

Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held in Lower Moor Village Hall on

Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs M. Yarnold (Chair), P. Jeanes, Mrs A. Jeanes, D. Saunders, T. Betteridge, Mrs P. Stone and S. Vaughan

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; County and District Cllr L. Tucker, 13 residents including members of local organisations.

1. Apologies: There were none.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2017: The minutes of the meeting on the 11th May 2017 were agreed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr Yarnold welcomed those present to the meeting and gave his report for the year, which is attached to these minutes.

4. District and County Councillor's Annual Report

Cllr Tucker reported that Hill and Moor Meadows had been given planning permission although there appeared to be additional caravans at the site. The District Council could issue a Breach of Condition notice if necessary. With regard to the smell from the ditch, the District Council was deliberating over whether this was classed as pollution or a statutory nuisance.

She reported that the Wyre Bridge barrier had been damaged again but a car number plate had been recorded on CCTV, so there might be progress made in due course. Cllr Tucker had put forward some of her Divisional Fund for the repair.

She reported that a consultation on potential traveller sites had finished yesterday and the resulting policy was expected in 2019. This would need to be put in place to prevent speculative applications which would otherwise succeed on appeal even if they were refused by planning.

Highways: Improvements to the Pinvin cross junction were under discussion and plans for the Northern Link road were progressing.

There had been no increase in Council Tax from Wychavon. Savings had been made by combining services with MHDC. However, the County Council was struggling financially, with Adult Social Care costs increasing year on year. Children's Services had also had a challenging year; the Ofsted inspection had been critical and the County Council had not been allowed to continue to deliver the service. A company was being set up to do this.

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5. Reports from Village Organisations

Village Hall

The Chairman of the Village Hall reported that improvements to the hall continued to be made, with the most recent being the addition of new curtains. The committee was keeping up with repairs and the village hall was well-used locally.

WI

The President of Fladbury and Moor WI reported that the organisation would have its 19th anniversary this year. The group held their meetings in both Fladbury and Lower Moor Village Halls, with the winter ones generally being held at Lower Moor. The July meeting was usually held in a garden. There had been many interesting speakers in the past year, from a speaker from India to a magic cabaret event. The speaker from Bletchley Park had been a highlight as had hearing the adventures of Marcus Mumford who had cycled a world tour on a tandem. The group welcomed new members.

Church

Mrs Martin reported that St Thomas's was a small friendly church with two services per month. The second Sunday of the month was Holy Communion and was taken by a minister and on the third Sunday Morning Worship took place taken by a lay minister. New faces were always welcomed and volunteers were needed to help with flowers in the church.

Allotments

Mr Hayes reported that there were 2 acres of pasture land currently available and there were also vacant allotment plots available to rent. The rent was charged March - March and he invited residents to apply for a plot if they wished.

6. Parishioners Open Forum

A resident asked if there was planning permission for static caravans on the caravan site. He thanked Cllr Tucker for her report and the Parish Council for their vigilance and persistence with the planners. Cllr Tucker said that the most recent application put a static on each of the six rear places ('plot 3') and one each on the front and 2nd places. There were some statics on the new site, 8 in total and some tourers but all were approved. Cllr Yarnold noted that it would be helpful if there was a statement or guidance on the optimum number of caravans for a site based on its size. Cllr Tucker had asked planning officers but they had been unable to say definitively how many was too many. On the access to the site, in the past there had been concerns over the access, including when the site had been considered for housing, but highways had recently raised no objection.

A resident asked if there was any information on the proposed houses in Chestnut Close. There had been some activity a few months ago and some digging around the site. Cllr Yarnold said that it appeared to have gone quiet. The most recent proposal had been for 5 houses. There was some speculation that if houses were built at the site, the field behind would be next.

A resident asked if there was a possibility of resurfacing works in Bridge Street. Cllr Tucker said that patching works may be done but it was unlikely that the whole road would be done due to budget constraints.

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A parishioner asked about the ongoing situation with the temporary traffic lights on Station Road. The installation of lights was supposed to be done at a certain point in the development, but the development was taking place regardless. Cllr Tucker said that the enforcement probably hadn't been up to scratch. There was now technical approval for a traffic lights plan that Highways believed would work, and the legal documents were now in progress. They would then need to wait for a suitable occasion for the lights to be installed as this would require a road closure. There was some discussion on whether or not the traffic lights were needed at the junction, which had operated up until now without them. Cllr Tucker replied that there would, in the end, be an additional 800 houses in the vicinity and there was a need to protect the pedestrian traffic going to and from the High School.

