

LITTLE WENLOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting held on Monday 30th April, 2012, at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Little Wenlock.

Present: Cllr. Sheila Hutchison in the Chair, Councillors Miss Juliet Esp, Mr. Alan Lees, Mr. Ed Roberts and Mr. Steve Holding.
Mr. John F. Marcham, Clerk to Little Wenlock Parish Council.

In Attendance: T&W Borough Councillors Miss Jacqui Seymour and Mr. Terry Kiernan.
Sgt. Russ Yeomans, West Mercia Constabulary.
Mr. Lee Barnard, T&W Highways.
Mr. Phil Lorenz, T&W Senior Road Safety Officer.
Bryony Carter, Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
Peter Morris, The Huntsman Inn.
17 Parishioners.

Apologies: Dr. & Mrs. John Cooke, Simon Wood from UK Coal.

Little Wenlock Parish Council's Annual Report for 2012 had been included in the April edition of the Community News which had been sent to every household within the parish prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Open Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2011, the accounts for 2011/2012 and an agenda were circulated at the meeting.

1. Opening remarks from the Parish Council Chairman:

Cllr. Sheila Hutchison welcomed every one to the meeting and the Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

2. Highways:

Lee Barnard was introduced to the meeting and thanked for his attendance.

Cllr. Juliet Esp outlined the main concerns regarding highways in the parish and said that there was now an on-going dialogue with Lee Barnard relating to the issues. Cllr. Alan Lees pointed out that LWPC had been complaining about the roads and safety since 2003.

A letter from Dr. John Cook was read out. The main points were:

The centre of my concern is the use of our village as a 'Rabbit Run' for traffic on a NW/SE axis to the west of Telford, partially in an attempt to avoid the growing congestion and traffic lights on the A5223 through Lawley, and the consequent increasing pressure on the narrow, twisting, in part tree lined and hilly road over the Wrekin past the very popular public access path to the hill. That this road is not severely speed restricted is lunacy, neglecting the special problem of access to the hill, and if you throw this access into the equation then I believe we will have a serious accident very shortly, probably on a sunny Sunday morning when there is chaos surrounding the on-road parking. I walk this road every Sunday and my wife litter picks it so we know it well.

The housing developments of Stoney Hill, Lightmoor and Lawley coupled to the Retail Park now under construction on the A5223 will surely aggravate the currently dangerous situation of speeding traffic through our village and over the Wrekin to get to the A5 whilst avoiding junction 6 on the M54. The growing popularity of walking, running, riding and cycling on and around Telford's excellent asset of the Wrekin will make the current inadequate car parking arrangements at the Forest Glen junction even more dangerous. Whilst supporting whole heartedly our council's efforts to improve the situation at the Forest Glen and calm traffic through the village, my question to you is:

Why can we not have speed restrictions on the Horsehay-LW-A5 road which would make it inherently much safer and also less attractive as a short cut?

The main issues as outlined by Cllr. Alan Lees were:

- a. Lack of white lines at the Forest Glen. (Lee Barnard indicated that these would be implemented at the same time as re-designing the junction at the Forest Glen.)
- b. Parking prohibition lines. (Lee Barnard indicated that these would be implemented at the same time as re-designing the junction at the Forest Glen.)
- c. Re-designing the junction at the Forest Glen. (the proposed layout design was to be finalised and costed.)
- d. Pedestrian signs (Lee Barnard stated that these should be in-situ in the next 4-6 weeks).
- e. Reducing speed limits through Little Wenlock. It was agreed that a new survey was required and LWPC was asked to locate a suitable survey site.
- f. Better "rumble-strips" into the village. Lee Barnard was awaiting costs.
- g. Weight limit on the Wellington Road of 7.5 tonnes. (Further research was to be carried out as the whole route from Cluddley, through Little Wenlock and onto Horsehay had not been properly assessed by T&W Highway engineers.)

Mr. Jim Roberts stated that the new Park and Ride site at the top of Jiggers Bank would result in an increase of traffic through the parish. He also pointed out that the gulleys were no longer cleaned out on a regular basis.

Miss Jennifer Espley stated that there should be double yellow lines at the foot of the Wrekin and that the parking restrictions need to be extensive and enforced.

Marilyn Pietroni asked why LWPC was against the planned parking on the Donkey Field. Cllr. Sheila Hutchison read out LWPC's response to the planning application. Marilyn Pietroni expressed concern about parking for the disabled and for horse boxes.

3. Presentation.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council was delighted to recognise the involvement of our young people in the community.

Cllr. Alan Lees presented a framed certificate to Laura Pennells and outlined her involvement in shadowing his work as a Parish Councillor and being involved in the work of LWPC.

