

**Minutes of
West Bagborough Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 28th May 2015 at 7pm in Popham Hall**

As required by protocol Cllr Parkman took the Chair as the current Chair of the Parish Council.

In attendance. 25 parishioners plus 5 Parish Councillors.

Apologies. Peter Hamilton, Parish Clerk and Cllr Charlie Ritchie.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and then invited attendees to view the minutes of last year's meeting and the current Parish Council accounts.

He also brought to the notice of Parishioners that there was a vacancy on the Parish Council and that anyone wishing to apply should contact the Parish Clerk.

Parishioners were invited to put forward items for discussion and these were addressed in order.

Broadband.

Councillor Martin Jones reported that Paul Gaunce has been researching the possibility of improving Broadband connection in the village. Voneus Together, a company specialising in superfast broadband especially for rural areas, will be holding an open meeting in the village hall on June 10th. This is just one possibility of those being considered by a subcommittee of the Parish Council., Martin Jones, Paul Gaunce and Scott Hearn are the committee members.

Hard Standing.

Concerns were raised re parking areas being tarmacked over allowing drainage problems and risk of flooding, especially with new building. *Parish Council to follow up.*

Drainage.

General concern re the state of drains and the stream from Bashfords to Rising Sun and from East & West Villas down to Shattocks barn. There is concern that there is a collapsed drain outside Argent House. There is another concern about flooding at London Cross especially with more new building.

A question was asked as to whether there is a strategic overview of all drainage/streams in Parish. *Parish Council to follow up.*

The Chair reminded the meeting that the precept had been increased for this year in order that some additional work could be carried out on keeping drains clear.

Verges.

There was concern about the overgrowth from banks causing traffic problems. In particular Tilbury Hill. Cllr Parkman reminded the meeting that only one cut a year is now done by the Highways Dept.

Traffic/Speeding Concerns.

Several different concerns were raised about the speed of traffic through the village.

- Traffic travelling too fast for the road/conditions with special regard to being used as a short cut from West Somerset to Bridgwater
- Concerns about children who have to walk through the village to catch the school bus. Many said "it is an accident waiting to happen"
- Lack of "slow" warning signs at various points along route through village.
- Concern re access for emergency vehicles due to inconsiderate parking.

Suggestions to Improve traffic management part 1

- Replace slow signs
- Speed limit signs
- Speed flash warning
- Can the village undertake its own speed check.
- Can the Community Police meet with children to design catchy warning signs specific to our village.

Parish Council to follow up.

Parking.

Four incidents were highlighted that have occurred this year at the top end of the village. Damage to properties and cars had occurred due to badly parked vehicles. Some properties are difficult to exit safely onto the village road. Problems have been reported with visitors and customers of the Rising Sun parking inappropriately.

At the lower end of the village from Harding's Cottages down to the Industrial Unit site 'on road parking' again makes exiting from properties difficult and passing the line of parked cars where there is limited forward visibility is becoming increasingly dangerous.

Suggestions to Improve traffic management part 1

- White "H" bars painted on road to indicate space to be kept free.
- Signs stating no parking at all in certain areas
- Small signs where appropriate e.g. "do not obstruct"
- Clear the area in front of Shattocks barn to create more parking.
- Posts in front of certain properties to give them some measure of protection.
- Ask owners of larger vehicles at lower end of village to park in Industrial Unit Car Park.
- Re-open talks re possible village car park with Kings Estate.

Parish Council to follow up.

Litter.

Parishioenrs have noted that litter dumped in the lay-by at the bottom of Greens Hill. Could a sign be erected asking people to take their rubbish away with them? Perhaps highlight that this is an Area of Outstanding Beauty. Could we provide litter bin or TDC/SCC?

Parish Council to follow up.

Matters Arising.

It was suggested that the old footpath into the field opposite The Old Rectory might be used as a safer pedestrian route exiting at the Church Lych Gate. This would especially benefit children going to get the school bus and back, the Village Hall and the Cricket Ground.

Parish Council to ask Kings Estates.

Production of a map of Bagborough. A helpful aid for all villagers especially when trying to direct delivery vans, visitors etc. It should contain names of roads and houses. TDBC should provide street signage for the new development

Parish Council to follow up.

Meeting ended at 8.10pm