

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014, 8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM**

**Present – Cllrs Smith, Rollins, Coates, Eldridge, Eassom, Knott, Moore, Tunkle, the Clerk. Six members of the public ---Mr & Mrs Whitehouse, Mr P Champion, Mr & Mrs Needham, Mr P Robins.**

**Welcome and refreshments. - The meeting was opened by the new Chairman Cllr Colin Smith**

- 1. Apologies** were accepted from C/Cllr Mrs Compton, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, Rev J Perryman and Mrs Perryman.
- 2. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013**, were previously signed circulated and published on the website.

a) Matters Arising – further maintenance was actioned at the Warwickshire roundabout following a request regarding visibility. The speed reduction programme is now in operation.

- 3. Retiring Chairman Cllr Rollins then presented the Annual Council report for the year 2013/14.**

*I am now coming to the end of my fifth and final year as Chairman of the Council, a position which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I honestly believe that this year has been the most difficult but vitally important one ever for this Parish and its future, covering many complex proposals for change. This includes major changes in the rules of planning and boundaries.*

*Firstly Local Plan 2, for the first time included proposals that a number of local villages should contribute to the overall numbers of houses being required. As far as this Parish was concerned we were looking at some 85 houses. This Council decided with the backing of a well supported village meeting, to fight these proposals and did so through a comprehensive report to Warwick District Council. As you are now aware these numbers have now been significantly reduced to 45. We knew that there was no possibility of totally reducing the number but we feel that this number can be managed without significant detrimental impact on the Parish.*

*Secondly we still await the decision in regard to the movement of our outer Parish boundary. If this is successful it would bring the Kenilworth boundary down to the Broad Lane Caravan Site complex and destroy the buffer zone between us. We have succeeded in our objections to the proposed Guy's Cliffe boundary changes and are presently actively fighting the northern proposals.*

*Thirdly we continue to meet with representatives of Warwickshire Police, their agents and architects concerning the regular changes to proposals for developing the whole of the HQ complex. The proposal for a retirement village failed through lack of interest and we do not see that this will be*

*resurrected in the future. Some building will take place on this site and we expect an application in the not too distant future.*

*We continue, as part of the previous paragraph, to discuss the future of the woods and lakes around Police HQ and have an assurance that they will be given to the Parish for amenity use. We are negotiating on the basis of a charitable trust being created within the Parish, and the trust to become the owners of the woodland and possibly lakes as well.*

*We are moving closer to the installation of new playground equipment. This is a very costly project with virtually all the money being met from charitable funding. Our thanks go to Councillors Richard Coates, Keith Knott, and our Clerk for all their hard work in this respect.*

*In addition to these matters we have at last, a weight restriction order for the village thanks mainly to Cllr Jose Compton our County representative. Hopefully we should now see a significant improvement and reduction in heavy lorries particularly the abattoir vehicles going through.*

*Our very significant thanks go to Clerk, Eileen, who has withstood the vast increase in her role as a result of the matters raised above. She is invaluable to us and her depth of knowledge is amazing. Also, thanks go our County and District representatives, Cllr Mrs Compton and Cllr Mrs Gallagher, for all their work on behalf of the Parish over the year.*

*The next year will bring fresh new challenges for this Council but I believe that a firm base has been created to work from. The neighbourhood planning team has now been created and I feel they will form a very valuable and indeed powerful voice in the future of Leek Wootton.*

*Finally my thanks to all of my colleagues on the Council for their hard work and support this year.*

#### **4. Financial report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 presented by the Clerk/RFO.**

*No 1 bank account balance at year end = £4998.26, last year £4554. No 2 account - PWLB loan account unchanged at £1975.*

*Precept increased for 2014/15 = £7665, and includes £40 extra to cover WDC tax base changes, (last year £94). Therefore total income for 2014/15 is £10,575.*

*There is a healthy if small surplus. Always need to keep approx. £3000 in reserve.*

*Overspent slightly, making extra contributions to the PCC for Link distribution, and to the sports club car park renewal, plus a charge for legal fees from WCC of £156.*

*Anticipate contributing £1000 towards play renewal this year.*

*Concurrent allowance was slightly underspent in 2013/14, allowing for a contribution to be made to the PCC for the beech tree damage. This allowance for 2014/15 is reduced from £2980 to £2910.*

*Maintenance contractors, Fairways increased their prices to £1600 per annum = £200 a month (8) plus vat. Still good value.*

*The Annual Audit return for 2012/13 was approved in July last year, by the official auditors Grant Thornton. Mr Plumb agreed to act as our internal auditor again.*

*This year's Audit return details for 2013/14 are now completed and approved and have to be*

*returned to the auditors by 28th June. Notices informing the public of their rights to view the accounts have to be displayed by 13<sup>th</sup> May.*

**5. Reports - verbal and written were received -**

Written – from the CRC committee, Community First Responder, Local History Group, the Guides, All Saints Church. (nb – late report received from Hort. Soc.)

