

MINUTES

OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT TICKLERTON VILLAGE HALL

MONDAY 14th MAY 2018 at 7.30pm

036/18 - Present and Apologies for absence

Cllr. G Watts - Chairman
Cllr C Pugh
Cllr. L Gray
Cllr. S Jones

In Attendance

Clerk, Mrs J de Rusett, Unitary Cllr. Cecilia Motley and one member of the public.

Apologies for absence were received and accept from:

Cllr. T Madeley
Cllr. P Jenkins

037/18 – Notice convening the meeting

In accordance with statute, the Notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the parish notice boards, in the Parish Magazine and on the parish website.

038/18– Chairman’s Welcome and Annual Report for the Parish Council for the year 2017 – 2018

As Chairman for 2017/2018 Cllr. Graham Watts delivered the following report and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I commence my report by thanking my fellow councillors, Unitary Councillor Cecilia Motley and our Clerk for all their help and support during the parish year 2017/2018. The commencement of the year followed the 2017 elections, at which only six of our complement of seven councillors was filled. We were pleased to welcome newly elected member Cllr. Peter Jenkins of Hope Bowdler. In May 2017 we co-opt as our seventh councillor, Bruce Orme of Wolverton.

During the past year we have held eight parish council meeting, alternating between Ticklerton and Hope Bowdler Village Halls. Members of the public are always invited to attend these meetings to raise any problems or queries with us. To facilitate public involvement and to comply with our statutory requirements the meetings are advertised in the parish magazine, on our website (www.eatonhopebowdler.co.uk) and on notice boards around the parish.

The Parish Council considered six planning applications during the year. Of those, one caused some consternation in the parish, an application for 50 tent pitches and five touring caravan pitches in Harton. A number of objections were received by the Parish Council. The councillors took time to consider very carefully this application due to its impact on both local residents and the wider rural community. Whilst it is always the parish council's wish to support and encourage the positive economic outcomes tourism can bring to the parish, it was felt this application was too large in scale and would generate a lot of traffic and noise, so the Parish Council objected to the application. It is still being considered by the Planning Department at Shropshire Council.

The Parish Council has worked with the Countryside Team at Shropshire Council and has arranged for stiles on footpaths around Eaton to be replaced with more user-friendly kissing gates. It is hoped that three stiles in Hope Bowdler will be similarly replaced in the next few weeks.

The Parish Council again this year received a grant from Shropshire Council to carry out environmental works around the parish, such as clearing drains, gullies, laybys and keeping the bus shelters and signage clean and verges strimmed. There is some doubt about whether this grant, which we have been receiving for 12 years, will continue – Shropshire Council are considering the matter currently. If it does continue, it will be in a reduced amount. We will therefore have to consider in November and January whether to increase the Parish Precept in order to fund the work carried out currently under this grant.

We had to raise our 2018/2019 Precept this year by £3.51 per band D household as unwelcome additional expenditure had occurred during the year. The majority of this was caused by the government's implementation of a 2015 EU piece of legislation bringing forward new Data Protection Regulations. Businesses employing more than 250 people are subject to the rigors of these Regulations, but so are all local authorities, including small rural parish councils such as ours which handle and store very little data. We have had to seek additional funding in order to be able to comply with this legislation, which commences on 25th May 2018.

039/17 - Unitary Councillor's Report

Unitary Councillor Motley opened by reporting on the activities of the new administration at the Shirehall including on on-going budget difficulties. She has been involved in scrutiny of various matters including the Environmental Grants to parish councils, which is currently subject to re-consultation. She has also been involved with flood risk alleviation schemes, community transport and the role and existence of the Community Enablement Team. She has continued to hold meetings for the Chairs of the local parish councils which is a useful sounding board. Potholes in south Shropshire are a huge concern. She has discovered that the new contractor, Kier, has divided the country into three groups, north, central and south Shropshire. All have the same budget and resources despite the fact there are far more roads in the south: this is an issue she is pursuing. Cllr. Motley also spoke about rural housing issues, the review of Local Plans, and revised AONB and a review of Shropshire Council carried out by the Local Government Association.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Motley for her report and for the work she carried out on behalf of the parish.

040/18 – Open Forum.

As no issues were raised, the Annual Parish Meeting was closed at 8.05pm and was followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council.

MINUTES SIGNED BY Graham Watts

DATED 18th June 2018