

WELLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held at the Community Centre
at 7.30pm on Monday 18th April 2016

<u>Item</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Action</u>
	<p>Present</p> <p>Parish: Mrs L Langford (Vice Chair), Mr S Crane, Mrs C Bucknell (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Pauline Crockett. Also in attendance: 22 members of the public.</p> <p>1.0 To Accept Apologies for Absence – David Wood, Ron and Jennifer Shoesmith, Barry Cobbett.</p> <p>2.0 To Adopt the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 30th April 2015 Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed and signed by the Vice Chair</p> <p>3.0 To Receive the Chairman’s Report Jenni Gowan, Chair of the Parish Council, had resigned with effect from 12th April 2016 but had prepared a report which the Vice Chairman read out in full.</p> <p>In brief: The past year has been a year for complex planning applications, including the anaerobic digester at Haywards Lane and the two solar farms, all of which were refused. There was also the application for 45 homes at Mill Lane which was refused, the Wellington Neighbourhood Development Plan being cited in the planning decision. These, and the proposed caravan site at Upper Buskwood Farm were out of the ordinary and challenging in varying degrees and the Chair felt that the Parish Council had learned a lot which would stand them in good stead for future applications.</p> <p>The Chair then outlined the year’s major piece of work, the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the vision for Wellington up to 2031, thanking in particular Cllrs Langford and Shoesmith, along with the Clerk and parishioners Mike Lyke, Nigel Cooper and Kay Holt for all their help and support. The plan had now passed the examination stage and would go to referendum on 7th July.</p> <p>The Chair went on to report on work that had been done on local roads thanking in particular Phil Pankhurst from Balfour Beatty and Cllr Crane for his work on drainage issues and footpaths.</p> <p>The Chair finished by thanking all Councillors and the Clerk for all their hard work over the past year, saying that she had found being a Parish Councillor hard work at times but immensely rewarding, encouraging others to consider joining the Parish Council so that it could continue the many projects and initiatives that had so benefitted the local community over the past year.</p> <p>A full copy of the Chairman’s Report will accompany the minutes and will be placed on the website.</p> <p>4.0 To receive Brief reports from: 4.1 Wellington Charities The Vice Chair read out the report which was also available to those present.</p> <p>5.0 Presentation from Herefordshire Wildlife Trust on Queenswood Country Park and Bodenham Lakes John Clark gave a presentation on the current and future plans for Queenswood and Bodenham Lakes which had been transferred from Herefordshire Council to the newly formed Community Interest Company on 14th March 2016 on a 99 year lease. John spoke about the wildlife on the site and how important it was to protect this and the woodland for future generations.</p> <p>The Friends of Queenswood initiative which would cost £3.33 per month, was discussed. This would</p>	

give unlimited parking along with various discounts and free entry to activities

The new staffing arrangements were outlined with Rachel Hicks (from Just Rachel) taking over as Visitor Experience Manager. The Visitor Centre was being refurbished and would promote a range of local food and craft items.

Various activities had been planned over the coming months with John mentioning the Gruffalo Trail in particular which was designed to help young people better understand native woodland whilst enjoying a range of sculptures made by local artists.

John also covered the Governance and Management structure saying that volunteers and input from the Parish Council would be welcome.

6.0 Community Led Plan Implementation

Where we are and Where are we going?

Jennifer Jarrett, Chair of the CLP Implementation Group gave an update on the various activities which had come out of the CLP, explaining what had already happened and plans for the future, saying that the formation of the Implementation Group, which brought together the Parish Council, CLP volunteers and the community had brought great benefit.

She was particularly pleased about the progress made on the Playground Initiative, which would now be progressed under the auspices of the Community Association. Jennifer paid tribute to the various volunteers that had helped to make the aspirations of the Community Led Plan a reality, in particular the many 'unsung heroes' that had worked behind the scenes.

7.0 Questions from the General Public

There were no further questions. One member of the public paid tribute to the work and commitment that Jenni Gowan had put into the Parish Council over the years, talking about her sterling work and how this had benefitted the community as a whole.

There were various displays showcasing the Community Led Plan and the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the public were encouraged to look around these and to talk to the members of the CLP and NDP Steering Group, whilst enjoying light refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed Date
Chairman of Wellington Parish Council