Mrs Whitehouse representing the Sports Club presented a short report, outlining the year's activities, highlighting in particular the improvements to the car park surface, and expressed thanks to the PC, Trustees and Cllr Eassom for their help and support. New patio furniture has been obtained, unfortunately due to increased overheads, prices have to be increased. More members are needed.

Mr P Champion commented that the cricket club will be celebrating its 125th anniversary and is doing well but need more support from the village.

Mr Robins represented the Trustees of the Memorial and Recreation Ground who are successfully fulfilling their obligations for the Memorial Ground and Village Hall, and are not seeking to increase charges as a result of the new extension and were pleased to be able to contribute £1000 to the sports club car park. Mr Robins also commented that they need new and younger members, a recurring theme.

These will be published on the website in due course.

**6. County & District Councillors.**

Written reports were received from C/Cllr Mrs Compton and D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher which will also be published on the website.

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

a) Playground Renewal – no information to hand regarding the grant application.

b) Local Plan Village Options. Cllr Smith gave a brief summary – full details from WDC are now published.

**8. There were no other matters raised.**

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed.....Date.....

Documents to be attached to the minutes, reports from :

- Cllr Mrs Compton,
- Cllr Mrs Gallagher
- Local History Group,
- All Saints Church
- the Guides
- CRC committee
- Community First Responder
- Horticultural Society

**WDC COUNCILLOR MRS GALLAGHER'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**This year it seem that the whole of my time has been taken up with the local plan, as you know I represent a huge rural area, but I think we have done better than once we thought, I have also been involved in other housing issues, whether it has been fighting for a new home, or a swap for a family in a rural area, I have also done a lot of speaking at planning for my constituents, some we won, and some we lost.**

**WDC'S part of the council tax has been frozen again for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running, and we have already said we will freeze it again next year, all this without any cuts to service.**

**As part of the local plan we have to find some gypsy and traveller sites, we have been successful in clearing Kites Nest Lane after a long legal battle, and a costly one, and that is now not one of the preferred site .**

**I have attended parish council meetings, and I am now joint chair of WRW community forum, tomorrow at full council our AGM , I have been asked to go back on to the Executive with the portfolio for Culture, I am looking forward to picking up that job again.**

**I would like to thank the parish council and clerk for all the help that they continue to give me, and I would also like to say a big thank you to my many constituents who play a vital part in helping me do my job.**

**REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS J COMPTON.**

The election for WCC last May produced a Council with no overall political control. The Conservatives were elected as the largest party and it was given the control of the cabinet – as the leader lost his seat, Cllr Izzi Seccombe took this position to lead a minority authority – not an easy job as budget cuts had already been agreed and unpopular decisions would have to be taken.

We have produced a One Operational Plan to lead us to 2018 which will support a growing population with more people over 65 and more school age children. The core purposes outlined in this document highlight protection of communities, health and well being, economic vibrancy with access to jobs, training and skills development, good communications and transport infrastructure with resources targeted effectively. This will not be easy as in the budget meeting held in February cuts totalling £92 million were put in place which obviously means a smaller workforce and reductions in services, always ensuring that our statutory duties are maintained.

During the past year the Local Plan has been at the front of concern in the villages and many meetings have been held to keep residents informed of its progress. Although production of the plan is a District Council function the County obviously has to play a large part with infrastructure, schools etc being of concern. We have been successful in our aims to have most of the district covered by broadband and this should roll out this year with newsletters coming out regularly to keep residents up to date with progress and broadband champions spreading the word.

We have excellent communications with our local police with the Western Express and attendance at the Warwick Rural West Community Forum where we have been able to allocate funds to many projects, including Speedwatch equipment, kitchen facilities in village halls, notice boards, sports equipment etc, and look forward to receiving more applications in the future.

The Transport Seminar in January allocated their £40,000 towards more speed limit reductions in local lanes and extra money towards flooding and street lighting.

Still opposing HS2 project with special concerns for the major disruptions to all roads in Warwickshire for many years.

The Fire Service has had a peer review and has received much praise for the excellent way it has recovered from the tragedy in Atherston on Stour. A public interest council meeting put forward views on a Unitary Authority for Warwickshire. Nothing is decided but further investigations will be carried out.

It has been a busy time since the election as I have been given the cabinet position for Adult Social Care with the largest budget to preside over. I also work closely with the Health Service in connection with the care bill and better care fund as we must ensure that health and social services provide a seamless service. I always attend Parish Council meetings and thank the Clerk and Councillors for their work on behalf of their communities.

## **LEEK WOOTTON & GUY'S CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **REPORT FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Vicar Jim Perryman reported he has given up responsibility for the parishes of Stoneleigh and Sshow and is now only priest in charge of Leek Wootton with a 40% stipend. Audrey Rowberry continues to serve across three parishes in her role as reader. The major project this year is the refurbish the bells, information and donation envelopes are to be delivered round the Parish and other fund raising events will take place. The second weekend in October All Saints will be taking part in a Churches Together in Kenilworth and District Flower Festival. The theme for All Saints is India.

