

WRINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on 7 May 2014 in the Memorial Hall, Silver Street, Wrington, BS40 5QE

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr David Glynn, opened the meeting at 7.00pm. Approximately 50 residents and Parish Council members were in attendance.

Cllr Glynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr John Adams, Mr Jeremy Birkett, Mr Clive Hall and PC Lloyd Nethercott.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 1 May 2013

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 May 2013 were signed as a true record by Cllr Glynn. Cllr Glynn explained that the draft Minutes from this meeting would be posted on the Council's website.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Guest speakers

Fred Cowgill – an update on the proposed community project for the old surgery building

Mr Cowgill delivered his report, copies of which were available in the meeting. In addition he commented:-

- The project would not replace but enhance existing village facilities.
- The community group planned to set up an Industrial Provident Society (IPS) to run the building. This meant anyone in the village could have a share in the IPS.
- The group had received potential offers of financial support from the Plunkett Foundation and Esmee Fairbairn Trust.
- Medcentres, who currently own the building, had not indicated opposition to the project.
- The group were now looking to have the building surveyed. This was particularly important because the building is structurally complicated and would require a lot of internal work. Once the survey had been completed an offer would be made to Medcentres.

Mr Cowgill then asked for questions from the floor. Ms Echo Irving asked how the community group was constituted. Mr Cowgill explained it was an informal group of interested residents, prior to the setting up of the IPS. Cllr Lankester offered to put Mr Cowgill in touch with the architect who had designed the building as this might help the group resolve some of the technical issues that the property raised. Cllr Ledbury asked if the group knew how much it would cost to convert the building. Mr Cowgill explained that this would not be known until a full survey had been carried out. Mr Cowgill offered to keep the village informed of future developments.

Clive Setter – public access defibrillators (AEDs)

Mr Setter gave a history of his involvement with AEDs. He explained how access to and use of the machine was directed by the ambulance control centre. He said the unit to be installed in Wrington was one of the latest models available, which assisted people in giving CPR as well as shocking the patient as and when necessary. He went on to give a full demonstration of how the AED worked and how CPR would be monitored and assisted. Mr Roy Clements asked if it would be possible to have public training sessions. Mr Setter said that sessions were already held every two months at Chew Valley Secondary School and Cllr Glynn offered to explore more local training opportunities. Cllr Glynn then thanked Mr Setter for the demonstration. Cllr Glynn explained that the AED to be installed at the Scout Hall was being provided by David James & Partners.

Lyndsay Newman – the Village Agent scheme

Ms Newman gave details about the scheme which has recently been extended to North Somerset following receipt of funding from the West of England Rural Network (WERN) and Comic Relief. She explained the role of the agents in assisting isolated people in rural areas to access information and services to enhance their wellbeing, safety and security. She outlined some of the agencies and bodies the scheme could assist people assessing and how the scheme worked in practice.

5. Other Reports

District Councillor’s Review

Cllr Yamanaka delivered her report, copies of which were available in the meeting. In addition Cllr Yamanaka commented on:-

- No decision had yet been reached on Medcentres appeal against NSC’s failure to issue a decision on the planning application for the erection of 4 dwellings on the old surgery site.
- She explained that although a Byway Open to All Traffic application on the old surgery site had been refused by NSC, the evidence submitted was being used to start the process of establishing a pedestrian right of way across the site.
- Ward boundary changes – she said she was hoping the changes would not result in a three member ward.
- Clevedon Hospital – Cllr Yamanaka said she had been told it was unlikely a decision would be made about the in-patient beds until after the next election.

Cllr Yamanaka then asked for questions from the floor. Residents raised the ongoing issues relating to Gatcombe Farm and the use of the site. After a discussion Cllr Glynn explained that the matter rested primarily with NSC Enforcement. PCSO Mayo explained how the police had been involved but were unable to act as use of the site was a civil matter (although they had given written statements to NSC). A brief discussion followed on potential alternative uses for the site and what could be done to help neighbours affected by the current issues.

