

BUILDWAS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Tuesday 5th March 2018 at 7pm at Buildwas Village Hall

Present: Chairman of the Meeting: Cllr. Wilcox

Public: 14 public, Shropshire Cllr C. Wild

In attendance: R. Turner (Clerk)

1) Chairman's welcome

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr. Wilcox to chair the meeting.

2) Apologies

Cllr. Chris Meads.

3) Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th March 2017

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes and they were duly signed by the chairman.

4) Matters arising there from

There were no matters arising.

5) Chairman's report

No report was given.

6) Finance Report

The clerk advised that the end of year balances for 2016/17 was £6,991.26. Accounts for 2017/18 will be published on or before 1st July.

7) Shropshire Councillor's report

Cllr. Wild reported on budget cuts, including cuts to transport for school budget, increased cost of Looked After Children. Elderly people and large rural area putting further pressure on costs. Adult Social Care service has been assessed and is considered very good by external agencies.

Ironbridge Power Station – exciting project but details unclear yet as Uniper still in process of selling it. SC have out together an illustrative plan so now waiting for buyers to come back to them with detailed proposals. Site very extensive and in the centre of the site is a generator providing all the power for Wales which will be a key influence on future use of the site. May be some housing but also potentially some industrial uses. Open cast coal field at back of the site. Likely that due to background work needed progress on the site will not be immediate. Various groups have expressed an interest in doing things to the site e.g. heritage, railway.

Buildwas traffic calming scheme currently being designed – likely to be a draft design by end of March 2018.

A member of the public asked about transport to a facility with adults with learning disabilities at Ditton Priors. Cllr. Wild offered to find out more info and get back to him.

8) Annual Police Report

None given.

9) Other reports

None.

10) Ironbridge Power Station

See report from Cllr. Wild.

11) Planning status of parish – if it wishes to be a community cluster in the Local Plan Review

The clerk outlined the context to the Local Plan Review and Cllr. Wild explained background to housing required and five-year housing land supply. The public were asked whether they wanted the parish to remain as a community cluster or revert to open countryside. A member of the public said he feels the reaction to development has not generally been positive. A member of the public asked what are the positive and negatives of each option. Cllr. Wild explained that open countryside stops development whereas a cluster enables more organic growth but no say on where homes go as reliant on developers bringing sites forward. A member of the public expressed a view that some development keeps the village alive. The view was expressed that the power station site could be an option for wishing to stay local.

It was noted that the parish council has been asked to tell Shropshire Council if it wishes to be a cluster and therefore the parish council, as opposed to the Annual Parish Meeting, needs to ultimately make a recommendation to Shropshire Council. However, it was agreed it would be useful to take a consensus of opinion. A small majority of the parishioners present wished to change to open countryside but others were undecided. One member of the public said he felt the planning safeguards were still in place if the village is a cluster but limiting development may not be conducive to community cohesion as it limits opportunity to develop where appropriate and beneficial to the community. It was suggested that an article be put in Under the Wrekin to gather further views.

12) Parish Matters

A member of the public felt that trees are getting very prolific on Park View, some overhanging residents' boundaries and roots damaging footpaths and gardens. Salt bin needs replenishing. Cllr. Wild to follow up on these matters.

13) Date and time of next meeting

4th March 2019 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm