

WRINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on 29 April 2015 in the Memorial Hall, Silver Street, Wrington, BS40 5QE

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr David Glynn, opened the meeting at 7.00pm. Approximately 35 residents and Parish Council members were in attendance.

Cllr Glynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Barrie Taylor, Cllr Pat Ledbury, Mr Paul Robinson and Mrs Gabrielle Wilson.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 7 May 2014

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 May 2014 were signed as a true record by Cllr Glynn.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising. Mr Clive Hall addressed the meeting about alleged ongoing nuisance problems at Gatcombe Farm. Cllr Glynn requested that, as this was not an Agenda item, it should be discussed at the end of the Meeting. Mr Kevin Richards spoke about a recent article in the Mercury newspaper about Gatcombe Farm, pointing out the photograph used was not actually of Gatcombe Farm but his own field. He had asked the Mercury to print a correction but nothing had happened. Cllr Glynn said, again, as this was not an Agenda item, it should be discussed at the end of the Meeting.

4. Guest presentations

‘The future for Barley Wood’ - Martin Hodgson, Chief Executive, YMCA Somerset Coast

Cllr Glynn introduced Mr Martin Hodgson and the YMCA’s plans for the use of Barley Wood. Mr Hodgson thanked the Meeting for the opportunity to provide more details and outlined the project:-

- The purchase of the property will shortly be completed.
- The building has been empty for six years and the first priority is to make it safe, compliant and useable.
- Nursery provision – Wrington Pre-school and PAWS from Wrington C of E Primary School approached the YMCA about possible collaboration. The nursery provision would initially be the main focus of the project. It is hoped that work on that part of the building will be completed in August so that the Nursery can start on 2 September.
- The next phase will be to turn the old ‘hospital wing’ into accommodation for the apprentices.
- The project will eventually provide training for 20 apprentices, with the first five starting in September. Accredited training will be provided by Weston College and the Goblin Combe Environment Centre.
- The project will go on to offer meeting spaces, weddings and conference facilities.

- Gardens and landscaping – the project will look at landscaping, introducing pathways through the woodland. The YMCA has contacted the Thomas Mawson Society (Thomas Mawson designed the gardens) who are looking at their archives for any original plans or references.
- The YMCA wants to engage with the community to open up the house and gardens so that people can see and use them.
- A user group will be set-up so the local community can contribute and comment on the project.

Mr Hodgson then asked for questions from the floor. Mrs Jill Rawlins asked about how the project would be funded and whether there was a business plan. Mr Hodgson explained that the YMCA would be investing £1.8m and had taken out an interest-only loan which would be serviced by the revenue generated from the nursery provision.

Mr Jeremy Birkett asked if there was enough demand to run two Pre-Schools. The Meeting then discussed that the Pre-School Committee recently voted to keep the present facility in the Memorial Hall. However, some believed there was a need for nursery provision to cover longer hours than the present Pre-School provided. It was also believed that the Pre-School Committee would shortly meet again to take a second vote. Cllr Glynn commented that the Memorial Hall Committee were considering offering Pre-School a reduced rent.

Mr Richards commented that there was no footpath from Barley Wood to the village. Mr Hodgson said the YMCA was looking into the possibility of footpaths through neighbouring properties. A minibus would also be introduced offering collection and return to the village. He said there was more than adequate parking on site.

Mr Richard Thorn said All Saints Church PCC had extended a welcome to the YMCA and thought there was much to be gained in relation to historical research and photography projects to document the development of the site and project.

Mr Tony Harding said he was still confused about the purpose of the project. Mr Hodgson explained that project would use social enterprise to generate income. This would be achieved by running nursery provision and using the twenty apprentices to help run the building to provide meeting, wedding and conference facilities.

A member of the audience commented that similar existing YMCA projects took place in towns, rather than rural settings and that the YMCA would be bringing the young apprentices to an environment they were not use to. Mr Hodgson agreed other projects were in towns but said only candidates who were suitable and showed a willingness to engage with the programme and the environment would be selected. Furthermore, that is why only five out of the possible twenty apprentices will start the scheme. Mr Birkett commented that, in some respects, the project would not be very different from the drug centre that had previously operated from the building and which had caused no problems in the village.

