

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2013
8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM.**

Present : Cllrs Coates, Eldridge, Eassom, Knott, Moore, Rollins (Chairman), Tunkle, C/Cllr Mrs Compton, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, the Clerk, five members of the public- Mrs Murdoch, Mr Harlow, Mr Robins, Mr Wartnaby, and Mrs Wosket-Brown.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Smith, Mrs S Jones, Mrs J Jackson
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2012 were signed and published on the website after the June 2012 meeting. There were no matters arising.
3. **Chairman's Report May 2013**

This has been a very busy year for the Parish Council with many new matters to be addressed some resolved and others awaiting further decisions.

The Diamond Jubilee day was a wonderful success despite more than a few spots of rain. The sheer determination of so many people who attended, despite the weather, with one intention, to enjoy it, really made the day. We hope that the commemorative stone and plaque kindly paid for by a resident of the Parish and erected by the village hall is to your liking.

The sale of Police Headquarters and grounds is still not finalised and awaits the decision of the new Police Commissioner. The property will either be sold in its entirety or in seven separate lots. The woodland is one of these lots. The Parish Council has been actively engaged in an effort to acquire the woodland to the north-west of the village – part of the Woodcote Estate – since the summer of 2011, with a view to restoring public access and rehabilitating the woods as a public amenity. This has been a long drawn-out process with a number of frustrations along the way, caused mainly by the convoluted nature of the Warwickshire Police Authority's approach to the disposal of Woodcote.

In November 2011 an effort was made to secure grant aid for the acquisition of the woods and subsequent restoration work, but it soon became apparent that the majority of funding sources would not cover the actual land purchase. The Parish Council therefore obtained a commitment from Warwick District Council in May 2012 to assist with the purchase, following the model of Oakley and Crackley Woods. In the meantime both the Leader Fund and The Heritage Lottery Fund have provided favourable responses to supporting the project, provided that the issue of the land ownership can be resolved. In November 2012 part of the woods, known as The Lunch, also received designation as a Local Wildlife Site. This is an important requirement for obtaining Heritage Lottery Fund support.

1. Next Steps

If the WDC bid is successful, the Parish Council will then reactivate the various attempts to secure grant aid in support of the rehabilitation process. A 'Woodland Management Plan' will be prepared as the first stage of the on-going programme to clear and replant certain areas of the wood; create new woodland trails, allowing public access, and generally to approve the amenity value of the area for the village. should the application be successful a Board of Trustees will be appointed within the village with specific responsibility to manage the creation of the nature reserve.

The Parish Council has to respond to Warwick District Council about the first phase of the Local Plan with specific regard to the proposal that 30 to 80 houses could be built in the village over the next 15 years. We have been working closely with a senior planning officer from W.D.C on this matter and have discussed expressions of interest received from a number of individuals and business organisations. The vast majority of these were for large developments, all well in excess of the 30 to 80 proposed, and were not supported.

If the suggested retirement village on the HQ site actually takes place, there is within it a proposal for 40 bungalows to be built for elderly people as part of the village. We believe that these will be regarded as part of the 30 to 80 allocation. There are also plans to build up to 10 further houses around the site subject to planning permission, and these would also be part of the number stated. We feel that these would go a long way towards the suggested requirements.

The final Local Plan will not be produced until the end of the year and is still in discussion stage. The Parish Council do not support any intrusive development within the village and will endeavour to ensure that it does not occur. This view is also expressed in our own village plan.

The Housing Needs survey has now been completed and shows that 145 residents, or 40% of the village responded, an excellent return. The first part of the survey related to opinions in regard to Local Need for housing in the future and some 63% expressed support for a small scale affordable housing scheme, 25% were against. The second part was for those households who felt that they had a specific housing need under the affordable parameters. Some six respondents expressed a need for five one bedroom flats and one a two bedroom house. It recommended that the Parish Council take steps to identify how these needs could be addressed. A full report of the survey findings is with the Parish Council, for further discussion and approval.

