

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

**Present:** Chairman Cllr Rollins, Cllrs Eldridge, Knott, Harlow, Moore, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, the Clerk.

Members of the public: Mr Champion, Mrs Robins, Mrs Richardson, Mr Nicholls, Mrs Nicholls, Mr Wragg (Sports Club), Mrs Murdoch (Hort Soc), Mr Wartnaby (Trustee)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Eassom, Coates, Tunkle, C/Cllr Mrs Compton, Mr S Jones, Manager of the Warwickshire GC, Mrs Hillary David, Mrs Janet Jackson, Mr John Richardson.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were taken as read having been approved and signed at the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 and then displayed on the website.

a) Matters Arising.

Efforts made to recruit a "village correspondent" were successful and Mr Bob Jones, (details as the Parish Directory page 6) now acts in this role. The Chairman commented that there were still many groups who did not forward details of their activities to him, and wished to encourage everyone to do so.

**3. CHAIRMANS REPORT 2009/10**

Another year has gone by in what seems to be a very short time. A number of changes have arisen since last year, firstly the installation of the new 30mph traffic VAS sign as a means of slowing traffic past the junctions in the centre of the village.

Secondly, the proposed new building at Police Headquarters seems to be stalled. There is a suggestion that funding is the underlying difficulty but this cannot be confirmed at this stage. We are aware that there is considerable concern regarding the felling of trees on Police H.Q. land. The head of Property Services assures me that only trees that have been assessed as potentially dangerous have been felled for Health and Safety reasons. Also that for every tree felled another is planted as close as possible to the felled one. This is ongoing at present because of the concerns expressed by people in the village. (see item 7)

Gaveston Cross has, for some years been the centre of Parish Council concern as we have tried to obtain access for members of the public to visit the Cross and woodland. Unfortunately this has now come to a close as the difficulties override any possible solution.

A Steering Group with responsibility for investigating and creating a Parish Plan has been formed under the chairmanship of Brian Melling, and funding has been provided for this to progress to the next stage. Our thanks go to all have volunteered to help with this project.

During the year we have updated the Information Directory but are rather disappointed with the responses to the Warbler. If anyone wishes to raise any concerns or ideas regarding the village you feel we can help with, please tell us.

May I again pass on my sincere thanks to Eileen our Clerk for all her work and help during the year and also to our Council representatives Josie Compton and Susan Gallagher. Finally my thanks go to all of the Parish Councillors for their work during the year.

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**4. Financial Report  
Annual Return 2008/09**

The annual return for April 2008– March 2009 was submitted to auditors Clement Keys for inspection in July, and approved in September. The usual notices were displayed at that time and copies of the return are always available for scrutiny.

For the year 2008/09 the precept remained unchanged at £7050. However, for 2010/11 the precept was increased by £212 to £7262, the Concurrent contribution has been slightly reduced for 2010/11 to £2920, therefore income will be £10,182.

Balance brought forward at 31<sup>st</sup> March 10 was £5521, however, £1500 of this is a grant received from WDC towards the new Steering Committee's expenses whilst undergoing the Parish Plan project, and will be handled separately from the PC's accounts. So technically £4021 was brought forward.

We overspent slightly on concurrent expenditure, caused by repairs and renewals to gates in the play area. Precept expenditure just about matched the income, and we were also able to contribute £400 towards the Sports Club's tractor fund. It is hoped that there will not be any major repairs or renewals needed to the play area, as the budget of £2920 is rather tight.

The 2009/10 accounts and annual return will shortly be scrutinised by our internal auditor, and submitted for approval by auditors Clement Keys in June.

The accounts are always available for inspection by appointment.

**5. Village organisations reports.**

\* Reports were received and read from The Local History Group, the Brownies, and Village Hall committee. Details will be published on the website. It was agreed that Cllr D Eassom would continue as the Village Hall representative on the Parish Council.

Verbal reports were received from Mr Andrew Wragg secretary of the Sports Club, who commented that the Sports Club had a very successful year, with a membership of 611, and efforts are now being made to purchase a new tractor for the sports field. Any support and help with maintenance and other projects would be gratefully received. Everyone agreed that the Sports Ground is a facility used by all, and maintained to a high standard.

Mrs M Murdoch reported on behalf of the Horticultural Society which also had a successful year,

Mr Wartnaby on behalf of the Memorial and Recreation Ground Trustees commented that it is the responsibility of The Trustees to oversee the administration of the area. They have no income as such but are able to arrange and pay for insurance and to support improvements.

