

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015  
8PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM.**

**The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the public.**

Refreshments were served.

Present : Cllrs Smith (Chairman), Coates, Eassom, Eldridge, Knott, Moore, Tunkle, C/Cllr Mrs Compton  
D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, D/Cllr Mr Whiting and the Clerk.

Members of the public: Mrs M Murdoch, Mrs J Kimberley, Mr M Rennolds, Mr P Wartnaby.

It is with regret that the recent deaths of Mr Bernard Dee and Mrs Catherine Sandwell were recorded. Both Mr Dee and Mrs Sandwell were Parish Councillors and Chairman of the Parish Council for many years, contributing a great deal to the community. Letters of condolences have been sent.

1. **Apologies were received from Sue Patterson, and Janet Jackson.**
2. **The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014, were approved and published on the website.**
  - a) There were no matters arising.
3. **Annual/Chairman's report for 2014/15. Chairman Colin Smith -**

2014/15 has been a very busy year for the Parish Council.

Preparation of a new Local Plan by Warwick District Council required a great deal of activity by the Council to ensure that the views of parishioners were properly represented, as WDC has moved through the various phases of the process before submission of the plan to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

In November of 2013 WDC had published a set of options for housing development in villages, along with proposed new settlement boundaries. These proposals had serious implications for the preservation of the green belt surrounding the settled areas of the Parish and the number of new dwellings to be accommodated.

As a result of the strong representation against these proposals made by the Council, we were able to achieve a reduction in the number of new dwellings proposed from 85 down to 45, as well as some adjustment to the Settlement Boundaries for Leek Wootton and Hill Wootton. The lower allocation was then included in the WDC "Submission Draft" for the Local Plan.

In mid-May we were then able to hold a very successful consultation session – attended by more than 100 parishioners – at which we explained the various stages of the Local Plan process and the implications for the Parish going forward. This participation by parishioners has been crucial in strengthening our case with WDC.

As the WDC Local Plan submission has evolved, there has been a further reduction in the designated number of new dwellings down to 26 in Leek Wootton, following representations made by English Heritage to the WDC planners.

These proposals have now been submitted to the Ministry for eventual public examination in front of an inspector. We can expect that the new Local Plan will be challenged by developers, who still regard the Parish as a lucrative area for new housing development, but we will continue to argue our case to maintain the separation from neighbouring towns and to resist proposals for significant expansion.

In this context, the Localism Act has provided a mechanism for parish councils to exert greater influence over planning through the development of individual Neighbourhood Plans. We have therefore embarked upon

preparation of such a plan covering our vision for the development of the Parish over the next fifteen-year period (in tandem with the WDC Local Plan).

Our initial efforts to obtain formal designation were delayed by proposed changes to the Parish Boundaries but, once again, we have been able to resist changes that would have resulted in further encroachment into the Green Belt from Kenilworth.

Formal designation for the Neighbourhood Plan was finally obtained in November, 2014 and we have embarked upon the detailed work required to construct a plan. This embraces a much wider range of subjects beyond planning with the objective of creating a set of guidelines for the future as a formal input to the Local Plan and future decisions by planners.

In order to complete this work, we have set up a Steering Group, which includes six parishioners in addition to four members of the Parish Council. We have also been able to obtain grant aid for this process, enabling the employment of a consultant expert to support our efforts.

We expect to hold another, informal consultation early in the summer in order to share ideas with the community; to obtain further valuable inputs to the process and to begin to shape the final content of our plan for eventual submission to WDC and referendum.

We will continue to provide regular progress updates through *"The Link"*.

The second important effort undertaken by the Council in the last year has been the replacement of the Children's Playground equipment.

Following various concerns expressed by ROSPA concerning the safety of some of the equipment, we decided to explore the possibilities for replacement and upgrading the playground.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of Councillors Coates and Knott, aided by the Parish Clerk, we were not only able to obtain grant assistance from WREN for a new scheme, and the playground has now been completely replaced in record time. We will conduct a formal opening of the new play area in due course but the new equipment is already proving to be a hit with local children.

As we look ahead to another, inevitably, busy year, it remains for me to personally thank our Parish Clerk, Eileen Clayton, for her steadfast support during the year as well as each individual member of the Council for their continued commitment to making our Parish a great place to live.

Finally, I should note that all Councillors are automatically re-elected because only seven have put themselves forward for re-election. This means that we will need to co-opt an additional member. If any, amongst our parishioners would like to be considered for the vacancy, please contact the Clerk, or myself.

