

# Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Carole Hirst      Address: 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY13 0AL  
Email: [clerk@hillandmoorpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hillandmoorpc.org.uk)

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7pm at Lower Moor Village Hall

Present: (Chair), Cllr. T Betteridge (Chair) , Cllr. Mr P. Jeanes, Cllr. Mrs A. Jeanes, Cllr. K. Andrews and Cllr. D. Nuttall

Also present: C Hirst - Clerk; District Cllr L. Tucker; Worcestershire County Councillor Cllr. Boatright  
19 residents.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr. Stone
- 2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** The minutes of the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were agreed as a true record.
- 3. Chairman's Annual Report:** Cllr Betteridge

Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish meeting. As Chair I have the job of presenting the Parish Council's Annual Report to the meeting.

This time last year we were making plans to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and sadly only a couple of months later we saw the sad passing of this Country's longest reigning monarch. We now have a King and, for the first time for most of us, we have been able to witness the spectacle of a coronation which took place last weekend. To celebrate this a village tea party was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May and I would like to thank Councillor Pat Stone for organising this.

New planning applications can often be very contentious in a small community such as ours and currently we are waiting on the outcome of two large applications in the village. One for 56 affordable homes off Salters Lane and another for a mixed development of 31 homes adjacent to the Hill and Moor Meadows Gypsy Site. The Parish Council will always submit a response to Wychavon District Council on any planning applications made, but I would like to remind everyone that this counts neither more nor less than any individual's comments and it is therefore vital that if you have any views either for or against an application, you submit these yourself within the consultation period. It is very much a numbers game so the more comments that are received on an application the greater the chance there is of the Planning Committee taking your views into account.

A further planning matter is the proposal to build a new town of up to 6,000 houses at Throckmorton together with associated infrastructure. As you know the Parish Council are strongly against this and our formal objection has now been submitted. I would like to give my thanks to everyone that contributed to this and the many residents who also submitted their own comments. In particular I would like to thank Councillors Paul Jeanes and David Nuttall for their work on this. The next stage is that the proposals will be assessed by the Planning Inspector. This may take up to 12 months but as soon as we hear anything further, we will let you know.

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We continue to receive many compliments from residents about the excellent condition of the playing field, which has become a real asset to the community. In particular here I would like to thank our team of volunteer mowers who keep the field in such excellent condition. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their support in the last 12 months and issue a reminder that we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor should anyone be interested.

My thanks also to Liz Tucker, our District Councillor, and Dan Boatright our, County Councillor, for all the work they have undertaken for the Parish and last but not least to Carole Hirst, our new Parish Clerk, for all the support she gives us.

#### **4. District and County Councillor's Annual Report: District Cllr Tucker report**

Another busy year at Wychavon. Throughout the year I have served on the Audit Committee (money) and on the Rural Advisory Panel (Vital Villages, Broadband, AgroTec, rural transport, rural housing.... ) but the largest part of my time has been taken up by planning issues and the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review.

Wychavon continues to experience a high turnover of planning staff and difficulties recruiting replacements. Wychavon and Malvern Hills planning departments have been joined into a single team led from Malvern Hills. The potential loss of local knowledge concerns me. The new Head of Planning Gayle Wootton joined in April. Wychavon does not have a five year land supply which means planning appeals for housing are less more likely to be approved. The SWDPR consultation submissions sent in before Christmas are still being analysed at Wychavon prior to sending to the Planning Inspectorate in the summer and we don't know when an Inspector will be appointed, and a date given for the Examination in Public. After that the Inspectors report will be published some months later. Last year I reported to you that Wychavon has a strong 5-year land supply, but unfortunately it transpires that the early delivery of planning permissions could not be included in the calculation and so we have a serious shortfall.

Throckmorton New Town for 2,000 houses up to 2041 plus town centre and a further 3,000 to follow (making it bigger than Pershore) is a long-term threat to suburbanise our villages into greater Pershore. This was only shown as a circle and a star on the airfield for the initial sites consultation, yet we know that there has been continuous development of the council's "vision" of this town and close working with landowners. It will totally change the wider area but local councils and residents have been shut out by confidentiality rules.

