council for approval. It will then be put out for further consultation for the parish and statutory consultees.

The process so far has been funded by a grant received from Groundwork UK.

Website

There is now a new and hopefully improved website. This has been part funded by the above grant and partly by the parish council. The aim is to make the site more informative and certainly more user friendly. (www.worminghall-pc.co.uk)

We would welcome any feedback on the new site as well as suggestions for any further information that we could be providing.

Finally I would like to thank those in the village who take the time to attend and participate in the PC meetings. It does make a difference.

Thank you.

Tracey Skates

Matters Raised by the public: Some Almshouse residents are currently concerned about personal welfare and would like the Trustees to be more open about the running of the homes. They would like some personal contact with the Trustees. The residents were advised to put their concerns in writing to the trustees for them to deal with. Cllrs Hopcroft & Showell were asked if they would address these issues at their next meeting of the Trustees.

A resident also raised the issue of a bent 30mph sign and a 'Give Way' sign obscured by a hedge on Menmarsh Road. They also said that these signs should be sited further from the homes to allow motorists time to slow down for the crossroads. This is a highways stipulation.

A home belonging to the Housing Trust is currently unoccupied in Waterperry Road.

[Invitees spoke of their activities through the year:](#)

June Slade: Parochial Church Council told us that the silver chalice now resides at Christchurch College, Oxford. She informed us that there is also ample space in the graveyard currently as it was noted that Oakley Parish Council recently purchased more land to expand their burial ground.

David Small: Seniors lunch - a few more residents could be accommodated and would be welcome. This is a none profit 2 course lunch provided by volunteers at an approximate cost of £6 per head with a raffle and a glass of wine/apple juice.

Susan Small: Christian Aid, in Susan's absence, Barbara Joiner informed us that there will be a coffee morning next Thursday for this in the Village Hall.

Charmian Dunford: Village Hall, several repairs have been made and the wall needs re-pointing, although a grant has been obtained further funding would be necessary to cover the costs. The verge access requires tarmac as gigaclear ruined the gravel apron.

Penny Rowe: Time out, has successfully hosted coffee and teas along with June Slade for residents and visiting cyclists, £250 each has been donated from funds to the Church and the Village Hall.

John Hopcroft: The Almshouses, re-wiring has been done and many alterations have been made in the last couple of years, he said that the building was in a good state of repair. There is a meeting, although not a public one, of the Trustees on Tuesday 16th May at Mr Drummond's home. The accounts are published in the Bernwode News annually.

District Councillor Michael Rand **Apart from planning and enforcement** AVDC have many other statutory duties.

Just to outline of some:

The Council has **nomination rights to all social housing in the Vale.**

There are approximately 12000 social homes shared between 42 Housing Associations.

The greatest number (7250) is with the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VHAT) which, of course, was formed when AVDC transferred its housing stock to the Trust.

Over the last few years, an average of two to three hundred houses has been added to the total each year. The includes 12 Rural Affordable Housing Schemes. To be precise, 243 houses have been added to the social housing total this year. Unfortunately, the housing waiting-list of people eligible for housing with local connections is standing at 2448, at the moment, and it is thought it will increase over the next few years. In my opinion, this highlights the difficulties for first-time buyers starting on the housing ladder.

AVDC's Licensing Department has many responsibilities;

The Licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles, animal welfare, pubs and clubs, scrap metal sites and the licensing of scrap dealer collectors.

The licensing of tattoo and acupuncture parlours, charitable street collectors, and the gambling act which covers betting shops.

Environmental health which includes the 'scores on the doors' for food outlets.

As I have reported before, the main District Council everyday statutory duty, is the collection of waste and recyclables. The Council is in the process of purchasing 28 new wagons. The existing ones are at least 6 years old and have become expensive to repair and maintain. The new ones will be more environmentally friendly and efficient. They will come at a cost of £3.8 million. The cost of the waste collection, per household, is 60p per week. While the average Band D Council Tax is now £2.77 per week.

VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan)

The final Plan will be out for its final consultation on 26th July. This will follow it being presented to the Council's Scrutiny Committee on the 11th July. the Cabinet on the 12th July and the Full Council on the 19th July. Unfortunately in the Government's White Paper, which was published a couple of months ago, it stated there would be a new formula for calculating housing numbers. The revised formula was not included within the Paper and it is understood that it will be published sometime in the future. There will, therefore, be a caveat in the Plan for any revision that may occur in the housing numbers to be adjusted in about three year's time.

Enforcement:

It is acknowledged that enforcement issues are a main concern with all Parishes. It is proposed, therefore, that a monthly detailed report will be made and circulated to all Parishes which will include all actions being taken and the detailed reasons for the various actions that are being taken.

"My Account"

At the moment, a My Account is available to be set up by individuals of the Vale with the Council. It is proposed that a My Account will be available to be set up by each Parish Clerk. This will enable the Clerk to ask questions of all fields of concern by entering into the account and this will be dealt with by a member of staff who will direct each question to the department and Officer for answer and action and a reply will be made direct, or will be posted in the My Account.

The meeting was closed at 8.07