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2015.**

The total income the Parish Council received for 2014/15 was £10,575. However, we were fortunate to receive a generous grant from WREN of £42599.20 for the playground renewal, plus two other grants, one from WALC for £250 re an Award Scheme, and £4000 from the Community Development Foundation towards the Neighbourhood Plan expenses and this has produced a distorted income figure for 2014/15. Although £24,610.33 was brought forward into this financial year, the majority of this is playground grant money, meaning in real terms, the sum of £3300 was brought forward for the 2015/16 year. This is somewhat less than previous years - mainly caused by an overspend of £900 on general maintenance necessary for the play and memorial areas plus approx. £1000 for new website costs. We also contributed to the Church Bell Fund, increased the grant to the PCC towards Link production, plus the usual grants we award to the PCC and Sports Club. The loan from the Public Works Loans Board has been paid off early.

The precept for 2015/16 has been increased slightly to £7777.00, a modest increase of £152, total income for 2015/16 amounts to £10,664. The asset register has now been updated to include the new play equipment, and it is expected that insurance costs will increase. The Budget for 15/16 has to be conservative until a small reserve is accumulated. The Parish Council manage a very small budget to the best of their ability being unable to obtain extra income due to restrictions on increases in the precept above 2% but endeavour to give value for money at all times.

*This year's Annual Audit return for 2014/15 is now completed and has to be returned to the auditors by June. Notices informing the public of their rights to view the accounts have been displayed.*

## **5. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS**

### **ALL SAINTS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEEK WOOTTON ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015**

All Saints' Primary School has now been a valued part of our church and village community for 18 years. It has grown in size physically during this time and now is school for 138 children, significantly more than the 84 planned for all that time ago. 2014 – 15 marks another significant development for our school as in September we formally became a member of 'The Green Leek Federation', working in close partnership with Burton Green Primary School. Our aim is to not only to sustain high quality education right in the hearts of the two villages we serve but to flourish and continue to develop. The schools have the same governing body and share the Head Teacher. This partnership enables both schools to use resources, including finance, effectively, extend opportunities, including shared residentials, for the children and support staff development.

2014-2015 has once again been a successful year for us as children have moved onto secondary schools with high levels of attainment, have participated in many sports competitions and have experienced a wide range of rich experiences. Underpinning all of these achievements is our strong Christian ethos and values.

This year has seen changes in staffing as we have said goodbye to Mr Woodage as he moves to South Africa. Mrs Gail Duxbury is now our Deputy Head Teacher.

Ofsted paid us a visit in February and were very complimentary about many aspects of our school curriculum, teaching, learning, leadership and management. Grades good overall, behaviour was outstanding.

We are always conscious of how very fortunate we are to be a school in a community such as Leek Wootton where education is valued and appreciated, and to be a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School which places us in the hearts of our church community.

Thank you for all of the support you give, in whatever capacity, to have made this possible

### **Admissions**

We continue to be a popular school with more parents seeking places for their children than we are able to accommodate. Places are very carefully allocated for each Reception intake using a range of criteria that are prioritised and agreed after consultation with the Local Authority and Diocesan Board of Education, and meet the requirements of the code of practice for admissions produced by the Department for Education. Our published admission number is 20 and we were able to offer 20 Reception places for September 2014. Currently we have 138 children on roll and are full in all year groups except Year 6.

### **The Curriculum**

Standards in the core curriculum of literacy, numeracy and science continue to be high at the end of both Key Stages 1 and 2 and results show that the school is achieving above national expectations, and has done consistently over the past 6 years. This is a tribute to the excellent teaching skills of the staff, the very positive attitudes children have to learning and the tremendous support we receive from parents.

2014-15 has again been one of national curriculum change and the school is working hard to prepare for a new curriculum in September, changes in assessment and changes in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice.

In this time of continuing change the school continues to be committed to improvement and our current priorities include continuing to increase the rate of progress in reading, writing and mathematics for all children but particularly for higher achievers and children who find learning more difficult.

### **Broad Opportunities**

All Saints' are committed to providing a rich broad curriculum where all the wonderful and varied talents of our children are recognised and celebrated. All of the children have participated in history and geography, sport, music and art.

As a member of the University of the First Age, termly Super Learning Days have enabled children to develop greater awareness of themselves as learners. The year we have worked together to look really focus on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of World War 1. The poppies we made are a feature of a special area in our school grounds.

