

**Minutes of the
Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Monday 16 May 2011
at 7.30 p.m.**



Attending: Cllrs J Swift, K Bartlett, L Stockford, R Pugh, B Green, D Thomas, Mrs J Fox, Mrs P Pardoe. Guest Speakers: Mr Colin Emeny (Chairman School Governors), Mr N Potter (Rural Enabler), Mrs Sally Horne (Wyre Forest District Council), Mr Vince Taylor (Community Transport), Mrs Hilary Boden, Mr Tom Westley, Mr John Duddington (National Association of Local Councils), Mrs Jenni Muturi (Worcestershire Area CALC). More than 50 residents also attended.

Apologies: Cllrs M Walford, G Vernon, W Mack

1. The Chairman, Jonathan Swift, welcomed residents and friends and thanked his Council colleagues and the clerk for their service to the community and to the Parish Council during the past year. He also thanked Stephen Williams for his sustained service to the Parish in his continuing role as a District Councillor.

Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council is formally recognised and qualified as a Quality Parish Council and during the past year has successfully reapplied for that recognition. This Quality Status grows ever more important as the responsibility for additional burdens increases.

Much of the Parish Council work understandably concentrates on issues which cause irritation for many residents: subjects which feature at meetings and our brief reports will give you some of the high and low points.

- School Flashing Lights
- The new School development
- The Road Speed changes along the A448
- Bus Service
- Parking and car parks
- Planning

Other subjects are hopefully less controversial

Neighbourhood Watch	Environment Group
Community Orchard	Allotments
Precept	Burial Ground
Lengthsman Scheme	Affordable Housing
Emergency Planning	Parish Notice Boards
Young People programme	Parish Games
Localism	The Big Society

Council members play an active part in the work of other organisations on behalf of the community and will continue to participate in the widest range on behalf of residents and their contribution to the local economy.

- CALC
- The Village Hall
- The Education Foundation Trust
- The Community Housing Group
- CPRE

- Neighbourhood Watch
- District and County Councils
- CC Parish Forum
- WF DC Meeting of Town & Parish C Chairmen.
- WF DC Ethics & Standards Committee
- Highways Agency
- County Council Parish Conference
- Wyre Forest Matters Partnership

Throughout we have re-doubled our efforts to communicate widely without dramatically increasing the cost. We started an initiative to construct a greater awareness of the recreational opportunities for young people. We have retained the same level Precept for a third successive year.

Mr John Duddington of the National Association of Local Councils presented the Parish Council with a Certificate after they had successfully qualified for Quality Parish Status for a second period of four years.

2. Colin Emeny Chairman of the School Governors reported that funding for the new school project was now secure and negotiations for purchase of the land were in their final stages, with one or two issues still to be overcome. The project would shortly go for planning approval and it was hoped that the new school would be open for business by September 2012.

The outline designs provided more space for classrooms with an outside play area for each, an assembly hall, a library, staff room, meeting rooms and playgrounds. The aim is to provide a sustainable approach to design, construction and environmental servicing, incorporating sustainable technologies and utilising renewable energy, especially heating and lighting. By carefully selecting construction materials and techniques to minimise heat loss, with roofs over the classrooms using Sedum matting which will be visually unobtrusive and beneficial to wild life., the design will maximise the natural ventilation techniques of cross ventilation or stack effect through the use of wind driven stacks. Landscaping will offer a variety of settings for children's leisure, learning and sport that is welcoming, safe and secure ideally suited to meet the needs of the curriculum. The proposed plants and trees are appropriate for the rural setting and of native provenance. The new school will provide a high quality learning environment designed to develop successful individuals.

3. Cllr Jonathan Swift reported on the new The Localism Bill and how it is likely to affect Parish Councils. The proposals included:-
 - General power of competence – new powers to give local authorities legal capacity to do anything that an individual could do, which is not specifically banned by other law. Will give more freedom to work with others in new ways to drive down costs and be more creative and innovative.
 - Abolition of Standards Board – local authorities will run their own schemes.
 - Predetermination – Councillors must come to discussions with open mind and should not be liable to legal challenge as a result.
 - Council tax increase referendums – public have power to veto excessive council tax rises.
 - Referendums on other issues – right to put any local issue to a local vote if 5% of the electorate in an area agree.
 - Community right to challenge and bid to take on services – The Big Society.
 - Community Assets – list of assets of community value to be maintained by local authority – communities can nominate assets for inclusion on list and when they come up for sale or change of ownership, community can bid to buy.
 - Abolition of regional strategies – this includes housing targets set by central government.