TRAFFIC CALMING WCC SPEED REDUCTION SCHEME

Steps are being taken with regard to traffic calming and speed reduction in the village, and thanks to our County Councillor, Josie Compton, expenditure has been agreed from the County Council for a scheme to improve traffic flow through the village and to reduce the speed of that traffic. The main part is to replace the existing 30 mph signs with new "Gateway" signs with greater visibility and wording. The road surface prior to the signs will have "Dragons teeth and glass beading embedded in the surface to make drivers aware. A high friction surface will also be created at the signs themselves.

Speed limits are also to be changed, with a new 30 mph limit through the centre of Hill Wootton. There will be a 50 mph restrictions on all approach roads into Leek Wootton, and an environmental weight limit will also be introduced. Hopefully this will put an end to the existing problem with the heavy vehicles. These proposals will however take a little longer to produce due to the legal requirements involved. The Parish Council will continue to take whatever steps are possible to calm traffic but most do have significant financial implications. **Details of these proposals were available for viewing.**

Leek Wootton Playground Renewal

The Parish Council has been considering the renewal of the current outdated playground equipment for some time, as a result of the Parish Plan output, and to date have carried out a number of activities:

- a survey of children at the village school to see what equipment they would like
- meeting and obtaining quotes from equipment suppliers
- investigating various sources for funding and making applications
- visiting other local playgrounds to test possible equipment (with children's assistance!)
- initiating a new group known as 'Friends of Leek Wootton Playground' to obtain funds and
- implement the project

Regarding the latter, the wider village community is invited to join the 'Friends' and help steer the project through to fruition, which we hope to achieve in the next year or so to give the children an exciting new facility to enjoy!

I should like to take the opportunity to thank our District and County representatives Mrs Compton and Mrs Gallagher, for their valuable support over the past year.

I would also bring to your notice the dedication of our Clerk Eileen Clayton and particularly the very significant increase in her workload over this year, which is likely to continue to increase and must be addressed by the Council as a matter of urgency. Without her commitment the Council would have significant difficulty in doing its job for the village.

We will seek to keep you informed of developments in all of the matters mentioned above, some of which are very important for the future of this village.

4. Financial report for year ending 31st March 2013.

During 2012/13, we received two grants from the Warwick Rural West Community Forum, £804 towards new metal gates in the playground, now in place, and proving a stronger alternative, and £800 towards resurfacing the footpath to the village hall. The Village Hall Committee and Horticultural Society also contributed to these repairs which totalled £1588 and our thanks go to them and the Forum for their assistance.

We were also fortunate to receive grants of £450 towards the highly successful Jubilee celebrations.

A great deal of the Parish Council's income is taken up with maintenance of the playground/memorial area, and this year, 2013, efforts are being made to replace play equipment, £1000 has been allocated towards this project, if successful, but the bulk of the financing will be obtained from various grant agencies. This is in the very early stages of planning, and Cllrs Coates and Knott are in charge of this project.

The Parish Council has also taken out a loan of £10,000 from the PWLB to assist the Village Hall Committee fund their new kitchen extension, this loan is for a 10 year period with a small manageable interest rate.

For this financial year 2013/14, £4554 was brought forward, the precept again remained the same, and together with concurrent grant the total income for 2013/14 is £10242. There was a slight overspend on the budget last year, due to extra IT and admin costs, but we still manage to have a healthy reserve. A new maintenance contract for the play and memorial areas has been negotiated which is substantially less than the previous one and should help keep costs within boundaries. Other maintenance may be needed to various areas of the village during the year.

The 2011/12 annual return required by law was approved in July 2012. The 2012/13 accounts and annual return, will be scrutinised by our internal auditor, and submitted for approval to new auditors Grant Thornton, by July 2013.

5. Reports from village organisations. Written reports were received from The Brownies, the History Group, Young at Heart, Mothers Union, attached.

Verbal reports were received from the Horticultural Society who have celebrated another successful year, (attached), the Sports Club who now have a new secretary Sue Whitehouse, and successful membership with many visitors, the cricket and football sections are well supported (attached), and the Trustees of the Memorial and Recreation ground who have now renegotiated a 21 year lease with the sports club.

Full details will be included in the minutes to be published on our website.