Each class participated in visits and experiences to support the curriculum. Our younger children visited the Herbert Art Gallery to learn more about objects from the past whilst our first Skype experience was with a family member who is also an arctic explorer.

A highlight of the Year 6 unit 'Shall we send the children', was the visit to Coventry Cathedral, the Motor Museum and the Herbert Art Gallery to visit their WWII exhibitions.

On a lighter note the Autumn Term ended with a very enjoyable visit to the pantomime at the Royal Spa Centre. (Oh yes it did!)

Children in Years 3 and 4 once again enjoyed the 'Sleepover' and the residential visit to France enabled all of the children develop greater independence, self esteem and self confidence..

Many children have participated in, enjoyed and represented the school in a range of sporting activities. During 2013-14 the children won the Kenilworth Swimming Gala, the Year 5 and Year 6 Kenilworth Netball Tournament and the netball league. This is a tremendous sporting achievement for any school but is particularly rewarding for a small school such as All Saints'.

### **All Saints' Extra**

Extended Services beyond the school day have increasingly become an essential aspect of the provision provided by the school and are now well embedded in school life. We continue to provide activities from 8am until 5.15 and employ an Extended Services Coordinator and Playworkers in order to continue to develop the range and quality of before and after school opportunities. Some activities are provided by staff employed by the school others by a range of outside providers from sports coaches to artists and language specialists.

### **Parent Partnership**

One of the strengths of our school is the quality of the partnership with parents that is embedded in the life of the school. Regular events which underpin our active partnership with parents continued throughout the year with open assemblies and parents consultation evenings. Parents have continued to support the school on a day to day basis through the very positive support they give to their children's learning; practical support that some parents give in classrooms and a range of after school activities. The P.T.F.A. has worked very hard on a range of fundraising activities throughout the year.

**Church Partnership**

All of the children have visited All Saints' Church each half term for an open assembly where we have been joined by parents and members of the community. Some of these events have been particularly special experiences.

At the end of the summer term our Leavers assembly was held in church during which Year 2 received 'Pots of Gold' and Year 6 were presented with Bibles and books to support their move to secondary school. Once again we appreciate the continuing support of local trusts that funded these gifts.

It was very special to be able to join with the church and village in the annual carol service. The warmth of the welcome on occasions such as this embody the unique links that we share as church and school working together,

The Easter assembly dramatised by children in Years 3 and 4 is a highlight of the year and we are pleased that so many members of the church congregation share this with us. Many thanks to Mothers Union who provide refreshments and a welcome to us on these occasions.

The church- school partnership is much more than a series of events however special they might be. We know and that we are held in your prayers and value this tremendously. Not only has the partnership been sustained but it has continued to grow from strength to strength.

**Links with the community.**

As a school that has our history rooted in the heart of our village community, links that we are able to develop with individuals and groups are very important to us.

During the year the whole school has worked together to celebrate festivals through drama and music and we are pleased that many members of the community have joined us at our Harvest and Christmas celebrations. The oldest children in the school delighted us with their considerable talents when they performed The Wizard of Oz at the end of the year.

The annual shared Young at Heart- Year 6 visit is an occasion that is looked forward to by young and old. This year we visited Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge. Once again the school hosted the annual 'Children's Society Box Opening' which was attended by people from the wider community,

**Sue Patterson Head Teacher April 2015**

**LEEK WOOTTON HISTORY GROUP REPORT 2014/15**

Research by members of the Group resulted in the publication in August 2014 of the book 'FOR GOD AND RIGHT AND LIBERTY', which tells the stories of the eighteen men on the 1<sup>st</sup> World War Memorial Tablet in All Saints' Church.

A copy of the book was delivered to every household in the Parish, with the generous support again of those who distribute the *Link* magazine, and Group members went on to become involved in the Service of Commemoration at All Saints', held on Sunday, 3 August, the eve of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of war.

Representatives of the Group continue to meet with the Friends of the Ack-Ack Battery at Goodrest, who are planning an Open Day on Sunday, 15 November to follow on from events in Coventry on Saturday, 14 November marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coventry Blitz. It is hoped that a 3.7" Anti-Aircraft Gun may be on site for the Open Day together with WWII re-enactors. The History Group has secured a grant of £1,250 from Warwick Rural West Community Forum to assist with the transportation of the gun and other factors.  
Lesley Eldridge Secretary/Treasurer

**LEEK WOOTTON CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

We have had another busy and successful year fundraising from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. During this period we raised the sum of £7,344.67 which has been sent to Cancer Research UK. This amount included a donation of £851.16, which was collected at the funeral of Rene Perkins, who sadly died earlier in the year. Rene was a long serving member of our Committee and for the last few years was also our Honorary President. She will be missed by the many Committee members who served with her.

