

Minutes
of the
Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 18 May 2015
at 7:30 p.m.



Attending: Cllrs W Mack, Mrs J Fox, Mrs P Pardoe, L Stockford, D Thomas, Jim Wright, S Williams, M Page. District Cllr I Hardiman.
Police: Superintendent A Franklin-Smith, Sergeant N Jarvis
Mr S Hinsley – Severn Trent Water plc
32 members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs B Green, G Vernon, R Pugh

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Cllr W Mack introduced members of the Parish Council and thanked everyone for attending. Cllr I Hardiman reported that Cllrs S Williams, M Hart and himself had been appointed as District Councillors for the new Rural Ward of Wyre Forest, which consisted of 6 Parish Councils. It was their intention that at least one of them would attend every Parish Council meeting.

2. **POLICE**

Superintendent Alex Franklin-Smith had recently been appointed to North Worcestershire under the new Warwickshire and West Mercia strategic alliance, which consisted of Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch. Safe Neighbourhood Partnership Teams would continue and for Chaddesley Corbett contacts were Sgt Neil Jarvis, PC Sarah Brookes, PCSO Becky Rushton and Rebecca Ruston.

A report had been commissioned which suggested that public safety was a priority; this includes missing persons, safety and welfare, technology crime and rural crime. When questioned on police priorities in rural areas they were presence and communication. When asked why they had not responded to a call to 101 when a burglar alarm was triggered, they said it depended on the circumstances at the time and who was available to respond. It was stressed that the police needed information from the public and all incidents however small should be reported and a crime number issued.

The mobile caravan had visited Chaddesley to carry out property marking and it was suggested that we would need at least one month's notice to advertise the event in the Parish Magazine and on notice boards. Chaddesley Corbett is a low crime area.

3. **SEVERN TRENT WATER**

Simon Hinsley gave a presentation on the need for a new water supply for Birmingham. The old Victorian pipeline runs from the Elan Valley in Wales to Birmingham and is need of repair. It is not intended to replace this pipeline, but to provide an alternative source of water for Birmingham for several months of each year so that essential repairs can be undertaken on the Victorian pipeline. It is proposed that water will be extracted from the River Severn at Stourport through a new pipeline to cross Chaddesley Corbett on its way to the Frankley Pumping Station. This new pipeline would be used during the winter months when the water level in the River Severn was at its highest. Two alternative routes were being considered and soil tests were currently being undertaken. When this work was complete a further consultation would take place on the preferred route. It was expected that the project would be completed by 2020. When asked how the pipeline would cross the A448, there were two options, a tunnel under the road or closing half of the road at a time during the construction works. Any footpaths affected would be diverted or closed temporarily.

4. **TRAFFIC FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Cllr Dave Thomas gave a short presentation which highlighted the main problems we were trying to solve. Initial discussions had taken place with WCC Highways in November 2013 and there was general support for new signs at Village entrances, replacing 'Keep Clear' boxes with double yellow lines and more effective passing points. A Consultant was appointed in January 2014 and the Consultants' final report was delivered in September 2014. With the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan in September 2014, a Public Consultation was completed in March 2015 and final proposals approved by Parish Council in April 2015. The main objectives were:

- No reduction in parking places
- No driving on footpaths
- Passing points that work
- Improved safety for pedestrians
- Improved visibility
- People can still park close to the shops

Proposals include:

Anti-speeding measures:

- Flashing signs (move around key locations)
- Gateway signs and planters as visual cues
- White lines to visually narrow the bridge
- Removal of centre lines
- Changed colour of road surface in Conservation Area
- re-engineered junction with A448

Anti-Congestion measures:

- Re-locate double yellows from Beams End to opposite Swan
- Replace 'Keep Clear' boxes with double yellows

The Consultant's report with suggested amendments as a result of the recent consultation had been submitted to Worcestershire County Council and it was expected that a meeting would take place in June 2015.