6. Report from County Councillor Mrs Compton

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

In spite of the general gloom about unemployment Warwickshire County Council has succeeded in attracting funding from the City Deal covering Warwickshire, Coventry & Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council. This should enable apprenticeships and training to be provided to cover the skill shortage especially in Engineering and reduce youth unemployment. Also operation Footfall has £400,000 available to give assistance to our Market Towns with business led projects – grants range from £500 - £30,000 and the first grants have been awarded in March with May, September and November following on.

Other good news is that the application for a new Station at Kenilworth has now been lodged and it is estimated that there will be over 400 passenger journeys a day when fully operational. We await news on whether we have been successful with the application for funding.

Warwickshire has not increased its' share of the Council Tax for 2013/14 – indeed the Council Tax has not increased for the past three years although we have had to cope with £60 million cuts in Government Grant. This has obviously had an impact on services – libraries and youth in particular but has meant that with re-organisation these services can still be sustained with many volunteers involved. Locally we still have the main libraries with the Mobile Service still travelling around and in conjunction with Age UK visiting housebound people with books, CDs as well as providing information.

From 1st April the public health role passed across to the County Council with the 'Health & Wellbeing Board' becoming an executive function and this will lead to independent scrutiny by the Adult Social Care & Health Committee. As Dementia Champion for Warwickshire I have been very involved in putting the 'Dementia Portal' on the WCC Web Pages to enable everyone to access information about this distressing illness.

In response to many concerns expressed by residents and Parish Councils I was successful at the Warwick Area Committee in having funding allocated from the Transport Seminar for speed reductions and these have now appeared . Speed Aware schemes can be initialised where necessary and of course drivers should always drive according to the road conditions but in the main the reductions have been well received – they are always publicised before implementation and

concerns taken on board. Leek Wootton has been allocated funding for a road improvement scheme which should be in place by the end of the year.

I have co-chaired the Warwick Rural West Community Forum to which all members of the public are welcome to attend to bring matters of concern to County and District Officers and also our local Police Officers who are always in attendance. We have given Grants to many schemes including Village Halls, Defibrillators, Playgrounds, VAS sign, Jubilee Celebrations, Community Marquee etc. and funding towards costs of Parish Plans. We look forward to receiving more applications for the next financial year.

I attend all Parish Council meetings and wish to thank all Parish Councillors and clerks for their help and co-operation in helping me to fulfil my role as your County Councillor.

D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

A busy year for the district with a royal visit from the Duke of Gloucester to open the Linden Arches, as well as Jubilee year and the Olympic torch relay coming through this area. For 2013, WDC have set the budget with no rise in council tax.

The waste service is now able to recycle more things,

The local plan is still not finalised and will go out for further consultation after 4th June, finding a site suitable for gypsies and travellers, is causing some problems. With regards to travellers at Kites Nest Lane, they have been given a court order stating if they lose their appeal on 11th June(to be held at Leamington Town Hall), they will have to move within a month.


Travel tokens are still available for over 60's, please claim them if eligible. Finally, my thanks to the Chairman, Clerk and Parish Councillors for their help over the last 12 months.

7. Mrs Patterson, head teacher of the school is concerned at the lack of visibility at the roundabout when crossing, it was agreed that the Chairman would contact the manager of the Warwickshire, and Mrs Patterson to discuss this.

Mr Harlow requested clarification regarding the speed reduction scheme, and whether it does include a weight restriction – this was confirmed.

It was agreed to publish the BULLETIN with details of this meeting if possible for the June Link.

8. There were no other matters, and the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed.......... Date..... 9.7.2013.....

Copies of reports received from local organisations attached.

The Woodcote Arboretum Project

Progress Report for Annual Parish Council Meeting 14-05-13

1. Background

The Parish Council has been actively engaged in an effort to acquire the woodland to the north-west of the village – part of the Woodcote Estate – since the summer of 2011, with a view to restoring public access and rehabilitating the woods as a public amenity.

This has been a long drawn-out process with a number of frustrations along the way, caused mainly by the convoluted nature of the Warwickshire Police Authority's approach to the disposal of Woodcote.