Cllr. Alan Lees presented a framed certificate to William Davidson in recognition of the work that he had done on the Swan farm footpaths as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

4. Matters arising from the Parish Open Meeting 2011.

The Clerk reported that:

- a. LWPC had responded to the UK Coal restoration plan but that the final decisions on the plan would be made by T&W planners.
- b. The balance carried forward on the LWPC accounts had been reduced as LWPC had paid for a number of projects within the parish and had paid nearly £1,300 for the recent election of a Parish Councillor.
- c. Two estimates were being awaited for the Coalmoor Road footpath.
- d. A new bench had been installed in New Works at LWPC's expense.
- e. The verges at New Works had been planted with daffodils at LWPC's Expense.
- f. A litter bin had been installed on Coalbrookdale Road.
- g. No tree planting had taken place in the hedges.

5. Question Time.

- a. Marilyn Pietroni asked if daffodils could be planted on Buildwas lane as it was part of The Shropshire Way.
- b. It was pointed out that 2 stiles still needed replacing in the Willowmoor area. Two had been replaced already and it was agreed that the two did need replacing with gates.
- c. William Davidson offered to plant the daffodil bulbs if the project went ahead.
- d. Linda Buckle asked for an update on the affordable housing survey which Cllr. Alan Lees responded to. He pointed out that the key finding was that there was only one household in a clear need of affordable housing and that this was not sufficient to identify

a scheme. T&W Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour outlined why the survey related to local people.

- e. Chris Wells asked about Orchard Close and how it related to elderly residents in the parish. T&W Borough Jacqui Seymour explained that it now belonged to the Wrekin Housing Trust and the properties could be let to anyone who was in need of housing and that they do not need to live in the parish.

6. Parish Accounts.

- a. The Accounts had been circulated to the meeting.
- b. The Clerk was asked for an explanation of Section 137 which he gave.

7. West Mercia Police.

- a. Sgt. Russ Yeomans, who lives in the parish, outlined recent developments. He said that WPC Judith MacPherson, who had been our beat officer, had moved to another post and that she had been replaced by PC Stuart Ridgewell who was also responsible for two other areas in Wellington.
- b. He said that restructuring of West Mercia police had taken place.
- c. He stated that there was very little crime in the area.
- d. He was asked if the police did any parking enforcement at the Forest Glen to which he responded that CSO Suzy Coombes did check it out occasionally, but he pointed that they have to prioritise their work.
- e. Asked if the police would enforce the any double yellow lines that might be put there he responded that it would depend on the order relating to the lines.

8. Road safety.

- a. Phil Lorenz outlined some safety aspects relating to cyclists.
- b. The fact that many road users do not have highly visible clothing was pointed out and the suggestion for a "Be Seen" press campaign might be appropriate.
- c. Marilyn Pietroni raised the issue of the Quiet Lanes Project which has never come to fruition. She was advised that due to the relatively high level of traffic, a "Quiet Lane" was not practicable along Wellington Road and Forest Glen Roads.

9. Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

- a. Bryony Carter thanked the Huntington Lane Surface Mine Community Fund for the £50,000 for the wildlife project.
- b. She outlined some of the issues and stated that the main object was to educate and engage the population with regards to wildlife in the area. She gave some local examples that were, or had been, developed.

10. The Huntsman Inn.

- a. Peter Morris gave a big thank you to LWPC for the support that had been shown towards the development of the Huntsman Inn and for the support given by the community.
- b. He said that Phase 2 of the development was now complete and the 3 letting rooms were available. He pointed out that there were reduced rates for families and friends of local residents.
- c. He outlined a Golf day to raise funds for the Severn Hospice.
- d. He thanked the young people from the community who worked in the Huntsman and helped to make it a success.
- e. He hoped that phase 3 would start this year and be completed in 2013.

11. UK Coal.

No one attended from UK Coal.

12. Neighbourhood Watch.

- a. The Parish Clerk said that he was trying to set up an intranet communication scheme via emails to keep residents informed of any relevant issues.
- b. He outlined the value of SmartWater and said that members of the parish could obtain the kit for £15 + VAT and P&P as a one-off payment instead of the annual fee of about £60 per year. Details and an application form would be included in the next Community Newsletter.

13. Super fast Broadband.

- a. The Clerk reported that BT is able to bring an optical cable to cabinet 4 which serves Little Wenlock.
- b. He reported that the Huntington Lane Surface Mine Community Fund had agreed to grant £24,000 + a further 15% if required to the project.
- c. He pointed out that some outlying farms etc were served from the Horsehay cabinet and that BT were seeing what they could do to improve broadband to them.
- d. All other things being equal it was hoped that Super Fast Broadband would arrive in the community this summer.

14. Litter Picking.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to help to pick up litter.

15. Items from Electors.

Jayne Davidson asked if the community had been involved in any Best Kept Village competitions. It was pointed out that it has won it twice and been the Calor Community of the year in 2006.

16. T&W Borough Councillors.

The Chairman introduced T&W Borough Councillors Jacqui Seymour and Terry Kiernan who would be available to talk to residents at the end of the meeting.

17. Closing Remarks.

The Chairman thanked the speaker and everyone else who attended the meeting and invited everyone to partake of the refreshments available.