Our Committee has grown a little since last year, with Joy Maisey from Hill Wootton joining us, also Anna Timson, daughter of Pamela Wilkins and granddaughter of founder Committee member Peggy Wilkins, making three generations of the Wilkins family currently serving on the Committee.

We held our Summer Supper in July, the Skittles Evening in November, a themed Winter Dinner in January and also the ever popular Jim and Jean's Big Breakfast in March. Our thanks go once again to the many people who support our events during the year.

The functions for the coming year are now in the planning stages and we look forward to hopefully continuing raising funds for such a worthwhile Charity. Shirley Calvert, Secretary. 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**The All Saints Mothers Union Branch** exists to help the church in caring for families, children, their village activities and school. We support the 'Stay & Play' group that meets on Thursday mornings at the village hall, and have enabled donations of items to the CoffeeTots Drop in Centre in Coventry and Women's Refuges in nearby towns and fund raising to support community work overseas' .

Janet Jackson (correspondent All Saints, Leek Wootton MU)

**OTHER VERBAL REPORTS**

Mr Rennolds representing the Sports Club gave a brief report. He outlined the recent committee changes and improvements to the sporting and social facilities, which are proving very successful, teams travelling from all over the County to take part in the football. He also provided details of various activities all of which will be available shortly on their new website.

**LEEK WOOTTON & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY-** Mrs Murdoch representing the Horticultural Society presented the report.

Our well developed programme of events has again manifested itself with yet another successful year and we continue to enjoy splendid support from the local community. The Annual Outing, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014, organized as usual by Tom and Margaret Powell, ably assisted by Renee Perkins, took in Wrest Park in Silsoe followed by Kathy Brown's gardens in Stevington, and were deemed to be another success.

The Show, on 17th August, attracted the usual splendid entries. Tony Price took the Banksian medal, Jim Perkins Salver and the T K Meredith award. Income was at a very healthy level with all the stalls providing good contributions, enhancing an already strong financial position. Strong support continues from local businesses in the form of prizes for the raffle and we are grateful for that support. The end of show arrangements were altered to attempt to maintain a good attendance for the auction of produce and this appeared to be successful.

As I mentioned last year The Society was invited to participate in the "Churches together flower festival" on 26/27<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The display that members of the Committee put together was an eye catching entrance to the Church, being in the porch.

The Christmas buffet took place on 13th December in the Village Hall, although I was unable to attend due to a double booking. The event was a huge success and confirms its place in our calendar of events.

In financial terms our strong position enabled us contribute to the cost of restoring the Churchyard after the storm and a significant sum was provided to the Church Bell appeal.

So, looking forward with notes for your diary in 2015, The Outing this year will be at on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June taking in Rodmarton Manor where we will be initially given a guided tour of the Arts and Craft House prior to lunch. The afternoon will be free to wander the gardens. The outing has again been organized by Tom and Margaret Powell, which as usual will include a coffee and tea stop, this time at Northleach.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 22nd August. Photographic categories will be 'Fungi' and 'Young life'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years. The December Social will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> My thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the Committee who have given unstinting support. Special thanks are due to our Secretary Mary Murdoch for her boundless energy and support, Christine Hurcomb as Treasurer, Angela Guest as reported above and Tom and Margaret as our very able tour guides.

Whilst it obviously gives me great pleasure to report to you the successes achieved over the year, again it is also necessary to advise you of my concerns. My colleagues on the Committee have previously forgiven me for stating that none of us are getting any younger. They have, with predecessors, maintained a strong and vibrant Society but without new blood I worry for the future. We have lost 3 members since the last AGM and I have to again 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 12 members. Anyone interested in joining should contact Mary Murdoch and we will be pleased to talk them. We are delighted to announce that at the AGM two new members joined our committee, namely Stephanie and Rob Jones. We record the death of Mrs Rene Perkins with sorrow, she was a member of the committee for many years and will be sadly missed.

Mrs J Kimberley provided details of the **YOUNG AT HEART CLUB**, outlining their social activities and commenting that although membership had dwindled to 8 from about 20, they managed to have a very varied calendar and urged anyone interested to contact her.

