

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 9 June 2014
at 7.30 p.m.
at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall



Attending: Cllrs W Mack, D Thomas, G Vernon, Mrs J Fox, Mrs P Pardoe, Mr R Pugh
M Page

Guests: Mrs Sylvia Beardshaw, Mr Stephen Ashton

Apologies: Cllrs B Green, L Stockford, S Williams

1. The Chairman, Cllr W Mack welcomed residents and visitors to the meeting, introduced Parish Councillors who had been recently elected and thanked Sarah Pritchard and Martin Walford for their services as councillors over the last few years. It was noted that there was a vacancy for one further councillor and applications for co-option were invited. The chairman thanked our local contractors, Bill Waldron, Ben Matthews, Geoffrey Holding and Don Robbins for their work during the year. The clerk's work on the Neighbourhood Plan was acknowledged.

The Parish Council were working with the potential purchaser of the old school site and the Trustees, to realise the aspirations contained in the Neighbourhood Plan, but were not yet in a position to give further information.

2. **Boys on Board** – Sylvia Beardshaw gave an interesting talk on the book produced by the Historical Society which gave a brief overview of the people from the village who were involved in the first World War, many of whom did not return. There were still a few copies available and a reprint had been ordered.
3. **Superfast Broadband** – Stephen Ashton of Worcestershire County Council said that their target was to connect 90% of households and businesses by 2016. A contract had been awarded to BT in August 2013 which would provide a further 55,000 premises with access to superfast broadband. 330 new fibre cabinets would be installed and 69 exchanges converted. Parts of Chaddesley would be connected by the end of 2014 and residents would need to change their broadband contracts to take up this service. To see when you might receive the service visit www.superfastworcestershire.com and enter your postcode.
4. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** - Dave Thomas said that the NP was now complete and was currently being reviewed by an External Examiner, whose report was due by 18 June. Subject to that report a Referendum would be held in September with formal adoption by the District Council in November 2014. The date of the Referendum would be announced shortly and would follow normal election procedures with polling cards distributed to all voters in the Parish. Votes could be cast in person at the polling station or by registering for a postal vote now. The NP had already reached the stage where Wyre Forest Planners are referring to it when reviewing planning applications. Formal adoption will mean that the NP is the primary reference document for deciding on any proposals in the Parish.

Traffic and Parking in the Village – As well as Planning Policies, the NP has set out several priorities for action, such as addressing the problems of parking, congestion and speeding. A feasibility study has been commissioned to look at possible solutions and the working group is discussing these with the consultant at present. Initial discussions include removing the central white lines through the village, installing fencing or other visual cues at the entrances to our settlements and carrying out trials using flashing speed signs to reduce speeds before entering the village. As part of a range of measures aimed at

easing the pressure on on-street parking, it has been agreed with the Talbot that the rear of their car park can be used for visitor parking and appropriate signage will be installed. New signs have already been installed in the village. Whilst it is unlikely that any single measure will solve the problems, it is hoped that residents will support individual measures taken to improve the situation.

5. **Neighbourhood Watch** – Janet Fox urged residents to report all incidents to the police using the 101 number, or by ringing Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.
6. **Rural Footpaths** – Will Mack thanked his wife for her work as Footpaths Officer and Geoffrey Holding for his maintenance work on the footpaths. £4,000 had been spent by the Parish Council last year, with a grant of £500 from the County Council. Outlying areas of the parish including Drayton, Harvington, Lower Chaddesley, Woodrow had been targeted last year. Some stiles were being replaced with kissing gates to provide easier access.
7. **Lengthsman Scheme** – Thanks were extended to Bill Waldron for his excellent work during the year which had included drainage work, for which we had received a grant of £1000. Further drainage problems would be tackled this year.

Ben Matthews had carried out routine maintenance of bus shelters and phone boxes, as well as keeping the village street clean and tidy.

8. **Burial Ground** – Geoff Vernon reported that there had been 5 burials this year and for the first time a loss had been made. The grant from the District Council would cease next year so further losses could be expected in the coming years. The work of Don Robbins on maintaining the burial ground was acknowledged. A health and safety inspection of headstones has revealed a number which are unsafe and need ground anchoring. Many of these are early burials with a 50 year lease which has expired, which means that they are now the responsibility of the parish council. Councillors are carrying out their own survey and will decide how to deal with this problem in the near future.
9. **Open Session**
9. Sean Tate wanted to promote the recreational activities available by Pump It Up to the local young people. It was suggested he should advertise in the Parish Magazine and talk to the organisers of the Sports Club. A working group was working on providing additional facilities for the parish as an initiative of the Neighbourhood Plan.
10. Elizabeth Mountford had brought two new maps for residents to see which showed the parish as it was in 1745 and 1838.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. and was followed by refreshments.