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Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Welcome everybody to the Annual Parish meeting. I will try and summarise events of the past year. Your Councillors have had a fairly busy year. We have had a couple of resignations during the year, namely Paddy Hartley and Shirley Roberts. Fortunately, we were able to co-opt replacement Councillors at our meeting on 5th April. Welcome Pat and Simon.

During the last 12 months your Parish Councillors have worked hard on your behalf on a number of matters such as planning issues, consulting with Parishioners on potential schemes for improvements to facilities within the Parish and then taking them forward, putting together a Field day and helping facilitate Moorfest, supporting Hannah Malins and David Bruce in the organisation etc of the Annual Bonfire night, and responding to a number of matters/ concerns raised by individual residents.

Planning

A disproportionate amount of the Parish Council time has been spent on planning applications, particularly Hill and Moor Meadows where we have had to deal with 2 recent applications, one a retrospective application and the other an application for increased pitches. We have struggled to persuade Wychavon about the impact of increasing the number of pitches on the Parish. It would appear that due to Wychavon's failure to meet their requirements regarding the number of pitches within Wychavon they are happy to welcome any application to meet their target on pitches regardless of the impact on local communities. Generally we are very dissatisfied with the performance of Wychavon's Planning Department, particularly its enforcement arm and we are currently seeking a meeting with The Leader of the Council and the Head of planning to let them know that we, and Parishioners, are totally fed up with their performance and lack of empathy towards the views of the community.

In addition to the increased numbers on Hill and Moor Meadows, Wychavon has also agreed to the development of 8 pitches at Duffledown Farm.

You all will no doubt be aware of the development of 11 houses in Blacksmiths Lane. Again, your Councillors have dealt with a number of concerns re the ongoing development with Kendricks.

The Field

Mowing of the field has again been undertaken by Sandfields at no charge to the Parish. They have agreed to continue to do so for the coming year so a very big thank you to them.

In July we had the field day, including Moorfest and the day was enjoyed by many.

The field day helped to raise funds to support the upkeep of the field, the WI provided teas and cakes to raise funds for the local Church and the Village Hall committee ran a Tombola stall to raise money for the Village Hall.

The Moorfest live music event helped swell the numbers for the day and raised hundreds of pounds for Breast Cancer Care, the Artists generously giving their time free of charge.

The Bonfire night was a success and raised sufficient funds to enable a similar event to be proposed for this year. You will recall that in the last newsletter we asked for volunteers to help with this event, I can't emphasise enough that if we are to continue with organising

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events during the course of the year we can only do so if we have the help and active support of Villagers.

In December we were able to purchase a Christmas tree and lights and also facilitate Carols on the Green.

Section 106 and New Homes bonus

Throughout the last 12 months a great deal of work has been undertaken by your Councillors in putting together detailed information and associated costs on a number of schemes, suggested by Parishioners, for spend against monies available through Section 106 and New Homes bonus. An open evening was held on 19th October in order to share with Parishioners more detail and costings on a number of projects. Some 50 Parishioners attended the evening event and completed a form giving their preferences in an order of 1-5. 1 being their first preference etc.

(the preferences in order of popularity were detailed in the Christmas Newsletter).

We are currently finalising the arrangements for the perimeter path around the field, funded in the main by a grant from Severn Waste Services (landfill Communities Fund 2018). In addition to the scheme for the path we are currently putting together a submission for funding of new play equipment, benches and picnic tables and low-level lighting for the path from the car park to the steps opposite the Village Hall. We will keep you informed of progress on these projects in our newsletter and via email for those who have given Jo Adams the Parish Clerk their email addresses.

Other Matters

During the last 12 months we have seen a few changes of personnel at the Chestnut Tree inn but things have settled down since Matt and Tory took on the Pub last October. Matt has also taken over the mantle of organising our participation in the Parish Games. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Darren Selvey for the work he has put in over the years on the Parish Games.

Some modest improvements were made to the local bus service after a lot of lobbying by our District Councillor, Liz Tucker and we now have a two hourly bus service from Lower Moor to Evesham, Pershore and Worcester.

On a sadder note Michael Martin sadly died on November 17th. Michael worked tirelessly on behalf of the Parish over a number of years having been Chair of the Parish Council, Chair of the Village Hall Committee and Church warden at St, Thomas' Church, Lower Moor. Your Council agreed at a recent meeting to have a plaque on one of the new benches in memory of Michael.

We are now the proud owners of the Phone Box which has now been decommissioned and we are hoping to use it as an information centre showing a map of the village.

Finally I would like to place on record my gratitude to my fellow Councillors for all their hard work over the last 12 months, Liz Tucker for all the support she has given to the Parish again and not least to Jo Adams our Parish Clerk who works tirelessly on our behalf and does her utmost in keeping us on track.

Thankyou.

Cllr Mike Yarnold