

## LITTLE WENLOCK PARISH ANNUAL PARISH OPEN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, at  
7.30 pm in Little Wenlock Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Sheila Hutchison in the Chair, Councillors Miss Juliet Esp, Mrs. Jayne Davidson, Mr. Alan Lees and Mr. Steve Holding.

In Attendance: T&W Borough Councillors Miss Jacqui Seymour and Mr. Terry Kiernan.  
Mr. Lee Barnard and Mr. Stephen Scanlon, T&W Traffic Management.  
Mr. Ian Binks, BT Openreach.  
37 Electors.

Apologies: Mrs. Debbie Hugh, Mr. James Roberts

Little Wenlock Parish Council's Annual Report for 2013 had been included in the April edition of the Community Newsletter which had been distributed to households within the parish prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Open Parish Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 had been displayed on the Parish Notice Board along with the agenda for this meeting. The accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and a copy of the agenda were circulated at the meeting.

The clerk pointed out the fire exits, explained that this was not a Parish Council meeting and stated that anyone attending who was not an elector was welcome to stay and observe the proceedings.

### 1. Opening remarks from the Parish Council Chairman:

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

### 2. Annual Parish Report:

The chairman stated that the Annual Report had been circulated in the Community Newsletter and asked if there were any points the electors wished to raise about the report. There were none.

### 3. Parish Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2013:

Copies of the accounts had been distributed and there were no questions about them from the electors.

### 4. Highways:

#### a. Double yellow lines at the Forest Glen:

Lee Barnard explained that the legal aspects regarding the double yellow were being drawn up by the legal department and a formal consultation would take place. He hoped that all the legal requirements would be completed by the end of this summer and that the work would be completed during this financial year.

The re-surfacing of the road would take place prior to the yellow lines being installed and this would include the redesigning of the junction to make it safer. Money had been allocated for the junction section but he would prefer to see the whole project completed as a single unit.

#### b. Rumble Strips:

They should be installed in the next couple of months.

#### c. Cllr. Juliet Esp expressed concern about the state of the roads. Lee Barnard stated that the road surface does not meet the re-surfacing criteria but that the work on the junction and the yellow lines will bring the whole project together including re-surfacing.

#### d. Cllr. Sheila Hutchison asked that with the new "Destination Telford" visitor project, and its focus on The Wrekin, would the work on the double yellow lines and the junction safety scheme override what ever happens to the Donkey Field.

#### e. George Chancellor asked if the new rumble strips would "rumble". He was assured that they would; the rumble strips would be raised yellow bands.

#### f. The question of enforcing the parking was raised and Lee Barnard stated that enforcement would rest with West Mercia Police but that they would not give it high priority. A request was made by Cllr. Juliet Esp for the public to phone the police whenever parking on the yellow lines took place and thus prevented access to Little Wenlock for emergency vehicles.

#### g. The Chairman thanked Lee Barnard and Stephen Scanlon for attending the meeting.

## 5. BT Superfast Broadband:

Ian Binks, BT Superfast Broadband, gave a presentation about superfast broad and optical fibre technology and how the cabinet in Little Wenlock was configured. He then answered questions from the electors. He stated that each individual would need to ask their ISP to move them from ADSL to the fibre service, it was not done automatically.

Electors wanted to know when the installation was complete so that they could upgrade the systems and the Clerk stated that as soon as he was informed that it was "up and running" he would do his best to inform as many people as possible.

The Chairman thanked Ian Binks for the work that he had done on behalf of the community in helping us obtain a faster internet service.

It was noted that Shropshire County Council had accepted funding from the Government so that all of Shropshire would have a faster broadband service. T&W had declined the money and left the rural areas to their own devices. Had it not been for UK Coal money Little Wenlock would not have been able to have superfast broadband.

## 6. UK Coal and the Restoration Plan:

Craig Ball from UK Coal was unable to attend but had sent a report to the Clerk who presented it on his behalf.

### a. Update on progress at the Huntington Lane Surface Mine site.

The site is still working slightly ahead of schedule and is now in the last 3 cuts in Area B. Coaling will be completed in August. The majority of the restoration will be completed in 2013 but it looks at this stage that there will be some top soil operations to complete when the ground conditions are suitable in 2014 (this is weather dependent). All works apart from the hedge and tree planting will be finished by the June 2014 deadline. The planting will be undertaken in the winter 2014 once all the soils have been replaced. All the footpaths and bridleways will be re-instated after the top soils have been replaced, again weather dependent, but they are looking around May 2014.

### b. Restoration Plan.

Copies of the restoration plan were on display in the hall. No questions were raised by the electors except for Jan Mees-Robinson who would contact Craig Ball directly.