Police report - PCSO Yvette Mayo

PCSO Yvette Mayo reported there had been 106 crimes recorded in the last twelve months, 53 in January alone and 59 crimes involving thefts from vehicles and non-dwellings. She reminded the meeting that all vehicles, sheds, gates and garages

should be locked and if possible contents of sheds should be secured inside the shed. She also said it was a good idea to keep a record of all serial numbers as well as putting an identifying mark on the item. She went onto report that ten burglaries in January had been linked to incidents in other villages. There had also been nine incidents of criminal damage. Further updates included:-

- Speedwatch campaign – still ongoing and anyone interested in being involved should get in touch.
- ‘No Cold Calling’ Zones – the pilot scheme, funded by Alliance Homes, in Hannah More Close has proved successful. If other roads or housing groups are interested they should contact PCSO Mayo.
- Neighbourhood Watch – is now controlled centrally from Bridgwater. PCSO Mayo said if anyone involved in the scheme was not receiving the regular newsletter they should get in touch as there had been some problems with the communication system.
- Parking – PCSO Mayo said she tried to work with residents on parking issues rather than issuing tickets but could only do this if the violation happened when she was present.

PCSO Mayo finished by explained that PC Nethercutt would be going on a three month secondment and would be replaced by PC Chris Denny.

Twinning Association update - Echo Irving

Ms Irving delivered her report, copies of which were available in the meeting. She finished by explaining that Mr John Adams had now stepped down as Chair and would be replaced by Mr Nick Walters.

Wrington Parish Charities – Mrs Judith Gallop

Mrs Gallop delivered a report on behalf of Mr Richard Thorn, copies of which were available in the meeting.

Legge’s Charity - Gabrielle Wilson

Mrs Wilson reported on the year’s activities. Grants are available for educational purposes to families in financial need who are resident in the parish of Wrington or, if living elsewhere, with children at Wrington Primary School. The Trustees are all local and give their time voluntarily so no money is spent on administration. In 2013 grants were made totalling £1,188. Applications for grants must be received by the second week in June.

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:-

- Flood relief scheme – the first phase is a new culvert between the Glebe and the stream in Garstons Orchard. The work is expected to start in July or August and should take eight weeks. The surface water retention phase should follow early next year.
- Website – the Council’s website was launched recently and is the easiest way of accessing information about the Council. The Council would welcome comments on the content.

- Parish Orderly – a new Orderly has been recruited and will be seen working around the parish.
- Free summer bedding plants – the Council will soon take delivery of a large quantity of bedding plants from Glendale (NSC's contractor). Anyone with suggests on locations should get in touch.
- Finance report – the Council's part of the council tax should be unchanged for 2014/15. The bank balance might appear rather high but this is because it includes several grants which have been received but are yet to be spent (eg. grants for a highways scheme on the A38 at Cowslip Green and for the refurbishment of the Broad Street toilets). The Council has also secured further grants to replace the main window in the Hall and to refurbish the old computer room, which will become the Information & Resource Centre. This will include a facility for residents who do not have a computer at home to have access to the internet.
- The Council has recently taken possession of a collection of historical records and other documents which were left to the Council by Mrs Joyce Smith. These will be assessed and it is hoped they will become available for public access in the new Resource Centre.
- The defibrillator mentioned earlier has been fully funded by David James & Partners. The Council is very appreciative of this gesture by a local business as the Council will only need to pay for the installation. The Council will also look at the possibility of installing further defibrillators, possibly at the Recreation Field and in Redhill.

7. Questions from the floor

Ms Echo Irving asked for an update on the installation of a new kitchen for the Memorial Hall. Cllr Glynn confirmed there had been a delay in securing funding but that the project was still ongoing.

Mr Roy Clements requested an update on the possible installation of solar panels on the Memorial Hall roof. Cllr Glynn explained the history of the project and confirmed that a supplier had now quoted for the installation. The proposal and order should be confirmed at either the May or June Parish Council meeting.

Finally Cllr Yamanaka highlighted the need for more Councillors, particularly from Redhill and Downside, and invited anyone with an interest to get in touch.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

David Glynn
Chairman