- Neighbourhood Development Plans – local communities can influence the future of the place where they live.
- Community right to build – local councils can bring forward small developments houses, businesses, shops. Will require 50% support through a referendum.
- Developer Community Consultations – developers must consult local communities before submitting planning applications for large developments.
- Community infrastructure levy – new developments will attract a community levy, payable to the Parish or Town Council.
- Local Plan Reform – greater freedom for local councils.

4. Nigel Potter, Rural Enabler, and Sally Horne – Wyre Forest District Council, gave an update report on the proposal to build four affordable properties on the site of the garages at the Green, Chaddesley Corbett. This had been agreed with the Parish Council and a bid for funding had been prepared as well as a full Planning Application. Questions were raised as to whether four properties were adequate for the need identified in the Housing Needs Survey, and it was accepted that it would not satisfy everyone, but it was a project which could be delivered at a reasonable price. It was anticipated that subject to funding and planning, building could commence towards the end of this year.
5. Cllr Richard Pugh reported that under the leadership of Cllr Martin Walford a working group had been set up to consider ways of identifying with the youth of the parish. There were already a substantial number of groups and organisations which provided educational and recreational facilities and a leaflet showcasing some of these was prepared and distributed to each household. In addition a new Notice Board was erected on Briar Hill in order to promote local services to a wider audience. It was agreed there was no magic solution to anti-social behaviour, but existing Chaddesley Corbett organisations should prepare volunteers to set up and run special events for young people.
6. Cllr Dave Thomas reported on the current consultation on changes to bus services affecting the Parish. As part of a wider programme of efficiency measures the County Council had published a series of proposals for reducing the costs of bus services. The original proposal, to withdraw services on 75% of routes, has now been modified to withdraw only 25 routes, with reductions to the level of service on others. Current proposals include:
 - 133 – withdraw this service
 - X3 – no changes
 - 333 – withdraw early morning and evening services
 - 334 – withdraw this Sunday service

The Parish Council have responded strongly to the two stages of consultation, urging the County Council to give further consideration to retaining at least the 133 service, because of its importance to residents of the Parish. The final outcome is unclear as the consultation closes on 18 May, but it seems likely that some reduction in bus services will happen. It was agreed that we should also seek some sort of Sunday service along the A448. Residents suggested that if the 133 was withdrawn, the X3 should once again be re-routed to come through Harvington, Woodrow and the Village, for two or three times a day.

If valuable bus services are lost, then alternative means of getting residents to local services needs to be considered, which might need additional resources and volunteer drivers.

7. Vince Taylor, Chief Executive of Community Transport Helpline gave details of the charity providing a voluntary car service for people in this area who cannot use public transport on their own, or do not have a bus service, for essential journeys to medical, day care and social appointments. The aim is to help individuals, collecting them from their homes in our cars, guiding them into appointments if needed, and returning them home afterwards.

Volunteers give their time freely, but the charity does reimburse the running cost of cars at a mileage rate approved by Worcestershire County Council and Inland Revenue. To recover this cost they charge passengers fares, with the costs of the call-centre and administration office being supported by donations and grants.

They currently have no volunteer drivers in our area. To help our parishioners they presently have to locate and send volunteers from Kidderminster, Stourport or Bewdley, with increased time and costs. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact the clerk for further information.

8. Cllr Jonathan Swift reported on a current review of speed limits on A448, which proposed:
- Extending the 40 mph speed limit at Mustow Green east by 580 metres to Gardeners Cottage
 - Imposing a 50 mph speed limit on all unrestricted parts of the road from Mustow Green to Bromsgrove
 - Increasing the 30 mph speed limit from Brockencote to Rowberry's Nurseries to 40 mph.
- Most residents did not object to the first two proposals, but there was widespread concern that increasing the speed limit would increase vehicle speeds and cause more accidents. The footpath is very narrow causing distress for people with pushchairs and prams, there are numerous properties with partly unsighted access from this part of the road including Brockencote Hall and the Village Hall, the village, church, pubs, school and shops, petrol station and a busy nursery. Proposals for a new school next to Rowberry's Nursery had not been taken into account and much of the data on which the survey had been based was out of date. The Parish Council would strongly oppose this and had requested extra time before the matter went to public consultation, which was now due to commence on 20 June 2011. The public consultation would be advertised in local newspapers and displayed in potential locations and representations should be made direct to the County Council. Contact details will be printed on the notices.
9. Cllr Leo Stockford reported a quiet year on the Orchard, with trees growing well. 20 trees had been purchased and planted this year making a total of 186 trees, of which only one had been lost. There is still £800 in the bank to purchase more trees. An espalier ring has now been planted in the middle of the field with each of the following varieties, which would be trained over the next few years:
- Egremont Russet Apples
 - James Grieve Apples
 - Louise Bonne of Jersey Pears
 - Pitmaston Duchess Pears

