

TURWESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2019

Present: Cllrs D Richards (Chairman), H Morrison, A Kirkland, J Tilley, A Green, H Sime (Parish Clerk), Cllr P Fealey (AVDC), Cllr C Clare (BCC) and 30 members of the community.
Cheryl Snudden (HS2), Lorraine Kelly (Fusion Ecology Team), Dan Hounsel (Fusion Lead Archaeologist), Will Brookes (HS2 Main Works Contractor).

Prior to the meeting, HS2 representatives displayed maps and information relevant to Turweston and were on hand to answer questions.

1. **Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

David and Raisa Miles, HS2 representatives (Eiffage Kier).

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2018 and Matters Arising:**

The minutes were approved as being a true record of what took place. Proposed Cllr Kirkland, seconded Cllr Morrison. Matters arising were as follows:

- The condition of The Old Post Office is an on-going issue, as detailed in the Chairman's Report.
- Weight restriction signs- reinstatement to control the heavy traffic to be requested. **Action Parish Council.**

4. **Reports from District Councillor and County Councillor:**

Written reports from both Cllr Fealey and Cllr Clare were included in the Chairman's report, which had been circulated to the village. Both Councillors gave a brief report to the meeting.

Councillor Fealey:

The District and County Councils are merging and plans for the Unitary Authority are to be placed before Parliament. Cllr Fealey to be involved in planning across the Unitary Authority. The preferred route for the Cambridge/Oxford Expressway is route B, via Bedford and Bletchley, but the final route is not yet known. The Government is proposing to build 1 million new homes along the route.

Councillor Clare:

The Unitary Authority is going well, with £10 million savings to residents. Resurfacing work to the A421 and A422 has been completed and jet patching is greatly improving rural roads. Residents are encouraged to report potholes and road problems via FixMyStreet.com. Cllr Clare was asked why HS2-owned properties are not for sale and his answer was that HS2 will recoup more money once the line is built. Cllr Clare then spoke passionately in support of all those blighted by HS2 and the lack of a convincing case for the economics of the project.

5. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman's report, financial statement and village organisation reports had been previously circulated. The intention was to keep the main business of the meeting brief, so that the focus could be on HS2. Any questions would be answered at the end of the meeting. Issues concerning HS2 have again dominated this year. The establishment of the Unitary Authority is also a concern for the Parish Council, as Councillors are all volunteers and the amount of extra

work to be devolved is as yet unknown. Cllr Richards thanked Councillors and the Clerk for all their support over the past year.

6. **Treasurer's Report:**

Finances are still good, although the budget was slightly exceeded due to the unexpected expense of resurfacing the Playground. This was compensated for by the annual contribution from the Solar Park.

David Miles was thanked for carrying out the internal audit. The accounts have been displayed on the noticeboard and website. There were no questions and the accounts were taken as read.

7. **Village Organisation Reports:**

These were circulated prior to the meeting, along with the Chairman's report. There was an additional report from the PCC to say that the Vicar is leaving and there will be an interregnum from the beginning of September. With limited resources, the 6 Churches in the Benefice will face challenging times until a new Vicar is in place.

8. **HS2 Update and questions:**

Cheryl Snudden introduced herself and her colleagues:

Cher listed the 13 properties in the village that are either let or still vacant and gave details of what is happening to each one. A resident queried whether Oatleys Hall is to be converted to flats. **Cher to find out.** Another resident questioned whether HS2 has sold, or intends to sell, any houses that they own. The answer was a definite 'no'. Cllr Richards said that the only exception might be The Old Post Office and that the Parish Council has put a case to the DfT for this. Later in the year, possibly October, Turweston and other parishes will be invited to an Information Event to discuss traffic and noise issues. The Main Works Contractor, Eiffage Kier, will also be arranging a traffic event later in the year.

Will Brookes

Ground investigation works will take place over the coming months, probably in August/September. The Playing Field will be shut for 1 day for safety reasons. Eiffage Keir is well underway with the project and it is intended to build a trace road to keep HS2 traffic off of local roads. It was unfortunate that nobody from Eiffage Keir was available to attend the meeting to answer questions. Cllr Morrison asked about rights of way and how they will be affected. **Cher to follow up.** Cllr Clare asked if the height of the track might be altered, as had happened in other villages. **Cher to follow up.**

Lorraine Kelly

Utility work has started in the area and archaeology work will be starting soon. No roads will need to be closed. Signs will be erected for site access. Advance work notifications will be sent out.

Dan Hounsel

Ecology surveys are already taking place. Archaeology digs to start in July/August in advance of the main line work.

9. **Any Other Business:**

Cllr Richards confirmed that undergrounding of the power lines had been agreed. Compulsory purchase of the Playing Field is going ahead. The issue of whether any of the Playing Field can continue to be used during construction is under consideration as part of the compensation negotiations, due to likely problems with dust, noise and overall safety issues.

A tour of the Solar Park and a bee-keeping demonstration has been arranged for 10 July at 2.00pm. Numbers are restricted to 12, and there are still 7 places available. Anyone interested to contact Cllr Morrison.

Cllr Morrison gave details of a training course available to members of the public in the use of defibrillators. A show of hands indicated enough interest to go ahead with this.

A resident commented that there has been a big increase in traffic through the village since the new developments in Brackley and felt that the traffic calming scheme had made little difference. A general discussion took place about speed limits, signage, speed bumps etc. The Parish Council agreed to look at this again.

Cllr Richards announced that the Clerk would be leaving at the end of September and that arrangements would be put in place to find a new Clerk. He thanked her for the work she had done over the past 5 years.

Cllr Kirkland thanked Cllr Richards for all his hard work on behalf of the village.

Cllr Richards thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.