

Luddington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Luddington Village Hall on 15th May 2018 at 19:50

Present: J Warrender (JW) (Chairman), A Hegarty (AJH), Mark Brayshay (MB)

In attendance: R D Armstrong (Clerk)

Members of the public: 8 present

1. Welcome & introductions

JW welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from AH and CW

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 16th May 2017

JW proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2017 be approved and this was seconded by AJH and passed unanimously.

4. To receive any questions or representations from the public

Mr R Evans commented on the state of the grassed areas of the parish which had not been cut for some time. JW responded that the council's contractor had retired due to ill health and that a new contractor was being sought. Parishioners were asked to attend to areas which represented a safety issue until the situation could be resolved more permanently.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting not covered in the agenda

There were no matters arising.

6. Chairman's report

This past year has seen many changes within the Parish Council, whilst Darryl, our new and revered Clerk, has been getting his feet under the table, we have seen the departure of Tom Beeley, David Nutt and Wendy Hughes from the Council. We wish David's wife all the best with her treatment and congratulations to Wendy on becoming a Grandmother.

Special thanks are due to David for his sterling work on producing our own Planning Policy Framework Document and Wendy likewise for her work on the Village Design Statement which we hope now will be approved by SDC at the next Cabinet meeting in early June. Both of the aforementioned documents will prove invaluable to the Parish Council going forward, for many years to come.

Our current Councillors all bring different skills to the table, whether it be local planning knowledge, local history or just plain enthusiasm to get involved and get things done in the community. It can be a challenging

role being a Parish Councillor, especially as the majority of Councillors presently have day-jobs and then some !

Thanks are due to our District and County Councillors for their time also. Especially Cllr Barnes who is always present at our meetings with his formidable insight from an independent point of view and infinite local knowledge.

Going forward, we have some unfinished business with the Ragley Estate over the purchase of the village green which we think is essential to preserve the open space for future generations and residents who look over the green. A change in land manager has led to a hiatus in this progress which Wendy had started, Jon took over and secured £500 towards the cost through Cllr Brain`s fund. We aim to see this secured as soon as is possible.

Referencing the Village Green, It turns out that Mr Rudge who has maintained the village`s grass and associated areas in the past sadly is not well and has sold the business to a firm who have in turn confirmed their dis-interest in carrying on the work for the Parish Council. We have managed to secure the maintenance of the green for the Royal wedding BBQ thanks to a contact Mark Brayshay found but the contract as a whole is still up for grabs and Darryl has been liaising with a couple of firms who may be suitable.

The two *elephants in the room* this evening are probably the most important challenges to Luddington Parish since the Bomford application.

The proposed 20 dwellings at the disused DEFRA site is something that will happen as it is Government owned brownfield land. There has been a couple of public consultations at the Village Hall and the outline application is on the SDC website. The Council look forward to working with the Homes & Communities Agency to shape the development and secure the best outcome for the community.

The application is at outline stage at the moment, the land is not sold to a developer yet. The Parish Council will be looking at the type and style of dwellings proposed and also to ensure that any promises made in relation to affordable homes, public open space and a proposed clubhouse/community hub within the green space are adhered to.

Okay, this brings us now to the South West Relief Road. We understand that the planning application will be submitted in a week or so.

It seems that the authorities will stop at nothing to see this bridge, and viaduct, and the 3500 houses at Long Marston through to the end. Apart from the personal blight, harm to the flood plain and ecology, to the Racecourse end of Luddington Road, the Greenway and general disruption caused by this type of massive construction. The residents of Luddington and Dodwell will be massively effected by this proposal as the SWRR would have right of way over the Evesham Road, subject to the proposed roundabout at the base of Bordon Hill and create lines of traffic beyond Dodwell and maybe back to the Welford turn! The result will be endless *rat-running* through the Parish.

Stratford Residents` Action Group are erecting scaffolding and a row of large balloons this Friday and Saturday 18th and 19th May to show the scale and height of this proposed road. Please try to go along and see this, Councillors and Nadihm Zahawi, our MP, will be in attendance from 1.15pm on Friday

7. District Councillor's report

PB and **MG** were unable to attend the meeting.

8. County Councillor's report

MCB was unable to attend the meeting.

9. Clerk's report

The Clerk presented the financial statement and bank reconciliation which is appended to the minutes.

10. Village Hall Chairman's Report

It has been a busy and successful year for the Village Hall Committee.

Extensive maintenance and refurbishment of the Hall has been undertaken during this Committee year, including sanding and re-coating of the wooden floor and stage fascia, replacement window blinds and stage curtains, professional cleaning of all the upholstered chairs and during the past month extensive electrical upgrades to meet the latest regulations.

