

LITTLE WENLOCK PARISH ANNUAL PARISH OPEN MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Open Meeting held on Monday 28th April, 2014, 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 Councillor Miss Jacqui Seymour.
Mr. Lee Barnard, T&W Traffic Management.
12 Electors.

Apologies: T&W Borough Councillor Terry Kiernan

Little Wenlock Parish Council's Annual Report for 2014 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 29th April 2013 had been displayed on the Parish Notice Boards along with the agenda for this meeting. The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 and a copy of the agenda were circulated at the meeting.

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. Highways:

Lee Barnard outlined the proposed developments at the Forest Glen. Parts of the road from Cluddley to the Forest and part of Ercall Lane would be re-surfaced and then yellow lines installed. At the same time the junction would be re-aligned to make it safer. No date had yet been set for the work but as it involved resurfacing it would probably be done in the summer. He stated that the yellow no-parking lines can be reviewed if required and some monitoring would take place as to their effectiveness.

The Quiet Lanes Scheme for roads around the Wrekin was discussed. The object was to discourage rural roads being used by vehicles and to warn them of other road users. He was open minded as to how this was done and would listen to local opinions and also look at costings for the project. There was potentially some funding available as the project would not be expensive. It was resolved that a meeting with the highways department would be needed at some time in the future.

T&W Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour stated that Pride in Your Community funding might be appropriate. She also said that the parking along the road to Cluddley could be revisited. She further pointed out the state of New Works Lane.

Peter Whittle reported that the other weekend the Cluddley road was blocked by 2 queues of traffic that could not pass each other.

The question was also raised as to where the cars would park when it was busy and that there was a need to monitor this to prevent the problem being moved "up the roads".

4. Parish Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2014:

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

5. To report on issues raised at the Parish Open Meeting held on 29th April 2013:

- a. Bus Shelter at New Works. It was reported that the seat had been moved forward so that heads did not hit the notice boards.
- b. Dog Pooh. This was an on-going problem and the Parish Council had put up notices and provided pooh bags for residents to use.

- c. Litter is still an on-going problem and members of the community clear it up when they can. It is probably worse on Wellington Road. It was reported that oil cans had been deposited on land used by Harper Adams University and although they had been asked to remove the cans they had not. It was resolved to write to the University.
- d. Swan Farm: see item 9.

6. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA):

Cllr. Jayne Davidson outlined the present situation and made it clear that there were no proposals for any development on the sites listed in the parish.

T&W Borough Cllr Jackie Seymour outlined the contents of a new planning document published by T&W. She stated that there was nothing in Little Wenlock Parish in that plan, but the plan would not be formally in place until 2016 and therefore the parish is vulnerable to future development. Cllr Seymour brought to the attention of the Parish Council the open session for town and parish councils: Shaping Places Local Plan – Proposed Housing & Employment Sites to be held on 8th May. Cllr. Sheila Hutchison reported that LWPC had agreed to host a meeting at Little Wenlock and would inform parishioners of the date and time.

7. Report on Huntington Lane Liaison Committee and Community Fund:

The Vice Chairman of the Committee, John F. Marcham, thanked the committee members and the Chairman, Peter Whittle, for all their hard work and for their stoicism and patience in times of adversity when 5 members of an action group complained about the committee in relation to the Donkey Field grant application and for the subsequent unnecessary delay in paying grant monies by T&W. The HLSMCLC has not met since the autumn, but it does still exist and at some future date meet to “wind” itself up.

Coal extraction has now ceased and the restoration work has commenced. The responsibility for the oversight of the restoration rests with T&W. However LWPC is willing to work with local residents, as it does in relation to the Veolia Candles site, as a formal route for any restoration issues to be discussed and problems resolved e.g the proposed car park on New Works Lane. UK Coal, we believe were what you might call “good neighbours”. When there were issues, and there were in fact very few, the managers dealt with them promptly and resolved them. Perhaps the most disruptive aspect of the whole project was the squatters/protestors camp off New Works Lane.

The Community Fund has now been fully allocated although there may be some residual fund monies left in relation to uncompleted projects or VAT refunds. The Parish of Little Wenlock benefitted enormously from the community fund: Tennis Court upgrade, repairs to the church wall, flower planters, new signage for each community, superfast broadband, New Works bus shelter, village hall solar panels, toilets and kitchen area in the church (starts next month), footpath on Coalmoor Road, New Works replacement lighting – a direct benefit of over £200,000

Two local schools, attended by students from the parish, benefitted by £28,000. Countryside projects benefitted by £145,000 and the new “Walk Around the Wrekin Guide” should be published very soon.

8. New Works Lighting:

Councillor Alan Lees gave a brief history behind the installation of the new street lights at New Works. The first Victorian style street light had been erected for light assessment. Residents had requested that the lights are on throughout the hours of darkness. It was hoped that the new lights would be installed by July.

9. Swan Farm Pool Access:

A display board showed the proposed work to be done. It was reported by Councillor Alan Lees that in wet weather the footpath had been impassable. T&W were repairing part of it and the other parts were to be upgraded. French drains were to be installed to prevent the flooding. The Parish Council is awaiting a quotation from its contractor. Discussions had already taken place with a possible funding source and once a formal contract had been agreed with the contractor grant applications would be made.

10. War Memorial:

The Clerk thanked everyone who subscribed to the restoration fund. LWPC was now awaiting a starting date from the contractor. The Clerk reported that we had received some interesting letters and photographs relating to the names on the war memorial and these are now on the parish web site. There should be sufficient funding to make a memorial book which would include the history of the war memorial, biographies of the fallen and a list of

subscribers. He suggested that should there be any funds remaining then it might go to Help for Heroes or/and the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

11. Neighbourhood Watch and Information service:

The Clerk thanked the West Mercia police local team of Russ Yeomans, Andrew King and Ryan Foster for their help and support. He reported that the email system of keeping everyone informed was working very well and was open to anyone in the parish. Home Security Advice booklets had recently been sent out to all homes. He reported that the Smartwater offer was in the April Community Newsletter.

12. "Question Time":

Richard Southgate outlined the problems with the state of Buildwas Lane to his property. The Clerk stated that he would contact Lee Barnard about it.

Concern was also expressed about groups of youths parked down Buildwas Lane in the evening. The police were aware of the problem.

13. Ward Boundary changes:

Under the Local Government Boundary Commission electoral review it has been proposed that the Wrockwardine Ward becomes a single member ward having been reduced in size. This will take place in May 2015. T&W Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour stated that she would be a candidate for the ward in 2015.

14. Meet your T&W Borough Councillor:

The Chairman invited electors to meet with T&W Borough Councillor Jacqui Seymour at the end of the meeting.

15. Closing Remarks:

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited them to have a drink and some light refreshments.