

TODDINGTON

Draft Minutes: of the Annual Meeting for the Parish of Toddington held on Monday 23rd of April 2018 at 7.30pm in Toddington Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: Joe Humber, Dan Blake, Nigel Parker, Margaret Merritt and Bertie Alvis

County Councillor: Roger Wilson

5 parishioners

Chairman: Joe Humber

1. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Annual Meeting held on the 3rd April 2017.

These were approved and signed as a true record.

2. Brief report from the Chairman of Toddington Parish Council.

The Council had been spent a lot of time and focus over the past twelve months working with the developers at Newlands and the planners to reduce the impact of the new development on existing residents. The Council had objected strongly to the imported Spanish slate that had been selected by the developers and although not all properties will see a change in the roofing tiles the front facing properties will now have tiles that are more in keeping with the character of the area.

The Chair was also pleased to highlight that after long negotiations the houses along the edge of the B4077 were going to be dropped in height so they would not tower over and dominate the existing properties opposite.

An extra road on the development had been installed and as this was not on the original plans it was believed to be a service road for the sewage pumping station. This road and the build/size of the pumping station would be something the Parish Council would keep a continuing eye on.

Negotiations were still ongoing regarding the new bus stop. Clarification was being sought as to whether the developers needed to install a bus pull as well as to move and rebuild the existing bus-stop.

The Council had also been busy with applying for grants (special thanks went to the County Cllr Roger Wilson, Highways and Didbook and Stanway Parish Council for grants and donations) to purchase a

flashing Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS) system. Six posts for the sign had been erected across the parish, four on all roads approaching the roundabout; one at the Village Hall and one at the Church Lane junction. The sign would be moved around to particular areas of concern to prevent drivers from becoming complacent. Data would be collected from the sign which it was hoped would help in the long-term in arguing for permanent reductions in speed limits. The sign was battery-powered and in order to move the sign around the parish and re-charge the battery the Chairman asked the meeting if anyone would sign up to the volunteer rota.

3. Brief report from County Councillor Roger Wilson.

2017-18 started last April with the four-yearly challenge of a new election to the County Council, which ultimately got me elected (as well as fit from all the footslogging) despite some good and very welcome competition in Winchcombe and Woodmancote. At the time, the Conservatives were riding high in the polls, and we managed to secure an overall majority in Shire Hall, which has made the process of running the council much more straightforward. As we all know, we then went straight into a general election where the result, a mere five weeks later, was far less convincing.

I was then invited by our leader, Mark Hawthorne, to join his cabinet, which I accepted having promised myself that I would not do so! I am very glad that I did because, despite the considerably increased workload, it has been the most rewarding experience. I was given one of two cabinet posts responsible for adult social care, reflecting the vital part this portfolio represents in the council's overall business. Because of my accounting and business background, my role settled down into being responsible for commissioning and joint commissioning; in other words, being responsible for ensuring best value for the Gloucestershire taxpayer both in direct allocation of taxpayers money towards looking after our most vulnerable citizens, and also in our relationship with the NHS in the county through the Clinical Commissioning Group, or CCG. The work that we have all put in has led to winter delays and problems for both the NHS and adult social care that were amongst the lowest in the country, a result for which we are all rightly proud.

The major project I have been managing during the year is the process of demand management in adult social care. This is a consultancy-led programme to find better ways of looking after those of our citizens who, for whatever reason, need our help. The primary aim is to do all we can to provide the care that people need whilst keeping them in their own homes, rather than entering residential care. This requires a major shift in culture, both inside the council and amongst the general public, aimed at helping people to help themselves. This programme will, in my

view, in time considerably improve outcomes for those needing care, and save the county considerable sums of money.

Closer to home, I continue to work hard to ensure that our area continues to get its fair share of County Council funding. The Conservatives, in their 2017 manifesto, pledged to double the road resurfacing programme, and, together with our new partner Tarmac, we are starting this work this April. We have just experienced the worst pothole winter in living memory and repair crews are still, as I write, working extended hours to get the backlog fixed. I am nevertheless aware of the dire state of our roads and apologise to you all for it, but we are doing all we can to repair the damage.

I, like all councillors, have been allocated a new fund, nicknamed Community Chest, of £30,000 over three years to grant sums to community led organisations and charities across the area for projects that will help their local communities. It will be similar to the Active Together grants that were made so successfully in the last council towards projects that encouraged residents to take more exercise. This fund will be in addition to the usual discretionary fund towards local highways improvements. If you know of organisations who may benefit from such funding, do please get in touch.

Of course, as ever, if there are any other issues you wish to raise or problems that arise, please email me on roger.wilson@gloucestershire.gov.uk or by phone on 07947 067051.

Cllr Parker informed Cllr Wilson that the delivery lorries for the Newlands development were not using the one-way system into the site but parking on the pavement opposite the site entrance on the B4077 and this was causing the pavement to sink. The kerb was now lower than the road and residents were worried about properties flooding. Cllr Wilson promised to speak to the Chris Riley the Highways Inspector to see what could be done. He also suggested that Enforcement at Tewkesbury Borough Council be contacted, The Chair informed the meeting that this had already been done but no follow-up had yet taken place.

Roadworks that were due to take place on the B4078 were now due to commence next week.

- 4. Open forum for with residents where refreshments will be served.** Meeting closed at 8pm and an informal event followed with refreshments.