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13th May 2013

Young at Heart Club

We are a small group of people who meet each Monday at the Sports Club, from 2pm to 4pm, except on Bank Holidays. This year we have had a varied programme. We have been on meals out, usually at the Race horse in Warwick, who treat us very well. We also play various games including Scrabble, New Market, Uno, Rummikub, Bingo and Quizzes. Every other year we entertain Budbrooke Church Group to an afternoon tea, then the following year we go to them. We have outings, this year we go to them. ~~We have~~ went to see Chris Jackson at Lutterworth twice, once for a pub meal and also a cream tea at her daughter's house (enclosed is a photo taken at the house) (Please could we have this back) We are invited to school activities, which have included Easter, Harvest, & Christmas plays. We enjoyed the trip to Bath. We have dwindled in numbers lately and would welcome anybody over 60 years to come along and join us.

male or female. We are a very
friendly little group

Hilary David
01926 258576

Jenny Kimberley.
0926 857404

LEEK WOOTTON HISTORY GROUP

REPORT 2012/3

Shortly after we reported to the Annual Parish Meeting in 2012, Leek Wootton History Group launched the centre piece of its Heritage Lottery Fund financed project, *Doreen's Diary: The life of an indomitable woman in Warwickshire during World War II*, with the publication of *Doreen's Diary: She Could Not Have Loved More*.

On 22 May 2012, the 72nd anniversary of Flying Officer Gilbert Wright of Wootton Court being posted 'Missing in Action', we held a press launch. On 25 May the Village Hall Committee (with some assistance from the History Group) organised a Dinner Dance with a 1940s theme at The Warwickshire and on 26 May the History Group held an exhibition in the Village Hall to launch the book.

Tuesday, 29 May saw a number of our members dressed up again to provide a Super Learning Day for All Saints' School based again on a 1940s theme, which culminated in a session of diary writing on the day by adults and children marking the first entry in Doreen Wright's diary on 29 May 1940.

Saturday, 2 June saw others of the Group appearing at the Kenilworth Show; on 12 June the top class at the village school were taken on the World War II walk at Goodrest and through the village; and on the evening of the 26 May our World War II Walk (first held on 25 September 2011) was repeated, ending with refreshments at the Village Hall.

School Learning Packs containing a copy of the book, teachers' notes and a CD of resource material, were prepared and have been circulated to some 90 state and independent schools. On top of these activities, an Oral Archive has been established, a Reminiscence Book begun, talks given to other groups around the County, and we have taken every opportunity to sell the book.

The terms of the HLF grant required an external evaluation to be undertaken and this concluded that "the Doreen's Diary project has been successful in every element". A copy of the evaluation document could be made available (via e-mail or a hard copy) to anyone who would like to know more of what the Group achieved.

Alongside the above, the History Group has worked with the Friends of the Ack-Ack Battery at Goodrest, including members taking part in their Open Day in November 2012. This link will continue and in the year to come the Group will be concentrating on finding out all that it can about the 18 men recorded on the First World War memorial in All Saints' Church, in readiness for the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War.



Girlguiding

1st Leek Wootton Brownies

March 2013

We had a lot to celebrate during the summer term 2012: The Queens Jubilee and also the London Olympics. The Brownies gained the Diamond Jubilee badge by learning how to decorate cakes, making their own personnel coat of arm, designing a patriotic flower arrangement and finishing off with a celebratory tea party in the garden of the village hall. We all dressed up in red white and blue and toasted The Queen! The Brownies loved taking part in the human fruit machine which proved very popular at the Church Fete in May. Our young leaders organised a slumber party for the Brownies – lots of popcorn was eaten.

We worked towards two badges during the autumn term. To complete part of our fire safety badge we visited Leamington Fire station, where we learnt about the equipment and uniform the firemen would wear. Unfortunately our visit was cut short when the crew were called out and we quickly had to vacate the building. After half term we started our Brownie Skills badge which was a new challenge that we have never done before. The Brownies learnt how to read a bus timetable and took a trip on a bus to show what they had remembered. They sewed badges on their sash, planned a healthy meal and a school nurse visited us to show how hand hygiene is very important.

While attending the Remembrance Parade it was decided by the Brownies, that our flag was looking a bit old and tired and we vowed to contact the Round Table as see if they would sponsor a new flag for the unit... watch this space! Our Christmas outing was a visit to the Priory Theatre to see Aladdin. All the Brownies ended up on stage singing, which was a lot of fun. During the winter term we completed our Road safety badge and took part in the division round of the Road Safety quiz. The brownies came third with a respectable score of 15/20. In January we went to the Gang Show at Warwick Arts centre and thought it was the best one yet. The Young leaders prepared a Spy night for the Brownies making spy glasses and playing wink murder. They also planted flower bulbs in a pot for our Mothers' day craft.