5. **BROADBAND**

Current broadband speeds should be around 12.5 mbts and superfast broadband should be achieved up to 24 mbts, compared with 52 in most areas and up to 100 mbts in London. However you are unlikely to get this speed if you are a mile and a half away from the cabinet/exchange, but we can expect higher download speeds than at present. The conversion programme has been rolling out and Cabinet 2 at Mustow Green is now live. Cabinet 3 at the top of Fox Lane should be live in April 2016, Cabinet 4 is new to upgrade the Chaddesley exchange and should be live in September 2016 and Cabinet at Bluntington, which had not previously been included in the programme should be live by 2018. All the Parish Council could do is keep the pressure on the provider and the County Council and provide feed-back on results achieved and any dissatisfaction. Businesses were particularly badly hit and should be prioritised. Residents were reminded to change their broadband contracts as soon as the service becomes available in their area.

A discussion also took place on mobile telephone reception black spots around the village and it was suggested that a working group should be set up to review this.

6. **BURIAL GROUND**

Cllr Steve Williams reported that the Parish Council had acquired a piece of land on the old school site for an extension to the existing burial ground. Currently there are six plots on the old site still available which it was estimated would last another 2 years. St Cassian's burial ground was also open for a limited number of burials. During construction works on the old school site, the land would be used to facilitate the contractors equipment, after which it would be levelled and fenced by A & J Construction. Part of the strip of land would be used for burials and some additional land would be landscaped to provide a community facility with benches and flowers etc.

7. **LIBERTEAS PICNIC – SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2015**

In common with other communities across the UK, a LiberTeas informal Picnic would be held on the Community Orchard from 2:00 pm, to create a simultaneous celebration of our freedoms and rights to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. Residents were invited to come along with their families, bring their own food and drink, and enjoy a social afternoon with other members of the community.

8 **QUESTION TIME**

8.1 A resident from Harvington asked what could be done to slow down the traffic and number of vehicles using Harvington Hall Lane as a rat run. Cllr D Thomas said that this had been discussed with Highways, the police and the County Council at the highest level and it had been agreed that some of the problem was traffic congestion at Mustow Green. Long term plans included improvements on the A448 strategic corridor between Wyre Forest towns and Bromsgrove to the M42, which included Mustow Green. The investment strategy for these improvements is currently being considered for inclusion in the forthcoming refresh of the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan, to resolve access issues between the motorway and Wyre Forest towns. Once a robust investment strategy has been identified, appropriate funding mechanisms would then be explored to bring forward delivery. Details of such proposals are not known at this time but Parish Council comments and concerns had been noted.

8.2 A resident from the Village asked whether improvements proposed for the village might increase the amount and speed of traffic through the village. Cllr Dave Thomas said that obviously that was not the intention, but hopefully the proposed changes should slow down traffic.

8.3 A resident asked whether the current arrangement to allow employees of businesses to park on the allotment facility would continue. Cllr William Mack said there were no plans to change the current arrangements.

8.4 A resident asked where Marston's, the owners of the Talbot Inn, could be asked to maintain the building which is a Grade II Listed property. The clerk said that they had already been approached and were sending a surveyor to the property this week followed by a gardener who would maintain the grounds in future. The Parish Council had recently removed grass and debris from the front of the building in the interim.

8.5 A resident asked what was happening with regard to the village shop and post office. Cllr Jim Wright said that a Working Group had been set up to monitor the situation and a meeting had taken place with the current tenants. However, as this matter was a commercial one between several parties, and the Parish Council could not get involved. The Post Office was required to consult with the parish council and the public if any changes to the service were proposed and the Parish Council would then strongly support the retention of the Post Office in its current location. The Post Office had stated that no post office facility would be completely withdrawn from the parish.

8.6 Questions arose about the excessive number of advertising signs around the parish, particularly on the A448. Cllr Dave Thomas stated that the Neighbourhood Plan contained a policy to control the number of advertising signs but it was very difficult to enforce as many of them were permitted under present regulations. Infringements were being reported to the District Council who were responsible for enforcing compliance.

9. **CLOSING REMARKS**

It had been a lively meeting and Cllr William Mack thanked everyone for attending and invited them to partake of some refreshments, which was also very successful. The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.