

WERRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD THURSDAY 14TH MARCH 2019**

AT WERRINGTON VILLAGE HALL



PRESENT:

Cllrs K Griffiths (Chair)

Cllrs B Hughes, Jean Fryer

Z Grindey (Clerk)

Mr David Shaw (Speaker)

Mr Chris Lewis (Speaker)

5 Members of the public were in attendance

APOLOGIES:

PCSO Stephan Sherratt

THE CHAIR OPENED THE MEETING AT 18:30

APM01/18 WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that this was the first time that the Annual Parish Meeting had been held separately from the Parish Council meeting in May.

APM02/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chair read through the minutes of the last APM. The minutes had been previously approved at the Parish Council meeting in July 2018.

APM03/18 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair presented his report. The key achievements that he wished to make were:

- To make the Parish Council compliant. This is an ongoing process but the PC is in a much better position than it was 12 months ago.
- To make the Parish Council more visible and transparent. The PC now have their own website and are making more use of this and social media but need to encourage more participation.
- To produce a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair would still like the PC to pursue this in the new financial year when they can make the most of the funding available.

Cllr Jean Fryer wished it to be minuted that the Councillors are thankful for the work of the Clerk in making the Parish Council more compliant.

Q – As Chair, do you feel that you have achieved what you wanted to this year?

A – Overall the Chair is pleased with what has been achieved but would like to have progressed further with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Q – If nobody else puts themselves forward as Chair in May, would you consider staying on for another year?

A – If nobody else stands as Chair then the current Chair would continue in post.

AMP04/18 ELECTIONS AND STANDING FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Clerk provided information regarding the forthcoming elections and encouraged people to stand.

AMP05/18 GRANTS SCHEME

The Clerk provided details of the grants scheme to be launched in the new financial year.

AMP06/18 REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROSS WARD

Cllr R Ward was unable to attend. The Chair provided details of Cllr R Ward's work for the village and gave his appreciation for the District Councillors. The Parish Council has been fortunate to have 2 District Councillors on the Council.

AMP07/18 REPORT BY PCSO STEPHEN SHERRATT

PCSO Stephen Sherratt was unable to attend. The Chair provided an update on antisocial behaviour. A discussion was held. The Chair stated that he would like to see a Citizenship awards scheme for young people.

Q – What is there for young people in the area and are the local schools involved?

A – The Chair provided a response. It is very difficult to get schools to engage with other organisations. It was felt that those young people who do engage with youth provision are not the ones who are causing the issues. Cllr Jean Fryer explained what some of the voluntary groups have done to engage with the schools.

AMP08/18 OVERVIEW OF THE 50+ CLUB

Chris Lewis provided an overview of the Werrington 50+ Club. The club was set up over 15 years ago to provide activities for those over 50. Membership has continued to grow. Annual membership is £5. Activities are charged at £1 per session which includes tea/coffee and biscuit. The club runs activities such as table tennis, sequence dancing and art groups. They are also looking at introducing ballroom dancing. Activities mainly take place in the Village Hall.

AMP09/18 OVERVIEW OF THE WERRINGTON COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS GROUP

An overview was provided by David Shaw. Over 200 lifestyle and wellbeing initiatives have taken place in the community since the group was set up. Funds have been raised to keep district nurses in the village. Two log cabins are being installed at the rear of the library to deliver wellbeing initiatives. When the WCVG took over the library there were only 800 active members, this has now increased by 80%. The WCVG were awarded the Queen's Award and came 7th in the Daily Mail Heroes award. The Knit and Natter group have donated over 300 distress teddies to the Police and numerous teddies to Cheethams.

Q – Where does the funding come from?

A – It is through various grants. SMDC assist with finding funders and volunteers complete the funding applications.

Q – Has achieving the Queen's Award helped in acquiring funding?

A – Yes it has. The Big Lottery are funding the log cabins and other funds are in place for the following year to cover running costs.

Q – When the WCVG took over the library, how long did they agree to run it for?

A – They had to agree to run it for 5 years, of which 2 remain.

AMP10/18 OVERVIEW OF THE VILLAGE HALL

David Shaw provided an overview of the Village Hall. Over 30 activities take place each week in the Village Hall. They are looking to start an internal redecoration programme. £25,000 is needed to start work on refurbishing the car park. £20,000 has been raised so far, £8,000 of which is from the Parish Council. The Village Hall will be working closely with the WCVG.

Q – Does the Diocese contribute anything towards the Village Hall?

A – No.

Q – Will disabled access be installed at the rear of the Village Hall?

A – The Committee have explored the options to do this but it would be extremely difficult and costly.

Q – Have the Village Hall considered using the Probation Service to carry out work such as decorating?

A – This is not something that has been considered but details were requested from the resident.

AMP11/18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no further questions.

AMP12/18 FINAL COMMENTS FROM CHAIR

The Parish Council are being asked to do more and more but are not being provided with additional funds to do them. The Chair felt that it would be difficult to carry out the role if the person worked full-time, as he has found it to be very time-consuming. The Parish Council need to review how they operate and it was acknowledged that 20 hours per week is not enough for the role of Clerk. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 20:25