The electrical work has included replacement protected consumer units, circuit alterations and repair of faulty, old and damaged wiring. Formal certificates have been provided for the electrical installations and are available for inspection.

Obviously continued maintenance, upgrades and regular cleaning come at considerable cost, despite the Committee's best efforts to secure competitive quotations, therefore not only do we rely on income from our regular hirers but also upon continued income from fund raising events.

We find that the Quizzes continue to be very well supported and often completely sell out, however other attempts to stage different events such as wine tasting, games evenings, skittles and such like are not supported and appear not to be wanted.

I am grateful to Mark & Wendy Hughes, Tim & Jane Smallman, Janet & Clive Kempton, Dave Heyworth and Karen Haines-Lea for their hard work in producing and running past Quizzes, which have generated not only good income for the Hall but also entertaining evenings for all our dedicated Quiz-goers.

The Film Club is also popular and enjoyable and we are encouraging new members to join. The purchase of the cinema equipment a couple of years ago was an excellent decision and it has been hired regularly ever since for children's birthday parties and speaker evenings. The equipment is now also used by the Beekeepers' Association.

Unfortunately, we have had to take the decision to cancel the monthly Coffee Mornings due to lack of support. If villagers ask for these to restart, this could be considered if there is enough demand.

With effect from the end of June we shall be imposing a slight increase to hire charges to keep pace with increasing insurance, regulation and maintenance costs and shall also look to update the Terms & Conditions of booking.

We have unfortunately experienced some petty theft from the Hall during the last couple of months, specifically the pest control boxes outside the building and more recently the large tea urn from the kitchen. This is disappointing and will necessitate expenditure in the region of £200 to replace the items. We shall most likely need to consider CCTV to prevent further theft and this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council for providing me with a key to advertise Hall events inside the new noticeboard on the Luddington Road and also Jon Warrender for promoting our Hall events on the

village Facebook page.

The Village Hall AGM is to be held on Tuesday 22nd May at 7pm in the Hall and I shall be grateful for any support and attendance, as we shall be discussing further maintenance and fund-raising plans for the forthcoming Committee year.

With thanks.

11. Village Fund Chairman's Report

Firstly, let me offer my apologies for not being here in person this evening. I resigned as chairman of the Luddington Village Fund as I realised that moving jobs to one where I was commuting to London would preclude attending evening meetings and limit the time I had available to successfully lead the Fund. So it has proved to be.

However, my last year was a successful year.

We moved the Fete to June, so it was held before the school holidays started and despite the wind it remains our biggest fundraising event of the year. My thanks to the many helpers who each year work hard to make his event a success.

That gave us July for the village BBQ. which was enjoyed by all who attended. Again, thanks to those who helped especially the cooks.

The annual flower show in August was organised admirably as always by Dick Boswell. I say as always, but Dick said that he wanted that to be the last show he was in charge of having nurtured it over many years. I hope Dick can be persuaded to carry on as he does such an excellent job. I would like to thank him and all those who helped make another memorable day.

Finally, Carols on the Green again brought out a large proportion of the village on Christmas Eve. Dave Heyworth does the majority of the work to make this a success and I thank him along with all the other helpers on the night.

This year we donated to All Saints fabric fund, ECO Workshops and Riding for the Disabled as well as providing some financial support for SRAG in their efforts to stop the South West Relief road blighting parts of Luddington Parish.

These reports inevitably are about thanking all the volunteers who help make the fund-raising events successful happenings. However, I must highlight the work that the members of the committee do. Without them nothing would happen, and I thank them for their support over my time as Chairman.

The coming years will present a time of change with a number of challenges to be overcome. I am sure the Fund will prevail and continue to have a proactive positive influence in the community. My best wishes to you all

12. Any other business

There was no other business.

13. Date of next meeting

The next Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 21st May 2019 at Luddington Village Hall at 19:30.

Notes

Abbreviations used:	JW	-	J Warrender	LPC Chairman
	CW	-	C Wise	LPC Vice-Chairman
	AJH	-	A Hegarty	LPC Councillor
	ADH	-	A Haines	LPC Councillor
	MB	-	M Brayshay	LPC Councillor
	MH	-	M Hardwick	LPC Councillor
	MCB	-	M Brain	WCC Councillor
	PB	-	P Barnes	SDC Councillor
	MG	-	M Giles	SDC Councillor
	SDC	-	Stratford District Council	
	LPC	-	Luddington Parish Council	
	SRAG	-	Stratford Residents Action Group	
	WCC	-	Warwickshire County Council	
	LMAGV	-	Long Marston Garden Village	