### **REPORT FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> LEEK WOOTTON GUIDES**

Guide leader Nicola Perryman reported that the Guides have taken part in a wide variety of activities in the village and beyond, and she continues as the main leader with help from young leaders, parents and other adults. Former Brownie leaders have retired, and unfortunately no one was willing to take over this responsibility, and the Brownies have had to merge with another Kenilworth unit. Mrs Perryman suggests that some action could be taken to encourage more leaders for these groups.

## LEEK WOOTTON HISTORY GROUP

### REPORT 2013/14

After some four years of work at one level or another on the 'Doreen's Diary' project the History Group has allowed itself something of a breather!

However, having submitted archive images to the parish magazine on an irregular basis under the title of 'The Way We Were ...', it was decided to present an evening in the Village Hall entitled 'The Way We Were LIVE: A Reel History of Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe'. On 30 November the audience exceeded all expectations and a second showing (with all of the trimmings of popcorn and ice cream!) was equally well received of items ranging from a fête at Woodcote in 1949, through the upheaval of the construction of the Warwick and Kenilworth by-passes in the 1970s to that incredibly wet Diamond Jubilee celebration on the Recreation Ground in June 2012.

The Group continues to research for and prepare a booklet recording the eighteen men on the WWI Memorial Tablet in All Saints' Parish Church. It is hoped to publish the booklet to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Lesley Eldridge  
Secretary/Treasurer

**From: Bill Calvert**

**07 May 2013**

**To: Leek Wootton Parish Council**

**Subject: Warwick District Community First Responders**

I have recently retired as the Community First Responder (CFR) for Leek Wootton and handed over my kit to the newly formed Warwick District Community First Responder group. The group covers Warwick, Leamington Spa, Leek Wootton, Kenilworth and most of the surrounding villages in the Warwick District, The nearest responders are now Woodloes and Kenilworth. The group has at least 15 CFR's and regularly can be seen in response cars sitting in Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth.

The group has a Committee and Trustees appointed with a Group Constitution and By-Laws and is a registered charity.

One of the aims of the group is to raise the profile by recruiting Community First Responders, getting them trained and equipped with kit and uniform and to fundraise to provide equipment and cover ongoing expenses.

The website is :- <http://www.warwickfirstresponders.org.uk/>

Twitter is Warwick District CFR's @CFRsWarwick



## **Leek Wootton and District Horticultural Society Report for the Parish Council AGM**

Over the years we, as a Society have developed a programme of events which enables us to conduct the business of the Society as well as enjoy a strong social element to the year. This success has again manifested itself with yet another successful year and we continue to enjoy splendid support from the local community.

In financial terms our strong position enabled us to replace the aging tea tent, ensuring the ladies stay dry and secure.

So, looking forward with notes for 2014,

The Outing this year will be at on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June taking in Wrest Park in Silsoe and Kathy Brown's garden in Stevington both of which can be viewed on the Internet. The outing has again been organized by Tom and Margaret Powell, ably assisted by Renee Perkins

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August. We may see even more interesting additions to the Schedule featuring this year the Mini Beast Roadshow Photographic categories will be 'Water' and 'Village life'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years.

The December Social will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Society has been invited to participate in the "Churches together flower festival" on 26/27<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The income from the 6 Churches in Kenilworth, Leek Wootton and Stoneleigh will be in aid of The Lady Mayoress's charity which is Zoe's Place. The theme of the festival is feeding the world and each Church has been assigned a Country. Ours is India.

Thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the Committee who have given unstinting support..

Whilst it is with a pleasure to report the successes achieved over the year, again it is also necessary to advise certain concerns. Members of the Committee have acknowledged none of us are getting any younger. They have, with predecessors, maintained a strong and vibrant Society but without new blood the future is a concern. We attracted two new members since the last AGM but again we must appeal for volunteers, particularly to younger members of the community, to come forward to strengthen the Committee and cement the Society's future. Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 members, including the Officers, and we are currently at 13 members.

Anyone interested in the work we do should contact Mary Murdoch or Brian Melling and we will be pleased to talk them.

**LEEK WOOTTON CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Leek Wootton Cancer Research Committee was 50 years old last year and during this time we have raised over £100,000 which is a fantastic amount for a small village. To celebrate, past and current Committee Members gathered at The Anchor in October for a meal.

We have had another year of successful fundraising and for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 the sum of £8,108.96 was sent to Cancer Research UK. This amount included donations in memoria, donations from individuals and various groups and of course our fundraising events. Our themed dinners held during the winter months and our summer suppers are always very popular, also Jim and Jean's Big Breakfast, which has grown over the years has become our most successful event. The Skittles Challenge which we introduced in 2012, is also becoming a favourite. Of course none of this would be possible without the continued support of our local community, for which we are most grateful. We are also extremely fortunate to be living in a village that has two wonderful venues where we are able to hold our functions, namely the Village Hall and the Sports Club.

Please note that at our AGM last month Belinda Ellwood was voted in as Chairman for the next two years.

Shirley Calvert,  
Secretary.  
7<sup>th</sup> May 2014