## 7. Huntington Lane Surface Mine Liaison Committee:

The Vice-Chairman of the committee, John Marcham, reported that UK Coal had paid into the Community Fund £100,000 every six months and that the full £500,000 had now been received.

So far £132,875 had been spent on projects within Little Wenlock; tennis court resurfacing, repairs to the church wall, village signs, superfast broadband, solar panels for the village hall and toilet and catering facilities within the church. New Works had so far received £12,996 which included a new bus shelter and planters.

The final distribution of funds would take place in May and within the parish there were bids for a footpath along part of Coalmoor Road, additional equipment on the playing field, the replacement of all the street lights (+ one additional one) at New Works and the upgrade of part of the paths at Swan Farm so that wheel chair users and families with children in buggies could access the pool.

## 8. War Memorial:

The Clerk outlined the history of the War Memorial and how it had been originally funded by public subscription. He reported that the Parish Council had agreed to accept responsibility for the War Memorial and was working with the PCC, particularly with Bob Justham, on a renovation project. The war memorial needed cleaning, some repairs and the inscriptions renewed. Advice had been given regarding the inscription in that the sandstone was too friable to successfully re-carve the inscription in and it was generally agreed that the present inscriptions be cut out and a more resilient stone inserted with the inscriptions on. The cost for doing all this work would not exceed £2,500 + VAT.

The Parish Council had suggested that the money be raised by public subscription and this suggestion was warmly accepted by those present. The Parish Council would now devise a method so that subscriptions could be donated.

## 9. Issues raised at the 2012 Parish Open Meeting:

- a. Daffodil planting: Cllr. Jayne Davidson stated that 1000 daffodils had been planted and that this had been done by 2 younger members of the community as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

- b. Stiles at Willowmoor: Cllr. Sheila Hutchison stated that a request had been made to T&W Rights of Way officer for these to be replaced but the officer dealing with it had left and nothing further had been done. She would now take the matter up with Andrew Careless the senior Rights of Way Officer.
- c. Affordable Housing: The survey had been completed and analysed and the results published in the November 2012 Community Newsletter. Only one household had an identifiable need for affordable housing and this was insufficient for any building to take place. The Parish Council would review the situation in 3 to 5 years time.
- d. Best Kept Village: Cllr. Jayne Davidson was looking into this.

#### **10. Councillor's "Question Time":**

- a. Mr R. Drakeley, a resident from New Works, asked if the height and placement of the seat in the new bus shelter could be changed. The Clerk would discuss it with the builder to see what could be done.
- b. Mrs. C. Wells stated that dog owners were not clearing up after their dogs and that this was particularly so in Buildwas Lane. Other electors also stated that there were similar problems on Witchwell Lane and on the road between Little Worth and the Coalbrookdale Road. Signage would be obtained and the matter raised in the next Community Newsletter. Residents were asked that if they know who owned the dogs to report them to T&W as they were committing an offence.
- c. Litter, especially Carling Black Label beer cans, were being dumped in Coalbrookdale Road and Dog in the Lane. The Parish Council was thanked for installing a litter bin on Coalbrookdale Road which was being used.
- d. Mrs. M. Miller-Pietroni inquired about the editorial judgements relating to the Community Newsletter. The Editor explained that it covered a wide range of issues but the final decision as to what was included remained in the control of the Parish Council and as such had the right to decline requests for material to be published in it.
- e. Mrs. D. Clarke thanked the Parish Council for all the information that was sent out via emails following the heavy snow so that everyone knew which roads were open.
- f. It was pointed out that parts of the footpaths at Swan Farm were very muddy. It was pointed out that the ground lacked good drainage and that when the restoration was done old coal slack had been used to make the paths and no firm base had been laid first. The cost of "repairing" the paths would be enormous.
- g. Mrs. J. Mees-Robinson asked how the Parish Council had spent the money it had set aside for rights of way. It was explained that the money had gone to T&W to part fund the replacement of the wooden boardwalk way at Swan Farm. She then raised the question of the trees that had come down on the rights of way and felt that LWPC should deal with them. It was pointed out that a) LWPC had no funds to deal with the problem, and b) it was the landowner's responsibility to remove the trees. She asked if LWPC had a list of the landowners and she was informed that they did not. She was advised to take the matter up with T&W Rights of Way Officer.

#### **11. Borough Councillors:**

The Chairman introduced T&W Borough Councillors Jacqui Seymour and Terry Kiernan and stated that they would be available at the end of the meeting to talk with electors.

#### **12. Closing Remarks:**

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