**6. Reports from County and District Councillors.  
C/Cllr Mrs J Compton reported -**

*In June 2009 Warwickshire County Council went from being a Council with no overall political control, to a Conservative Authority. This has made the Budget setting easier but with the present financial situation has meant that there is a shortfall in the finance to allocate to the services provided by the County. The budget for schools is ring-fenced and therefore safeguarded so this gives less to spend on Adult Services, Libraries, Roads, Community Protection, Fire Service and indeed children's services. Cuts will have to be made in each Directorate with Heads of Service making economies to fit the Budget Allocation.*

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*Warwickshire is looking at new ways of working and indeed is exploring joining with neighbouring authorities in Coventry and Solihull to protect and keep if possible such services as Library provision and the County Music Service. We already work with Coventry and Solihull in Waste Management and maybe this could be extended. The Fire Service Review is still ongoing as is indeed the Atherstone on Stour Enquiry. The Review will not come back to the Council until all public representations have been considered.*

*Road maintenance is always high on the rural agenda and after the severe weather this winter extra funding has been taken from the Warwick Area Budget to fill the potholes which seem to appear almost overnight. The Gritting Teams have managed to keep the main roads passable and a review will take place during the summer to consider extending the routes. Warwickshire already grit nearly 50% of the network which is considerably more than neighbouring authorities.*

*The Street Lighting on main roads is under review to examine the possibility of dimming the lights to save on electricity. Several roads in the area have indeed had their lights/dimmed on an experimental basis for the last three years!!*

*We have plans at an early stage for two more Railway Stations, one at Kenilworth and the other at Stratford on Avon.*

*The One stop shop located in Shire Hall now has the front office service for Warwick Police - this having been moved from the Police Station. This is proving much more convenient as it is open for longer hours and six days a week.*

*Warwick Rural West Community Forum has met on a regular basis and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams are always in attendance and in addition to giving a report are available for individual consultations before the meeting starts. The Forum is still settling down to this new way of consulting with the Community and I hope that more people will come along to voice their opinions on the services provided by both the County and Warwick District Council. Funding is available through the Forum for Community Projects and the Leader Project, serviced from Ryton Organic has money for anything connected with gardening or agriculture.*

*Local Government is facing difficult years with an increasing older population to be cared for and more children coming into care and greater expectations by the public.*

*I have attended Parish Council meetings during the year in addition to co-chairing the Community Forum, Chairing the Warwick Area Committee, and Vice Chairman of the Council. I thank the Councillors, Chairman and Clerk for their help and assistance in fulfilling my role.*

### **D/Cllr Mrs S Gallagher reported**

*Last May I was made a member of the Executive and given the portfolio for Culture and Leisure, with that came the responsibility of such things as saving the Spa Centre, looking after our parks, gardens and open spaces, and improving the use of our leisure centres, plus Warwick District Council bought Oakley Wood and we now have the responsibility of managing it, So lets return to the Spa Centre, we have taken on a new manager on a two year fixed contract, we were very lucky to get him as he was at the Belgrade in Coventry, so we must keep the Spa Centre open, he is already booking very different acts, so look at the programme and give it a try, remember if a theatre is closed we would never get it back, also check out the Royal cinema, USE IT OR LOSE IT.*

*I have now bought in free swimming in all our leisure centres for the under 16s, we have had for some time free swimming for the over 60s, so get your friends, children, and grandchildren and go and have fun with the added bonus of getting fit.*

*Apart from looking after all our parks and gardens we are launching a special campaign to bring back the Linden Walk in the Pump Room Gardens, with the help of The Friends of the Pump Room Gardens, we want to bring it back to its former glory.*

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*And to add to the museum we have just been lucky enough to purchase at auction Rando'ph Turpin's head protector, that is now on display.*

*Also after a years negotiating we have finally awarded the lease of Newbold Comyn Golf Course to Mack Trading who are golf specialists so we hope to greatly improve the course and facilities whilst keeping it as a pay and play course for all to enjoy.*

*We have now had the first full year of Travel Tokens and very successful they have been, it just goes a little way to help people in the rural areas who have no public transport to get about.*

*I would like to end by thanking all the officers at Warwick District Council, and the Parish Council for all their help over the last year, and I would stress if I can be of any help in any way please contact me.*

**7. Issues of particular importance from the community.**

Mrs D Richardson informed the meeting that extensive tree felling has been carried out at Police HQ, some of which has involved damage to fences and trees on her land, as well as ruining wildlife habitat. It is believed that trees with TPO's were also cut down. Previously the Head of Property Services informed the Chairman that only dangerous/diseased trees would be felled, obviously this has not been the case.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would write a strong letter to the Chief Constable and Head of Property Services expressing our deep concerns at their actions. Any further information received should be directed towards Cllr Gallagher who is willing to investigate further.