We have had 7 Brownies leave this year and have now a better range of ages in the pack. The new Brownies have been looked after by the experienced ones and shown the ropes. We are very grateful for our young leader, who helps us enormously. Celia Keay joined us at the beginning of the year and has been a great support. We still have Emily Cannings and Zoe Jones as our other young leaders.

Steph Jones
Brown Owl

Sharon Renshaw
Tawny Owl



Mothers Union is inspired by Christ to work together to see communities transformed. This Christian mission charity seeks to support families of all kinds. Wherever we work we see that the need to support families is greater than ever. In over 80 countries 4 million members worldwide share a vision – to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships

During 2012 Our Leek Wootton Branch aimed to support and resource our church community and we continue to be led by our dedicated committee.

At our Rededication Service in April our Diocesan President Di Sliwinski gave '60 years of membership certificates' to Jean Chamberlain and Chris Jackson and welcomed four new members – two to All Saints Branch as they are in the village with two Diocesan members as they are based in Ashow and Stoneleigh.

Members prayed for families worldwide, our village school and children's activities and for our community. We supplied prayers to Link Magazine and provided a 'Quiet Space' of creative prayer at the Village Fete.

We supported two morning groups for pre-schoolers, toddlers, babies and carers: Leek Wootton Stay & Play at the village hall on Thursdays and smALL SAINTS - 3rd Wednesdays of the month in church.

In church, refreshments and 'goody bags' were provided for couples attending the Marriage Preparation Day and two Parenting Courses were hosted – 'Time out for Parents' in the spring and 'What shall we tell the Children' in the autumn. We attended Communion Services and led a Church Teas with 'gingerbread teddies' given to each parachuting bear.

Many families subscribed to the Christian lifestyle magazine 'Families First' and we encouraged local stores to stock this.

During 2013 we fundraised for 'The MU Overseas Fund' supplying aid to be administered by MU workers in needy areas of the world.

Members and Supporters met monthly in our homes, Thursday daytime or evenings; Di Sliwinski helped us understand more about the work of MU through two talks - 'Our part in Mothers Union in our Diocese' and 'Our Part in Mothers Union Worldwide' and Jim Perryman's theme was - 'Jim's journey to faith'. Meetings also included prayers, a bible reflection/study, poetry afternoon, sharing pictures, stories and memories about our husbands, making baptismal anniversary cards, New Year and Diamond Jubilee parties, an Easter bring and share lunch and Christmas Dinner at 'The Anchor'.

If you would like to become a member, support or campaign for MU, find out more about MU's work or receive Mothers' Union's monthly eNewsletter do ask.

Janet Jackson (Branch correspondent)



"maggie Wosket Brown" <magi71@mail.com>

Subject: Meeting 14th May 2013
From: Sue and Tom Whitehouse
To: magi71@mail.com
Date: 04/30/13 08:48 PM

Dear Maggie

Many thanks for agreeing to attend this meeting on my behalf.

Following is a short summary of the Secretary's Report for you to read out:-

The Sports Club Committee met ten times during 2012 under the Chairmanship of Steph Bailey and Martin Watkin and endeavoured to make the correct decisions to keep the Club running smoothly.

One or two highlights have been the Village Jubile Event, new furniture for the main room, new cricket covers.
The Lease has been finalised and signatures added.

Membership figures have stayed at a level since 2008 and the revenue off membership for 2012 totalled £4719.00. The bar has maintained a good weekly income and hopefully members will maintain their support for the Club.

The grounds have continued to look good and Wi-Fi has now been installed at the Club.

The Club also has many visitors including Young at Heart, Monday pm, Sewing Tuesdays and Fridays, Bridge Club, and Probus.

'Of course there is also a well established Cricket Team and various Football junior and senior teams all playing at the grounds.

We have a Pool Team doing quite well and also Crib and Dominoes.

In summary, it has been a very good year for the Club and it continues to be a source of much enjoyment and a place for socializing in the local community.