Cllr Glynn thanked Mr Hodgson and, irrespective of the issues raised by the possible relocation of the Pre-School, hoped the Parish Council could work with the YMCA in the future.

‘Neighbourhood Planning - an opportunity for the community’

Cllr Georgie Bigg delivered a slide presentation on Neighbourhood Planning (a copy of the presentation is available in the Minute Book).

5. Other from local organisations

District Councillor’s Review

Cllr Yamanaka delivered her report, copies of which were available in the meeting. In addition Cllr Yamanaka that she was pleased that the Pre-School Committee had voted not to move to Barley Wood as she had concerns about its loss on the social fabric of the village. Currently parents can walk to both Pre-School and the Primary School, giving the opportunity for social interaction and the use of local shops. She felt the village kept losing shops/facilities and she would hate to see another facility go. There were no questions from the floor and Cllr Glynn thanked Cllr Yamanaka for her report.

Police report – PC Paul Morris

Cllr Glynn introduced PC Paul Morris as the new Beat Manager. PC Morris explained he, supported by PCSO Kate Turner, covered Wrington, Brockley, Chelvey and Backwell. He outlined the recent police re-organisation but said that local policing was still regarded as a priority so Wrington should not notice any difference apart from the fact that the PCSO and himself now worked from Nailsea police station. He said that if the public were concerned about issues but did not want to contact the police direct, they could always approach the Parish Council. As far as local issues were concerned PC Morris was aware of the Speedwatch scheme and the ongoing nuisance issues at Gatcombe Farm. In relation to the latter he said the police were trying to resolve the situation with North Somerset Council. Apart from that there had been one burglary from a garage and one case of fraud in the month of April so crime in the area was currently very low. He said PCSO Turner would shortly resume the beat surgeries in the mobile police van. Cllr Glynn thanked PC Morris for attending the Meeting.

Twinning Association update – Mr Frank Finn

Mr Finn delivered his report. He explained the association’s aims were to foster social, cultural and economic links and to develop youth projects with Villeneuve-les-Beziers. He outlined the year’s programme of events with activities both in Wrington and France. Finally he commented that the association had a new website where further information could be found. Cllr Glynn thanked Mr Finn for his presentation.

Wrington Parish Charities – Mr Richard Thorn

Mr Richard Thorn delivered his report, copies of which were available in the meeting. Cllr Glynn thanked Mr Thorn for his report.

Legge's Charity – Mr John Gowar

Mr John Gowar delivered his report, copies of which were available in the meeting. Cllr Glynn thanks Mr Gowar for the his report.

Mr Gowar also reported that he had just come from a meeting at WVMP where it had been announced that the practice is planning to merge with Yeo Valley Medical Practice to create a practice with approximately 21k patients.

6. Annual report from the Parish Council

Cllr Glynn presented a report on the past year's activities and future plans as outlined in the Newsletter provided in the meeting. In addition he highlighted the following points:-

- Cllr Glynn thanked Mr Paul Robinson and Ms Lucie Howells who had both recently resigned from the Council.
- Election – all other Councillors have agreed to be nominated with insufficient nominations to fill all seats and so, therefore, there will not be an election in Wrington.
- Finance Report – Cllr Glynn explained that the report appears to show a significant amount in reserves with this demonstrating successful fundraising with the money earmarked for future projects. A list of future projects was available at the end of the Newsletter.

7. Questions from the floor

Cllr Glynn then asked for questions from the floor. Mrs Jill Rawlins asked, if the Pre-School were to relocate to Barley Wood, would the loss of income mean the loss of the Memorial Hall. Cllr Glynn said the Council would have to consider whether to further support the Memorial Hall Committee. However, he felt that the refurbishment of the kitchen, for which partial funding had been obtained, would help market the facility to new users.

Mr Clive Hall addressed the Meeting about the lack of affordable housing for young people and whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan would be able to secure affordable housing. Cllr Glynn said the plan would provide scope to ensure varied developments, affordable and of the right scale. Cllr Bigg commented that the problem was in getting developers to provide affordable housing as there was not a financial incentive for them to do it.

Cllr Glynn thanked those present for attending the meeting and there being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

**David Glynn
Chairman**