Mrs Robins informed the meeting that security officers from Birmingham Airport were requesting help from the public to report any suspicious behaviour in an attempt to reduce the opportunity for terrorist related incidents. It was agreed to circulate the details they had provided.

Issues also raised were problems with parking on pavements and corners, as is dog fouling. It was agreed that Cllr Gallagher would contact the dog warden for advice, and the Clerk will monitor parking and produce notices if necessary.

The regular newsletter received by the PC from the WRW team is circulated to everyone on the Neighbourhood Watch list, and if any one else wishes to receive these details, they should contact the Clerk.

**8. There being no other matters,** The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.25.

Signed.......... Date...18.5.2010.....

\* copies of reports received, attached.



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**1<sup>st</sup> Leek Wootton Brownies**

This is a very exciting year for the Brownies. From Sept 09 to Oct 10 the Guiding movement celebrates its Centenary year. Many special events have taken place or are being planned during this year. We took part in our District launch at the Black Country Museum during October 09. Our guide, Noreen, showed us all around the shops, mine, school room and cinema, giving us a real insight into life in that era. During the early part of last year we completed our Road Safety Badge and First Aid Badge. Throughout the summer we attended Tag Rugby training, which ended in a tournament at Kenilworth Rugby club against other Brownies groups in Kenilworth. The Brownies played very well and came home with 1st place medals. We also saved our Sainsburys vouchers and managed to put them towards 2 dance lessons... we are now experts at Jazz and Hip hop.

We have, as always, enjoyed taking part in Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Services at All Saints' Church. The Brownies are very eager to carry the flag alongside the Guides, Scouts and Beavers.

Breaking up for the summer was quite a sad time for our pack. We said goodbye to Megan and Angela as they move on to University. Both girls have helped with the Brownies enormously teaching us everything we know about being leaders. If it wasn't for their enthusiasm to keep the pack alive when Bev Coleman left, we wouldn't have stepped in. They have been leading and helping since 2004, two years after the unit restarted. We presented them with a scrap book, that Brownies, Guides and Leaders had compiled and a box of goodies for life at University! During the year we have also said goodbye to 8 Brownies but still have a full pack of 16 Brownies. We finished 2009 with a Christmas meal at The Queen and Castle in Kenilworth.

Steph Jones Brown Owl Sharon Renshaw Tawny Owl

**Leek Wootton History Group**

The past year saw the History Group continuing to be involved with Warwickshire County Record Office and the 'Outside the Box' team in relation to the Waller Collection.

The Group produced, with grant assistance, a Mary Wise Recipe Book, a copy of which was given to every household in the Parish. This was achieved with the assistance of The Link distributors, for which the Group was most grateful.

The OTB team arranged a 'Wise Walk' around the grounds of Woodcote, led by Steven Falk, Senior Keeper of Natural History at Warwickshire Museum.

A very successful festival, 'The Priory in the Past', was held in June 2009 at WCRO and the History Group had a stall giving away copies of the Recipe Book.

As supporters of the OTB project, the Chairman and Clerk of the Parish Council were invited to WCRO for a very interesting up-date evening, and the Group arranged an evening visit to Woodcote, by courtesy of the Police, when a short talk about the history of the building was given and a tour of the building was undertaken. The Group had a stall at the Church Fete displaying information about Woodcote and the Wise and Waller families.

Teaching resources developed as a result of the OTB project have been provided for All Saints' School.

The final production, financed by OTB, is a map of the general area around Warwick and Leamington describing sites that are associated with the two families and copies are soon to be distributed to all households in the community.

The OTB project's life span has now expired and therefore involvement therewith has ceased.

The Group will hold its AGM shortly and decide on future projects with which to involve itself.

Lesley Eldridge Secretary/Treasurer

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**VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

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## WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### REPORT FOR 2009/10

In June 2009 Warwickshire County Council went from being a council with no overall political <sup>Control</sup> to a Conservative Authority.

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Jose Compton. County Councillor

Councillor

# Susan Gallagher

Member for Leek Wootton

Telephone : 01926 484654

Email : susan.gallagher@warwickdc.gov.uk

My Ref :

Your Ref :

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Cllr Sue Gallagher.

Appletree Cottage  
Haseley Knob  
Warwick  
CV35 7NJ





# Girlguiding

Warwickshire

*girls in the lead*

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Steph Jones  
Brown Owl

Sharon Renshaw  
Tawny Owl

February 2010



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