Wychavon continues to bring the two administrations of Malvern Hills and itself closer together. This provides economies but to my mind loses Wychavon its previous inventive edge. The two councils retain their independent political structures but there is now a single joint senior management team and many shared officers.

Recently the two planning departments have been joined into a single team. The potential loss of local knowledge concerns me. Planning staff turnover and recruitment is already a real problem.

In February Wychavon froze its council tax for another year again. I am disappointed that it hasn't used its ample reserves to invest further in carbon reduction for the leisure centres and for helping more homes reduce their omission.

Who knows what the coming year and newly elected council will bring? Fingers crossed.

County Cllr D. Boatright had sent apologies.

#### **5. Reports from Village Organisations**

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## St Thomas' Church

Cllr Jeanes presented the report from St Thomas' Church on behalf of Mrs Martin report is attached to these minutes.

Saint Thomas is a Chapel of ease built many years ago for the villagers. It is a welcoming and friendly place to visit. Stay awhile in the peaceful atmosphere. We do not have many services now as we used to, we are allowed four per year. Last year we had Harvest, Remembrance, Easter plus one evening service.

We have been very lucky with volunteers up to now to open and close the church each day, cut the grass and to keep the garden nice.

I would like to thank the parish council for looking after the two tubs of flowers outside the gate. The old tubs were rotten and have been removed. I have bought two new tubs and compost. I wondered if the parish council would be kind enough to pay for one of them. The cost was £32 for both the new ones, this would be very much appreciated. As we are not allowed many services these days, it would be great to have the support of the village to the services we do have, hopefully to keep St Thomas as a working and welcoming place to visit. We are open for suggestions of the type of services you would be interested in.

## Village Hall and Events Group

Cllr Pat Stone

We started 2022 with a healthy bank balance after all the repairs and renovations to the hall were complete. This was largely due to the two 'Covid' grants we received from Wychavon Council.

Throughout the year we continued with our regular bookings including the Post Office twice a week. This actually costs the hall money as the fee paid is £5 per session, which does not cover the heating bill, but it is considered a major benefit to the village. Sadly, the bridge club has not felt able to return after the pandemic and consequently we have lost a major income.

We had the annual Family Day on the field in June where we raised over £600 for local charities. This was funded by grants from Wychavon. This year's event will be on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July and promises to be bigger and better than last year!

In November we had our annual bonfire & fireworks display which was a great success and raised approx. £2000 for this year's event. This will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

In December we held our usual 'Carols on the Green' evening supported by the Salvation Army Band (where all donations went). This was followed by tea, coffee & mulled wine in the hall together with mince pies and sausage rolls. We will be holding this again this year, probably on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

After my appeal for help I am very pleased to say that the committee is now at full strength with promises of help to hold village events to raise funds for the hall. Details will be in the Village Newsletter, on Facebook, via the Parish email and on the notice boards.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May we held a Coronation Tea Party to celebrate our new king. I am pleased to say we had a really good turn out with the hall filled with people in their red, white and blue outfits and more cake and Prosecco than was probably good for us! This was again funded by a Coronation grant from Wychavon. I hope this will be the first of many fun events using our lovely hall.

Sadly, our Treasurer Richard Smith passed away suddenly in April. He was a long standing member of the Hall committee, largely running it single-handedly for several years. On behalf of the committee, I send condolences to his family, he will be greatly missed.

This obviously leaves a position vacant on the Hall committee and if anyone feels they could step in I would be very grateful to hear from you.

## Allotments

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Mr Hayes had sent apologies but had sent a report which is attached to these minutes.  
Over the past couple of years, the allotments rented out have increased now to the point where 8 out of the 10 plots available are now occupied.

The remaining 2 plots are not in the best condition and if anyone was to want them there would be quite a big job to clear the brambles.

The price is still £20 for the first year to include a registration fee and then £15 pa thereafter.

## **6. Parishioners Open Forum**

