

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 20 May 2013
at 7.30 p.m.
at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall



Attending: Cllrs W Mack, D Thomas, B Green, G Vernon, Mrs J Fox,

Guests: West Mercia Police Commissioner Mr B Longmore

Apologies: Cllr Mrs P Pardoe

1. The Chairman, Cllr W Mack welcomed residents and visitors to the meeting and introduced the new Parish Councillors, Mrs S Pritchard and M Page.

1.1 **Precept**

The Chairman explained that because the number of properties paying council tax had reduced, this had resulted in a slight increase in the amount each individual property had to pay in order to retain the Parish Council precept at the same level. We spend this on footpaths, Lengthsman, grass cutting, burial ground, etc. It was noted that the Precept had not changed over the last 7 years. The amount of precept for Band D properties is £32.71 per annum.

1.2 Parish Council elections would be held in May 2014 and residents were invited to apply.

1.3 The Chairman thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their work over the last 12 months.

2. **West Mercia Police Commissioner**

Bill Longmore introduced himself and commented on the friendly reception he had received when visiting Chaddesley Corbett village recently. Mr Longmore said he had decided at the very last minute to stand for election as a Police Commissioner and was duly elected. He said he was good with people and could negotiate with Police Chief Officers on behalf of the people. The area he covered was about 110 miles from top to bottom, and he was doing the best he could to visit the whole area. He would like the police to be more visible and more involved in local issues, with a quick response when needed. Patrol cars are fitted with the latest computers to enable the control centre to know exactly where officers were and how quickly they could respond. A new Police Policy would be issued in September and rural parishes should be better off with more stability. Changes will have to be made, and he wanted communities and the police to work together. There were currently 85,000 people in prison and a large percentage of these reoffended when released. More emphasis would be placed on youth rehabilitation. Neighbourhood Watch is important to help reduce rural crime and make everyone safe.

Answering questions from the public Mr Longmore said he had no plans to appoint a Junior representative; the alliance with other police forces in the Midlands was working well and he had no political will to merge police services.

3. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Mrs Janet Fox reminded residents that all non-urgent incidents should be reported to the police using the 101 telephone number. Residents wishing to receive the regular police 'Alerts' should register with her or the clerk. Anonymous information could be given to Crime Stoppers which is an independent charitable organisation.

4. **Neighbourhood Plan – Survey Results**

Cllr Mr Dave Thomas gave a presentation with highlights from the recent questionnaire:

- 30% returned from residents, 20 businesses and 30 employees. Responses from all areas of the parish.
- Most like – rural location, facilities, community spirit
- Least like – congestion, parking, driving on pavement, speeding, poor road maintenance
- Ideas with most support – design principles that sustain rural setting, tourism and farmers markets, old grammar school as a community resource, facilities for children and young people, car park, smaller mixed housing types, uses for old school site, public green space.

Other ideas supported

- Landscaping to influence driver behaviour
- Control of unsightly advertising signs
- Use of Right to Bid
- Wider facilities at the Sports Club
- Timetable extended to Referendum July/August 2014.
- Launch of new Neighbourhood Plan web site on www.chaddesleyplan.org.uk/

5. **Rural Footpath Maintenance**

Cllr William Mack introduced the Footpaths Warden, Tina Mack, and gave details of some of the work carried out over the last 12 months. A programme of work had been prepared for the coming year which included a gradual replacement of stiles with kissing gates and new signage. Work would be carried out by our contractor, Geoffrey Holding.

6. **Litter Collection**

Negotiations were in progress to take over litter collection from the district council and it was suggested that residents might like to participate in a Litter Picking day to coincide with the August Fete.

7. **Parish Council Burial Ground**

Cllr Geoff Vernon gave a presentation of the history and operation of the Parish Council burial ground and it was noted that volunteer Mrs Lynn Jeffs and the clerk undertook the day to day administration. Since opening in in the 1950's, 445 burials and 15 internment of cremated remains had taken place. Currently there are 9 plots available on the site and room for an additional area for cremated remains. It is proposed to purchase land from the Education Trust to extend the burial ground and to introduce sensitive landscaping features. We are required to text headstones for safety every year.

8. **Lengthsman Scheme**

Cllr Bob Green thanked Ben Mathews for his work for the parish in the last year. When the lengthsman's contract came up for renewal this year it was agreed to re-appoint Bill Waldron due to his extensive knowledge of the local area. To retain Ben's involvement a schedule of general maintenance work has been prepared, to include sweeping pavements, cleaning telephone boxes and bus shelters, snow clearance, etc. So we now have two contractors to keep our parish tidy and flood free.

9. **Open Session**

- Proposals for redevelopment of the old school site were not available but the Parish Council was working with Trustees.
- Residents should be encouraged to support demand for superfast Broadband.
- Redevelopment of the old garage site on the Green had left residents with insufficient parking. It was noted that plans had been incorporated into the scheme to provide additional parking space in this area and this would be followed up.
- Cleaning of the new bus shelter was discussed.