It was hoped to get some onsite training this year on fruit tree pruning and maintenance. There are a lot of trees to get around and many hands make light work; volunteers are more than welcome to get involved with this activity.

Six commemorative benches have been obtained and all have been purchased by residents of the Parish and will be installed at the end of the month. Anyone wishing to donate a bench can obtain more information from the Clerk.

The grand opening of the community orchard will be at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of September. There will be a BBQ, entertainment from Morris Dancers and a raffle.

10. Mrs Hilary Boden had coordinated the Wyre Forest Parish Games for the last 3 years and reported that this year Chaddesley Corbett was in joint fifth place. We started well in the competition by coming second in the crib but have gradually slipped down the table since. Our usually successful Bridge Team had a dismal night, our Dominoes Team fared no better. The Quiz still has to take place, so we might creep back up the table.

There was some criticism of the way the Games was organised by Wyre Forest who had not always responded to communications or acted upon suggestions. It had not been possible to organise a cricket team due to numerous health and safety problems and it was also not a good idea to hold an archery game on the weekend of the Royal Wedding.

Unfortunately Hilary is unable to continue as coordinator of the Games and if anyone would like to volunteer to take this over please contact the Clerk.

11. Mr Tom Westley, on behalf of the Environmental Group, reported that the UK produces 434 million tons of rubbish every year - that is enough to fill the Royal Albert Hall every 2 hours !

To help mitigate this problem the Group have written about :

- * Recycling everything that is possible and purchase with recyclability in mind.
- * Try to avoid buying food and products that have excess packaging
- * Buy locally produced food etc to reduce packaging and transport impact on environment.
- * Try to avoid using plastic bags, which finish up in landfill or worse still as litter.

CO2 Emissions - to help mitigate climate change they have written about :

- * Focus on insulating our homes - reduce waste of heat and light - upgrade to most modern boilers if possible
- * Bulk of CO2 emissions in the UK still arise from heating - homes/offices/ factories and industrial energy needs (approx 72% of total)
- * Try to reduce unnecessary car journeys - (road transport is approx 22% of CO2 emissions in UK)
- * Interestingly Air Travel only accounts for about 3% of CO2 emissions.

All this information has been published in the Parish Magazine and is available to read on line - Go to **CC parish Council website** - click on **Community Services** - then click on **Environmental**.

The group would welcome everyone's feedback and comments and would like the parish magazine to be more widely distributed within the parish to reach as many residents as possible.

12. Cllr Jonathan Swift reported the committee had met to decide on possible celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 4 June 2012. It had been agreed that a street party would be appropriate which would be self funding and non profit making, with the accent on young people. Groups and societies were asked to make suggestions for entertainments, games or other activities. Currently enquiries were being made about closing the village.
13. Open Session
- 13.1 Robin Palmer/Frank Wayt – raised the issue of speeding on Woodrow Lane. It had been 3 years since the last speed check and the volume and speed of traffic had increased. A new speed check survey was requested to provide up to date information. There was support for a community based group to monitor speeds and report to the police and enquiries were being made for the police to supply the equipment. Cllr D Thomas said that probably the best way to reduce speeds is for residents to keep to the speed limits themselves which would automatically require other motorists to follow suit.
- 13.2 Robin Palmer asked if Severn Trent Water could be approached with a view to replacing the old and faulty water pipes along Woodrow Lane as there had been numerous bursts over the last 20 years. Briar Hill had also suffered several bursts with major inconvenience to residents. It was agreed to write to Severn Trent and ask for the network to be surveyed.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.