WROXETER & UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

15th MAY 2017

Visitor Centre Wroxeter Vineyard

7:00PM

Present: Chairman – B. Nelson, V. Amos, J. Davies, P. Davies, M. Millington, S. Rowlands, I Sherwood, Shropshire Councillor Claire Wild, no further members of the public

Clerk: Mrs J Fellows

1. **Chairman’s Welcome and Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

1. **Minutes - To confirm the Minutes of the Wroxeter & Uppington Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 09th May 2016.**

The minutes of the APM held on 09th May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**

None

1. **Broadband**

It was hoped that there would be more of an update for residents regarding the rollout of superfast Broadband within the parish but Connecting Shropshire said they would not have an update until end of May.

Cllr C Wild said that there is a meeting tomorrow tonight at Eaton, Leighton and Constantine where representatives from BT will be present to discuss the rollout. Cllr I Sherwood said he should be able to attend.

It’s anticipated that further phases of the Connecting Shropshire project may look into alternative delivery models such as satellite or wireless solutions.

1. **Chairman’s Report on the Council year 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017.**

The Chairman tabled report – appendix A.

1. **Childrens' playground facility in Uppington**

A resident has queried the usage of the playarea in Uppington. The playground appears never or very rarely used. The council are responsible for the upkeep of site and ongoing maintenance so if the area is not used then in a time of austerity, costs need to be reviewed. The clerk will include in an article to be published in the newsletter “Under the Wrekin” asking for residents to feedback. Item will be added to next parish council meeting agenda.

1. **Report from Shropshire Councillor**

Cllr C Wild circulated report to councillors prior to meeting for their perusal.

There are still ongoing discussions about the Buildwas power station site and when more information is known it will be distributed.

**Shropshire Council** has a new **leader** – Cllr Peter Nutting.

1. **Public Opportunity to Speak**

No members present.

Meeting declared closed at 7:40PM

**APPENDIX A**

**WROXETER AND UPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 15th MAY 2017**

**REPORT OF CHAIRMAN – Brian Nelson**

This year has seen the local election. The election was advertised and, as there were no additional candidates nominated for the parish council, a non-contested election was completed with the existing parish councillors agreeing to serve again. The role of the Parish council may be perceived by some as relatively minor but it is a necessary role and essential for the effective working of local democracy. I would like to thank all the parish councillors for their continued commitment.

This year we have also welcomed a new Parish clerk, Jo Fellows, and I am very grateful to her for the way she has worked to quickly establish herself in post and to ensure that all areas of the Council’s work were brought back on track after the Council had been without a clerk for so many months.

There have been 6 scheduled meetings of full council held since the last Annual Parish Meeting in May 2016. The meetings have been very well attended by councillors but we have had very little attendance by members of the public. All meetings have been constructive and I would like to thank all the councillors for the extent and nature of their contributions.

I would also wish to thank Cllr. Claire Wild who has attended and supported all of the parish council meetings and has kept us well advised on issues that relate both at local and county level.

**Planning**

Planning issues can be a real concern for the electorate and many will feel that the preservation of the rural and unspoiled nature of our parish should be a significant priority. During the year the Council has considered and commented upon a small number of planning applications for planning consent, largely for alterations to existing properties.

**Superfast Broadband**

We invited a representative from Connecting Shropshire to the meeting tonight however they felt they would not be in a position to update us on the outcome of the ongoing procurement. We had hoped that the procurement process would have been concluded by now, but as it is now likely to be the end of May they are now scheduled to come to our July meeting to provide an update. We await this news with some anticipation as many are still very concerned what options will be made available for the majority of members of the parish who are in “the final 5%” with regard to provision of reasonable broadband service.

**Police**

PC David Walton attended the parish meeting in March 2017 and introduced himself. He covers a number of rural parishes and is keen to work with communities to minimise criminal activities. He will continue to liaise with us and look at initiatives to work together.

**Finance**

The precept has been increased by 10.1% to £3,967 for 2017/18. This could have potentially been far greater but for the help of Jo Fellows who applied for, and secured, grant funding for the acquisition cost of a computer and this has been ring-fenced for future use.

**End of Year**

At the beginning of 2016/17 the council had a balance bought forward of £181 over which the auditor raised significant concerns. At the close of the accounts for this year we have £4,109 to roll forward. Some of this has been ring-fenced, £994 transparency grant, £1,275 bus shelter grant, £500 professional fees contingency, £250 elections leaving £1,089 general contingency.

The accounts have been signed off by internal auditor and will be available for public inspection June/July.

**Environmental maintenance**

We are pleased to have been awarded an increased maintenance grant of £1,003 for 2017/18, which will enable us to continue with grass cutting contract and carry out general maintenance of the bus shelters and play area as necessary.