Mr Peter Wartnaby representing the **Recreation Ground Trustees** commented on the death of Mrs Sandwell and wished to record her tireless work as a Trustee over many years.

The Trustees will be supporting discussions which will shortly be taking place on how to improve the access to the village hall car park and fully support all the research being done to find the most economical way forward. It is acknowledged by all that the success of the village hall and sporting activities at the Sports Club make this problem a priority and it is hoped that a long term plan can be formulated.

## **6. Reports from County and District Councillors.**

### **Jose Compton, Warwickshire County Council**

The County Council has come to the end of second year of four in making £92 million cuts from the Budget. To this end unfortunately an increase in council tax of 1.95% was agreed at the budget meeting in February as we have many calls on our finances, including an ageing population and extra responsibilities in Safeguarding both children and adults.

However all is not gloom and doom and extra funding has been allocated for Apprenticeships, Improvements in traffic around schools, Early Start Education, Super Fast Broadband and funding for LED lighting across the county, although we missed out on a grant to take this forward more quickly. More work will be done with the Voluntary and Community Sector and the Live and Local grant has been secured for 2015/16.

Councillors now have a delegated Transport Budget for minor works. This is £32,258 but this has now been top sliced by £6,000 towards Traffic Schemes at accident hot spots. I am very pleased that the persistent problem of flooding in Hill Wootton Road has at last been cleared as I had ear-marked some of my budget towards this scheme but with the help of the Highways Department, and in particular our own Highway Engineer Peter Hallam, we are hopeful that the action taken with the drainage system will stop this from occurring again.

Work has now started on the new Railway Station in Kenilworth and the Nuckle scheme for trains from Nuneaton through to Leamington has been given the go-ahead. Other points of interest are that Leamington Fire Station will remain where it is with other sites used for training to improve response times. The Old Shire Hall will hopefully be found a use in the entertainment/hospitality field.

The Boundary Commission have now reported with their final recommendations for County Divisions from 2017 and Leek Wootton will be in the Cubbington Division. Warwick Rural West Community Forum has met regularly with the Police always in attendance. We have allocated all our grant funding for 2013/14 with only £1.74 left which is a great achievement and applications are invited for this year.

A debate took place in March on Combined Authorities and Economic Prosperity Boards There was little interest in going in with Greater Birmingham as it is considered that Warwickshire's natural interests lie with other County Councils, but work will continue in looking further at this as with the matter of Unitary Authorities. This meeting along with the Budget Debate was shown on the Web Cam and all meetings can now be viewed on the media. I am still on the Cabinet at WCC with Adult Social Care and Learning Disabilities being my Portfolio so you can imagine that this is a huge responsibility especially with the Care Act coming into law from 1st April. I attend all Parish Council Meetings and thank the clerk and councillors for their co-operation in bringing matters to my attention.



**D/CLLR MRS SUE GALLAGHER**

This is my 8<sup>th</sup> year of having the privilege of being your District Councillor. Last year the entire time seemed to be taken up with the Local Plan. An enormous amount of time by many people has gone into this plan and is perhaps the most important decision that we have had to make. Leek Wootton now seems to have come out of it better than perhaps we had feared. This has now gone to the Inspector and the first public hearing started on the 6<sup>th</sup> May, but I have not had time to sit in as the election took up a great deal of time.

I have attended your Parish Councils and I do always enjoy them. I have helped constituents with many matters, including planning, bin collections, or any other problem that arises in a rural area. I have also chaired the Warwick Rural West community forum which is always attended by a representative from Leek Wootton, and I am pleased that we have been successful in obtaining some grants for local organisations. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their strong support and of course your superb Clerk who helps to run this Parish Council so smoothly and always with a smile. I look forward to the next 4 years.

Newly elected D/Cllr Mr P Whiting thanked Councillors for their warm welcome. He hopes to be able to assist with any problems in the future.

**7. Issues of Local Importance**

Dates were discussed for the "official" opening ceremony of the playground – it is hoped to include children from the school, and Cllr Coates and Knott will contact the Head Teacher to agree a suitable date towards the end of June. C/Cllr Compton was invited to conduct the opening ceremony. This will be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting.

**8. Other matters**

Mrs Murdoch thanked Councillors for the playground renewal, commenting on how popular it is.

For info - The new church bells will be returned shortly, on display in church for viewing on the 5, 6, 7th June before being replaced in the bell tower.

**The meeting closed at 9.15**

Signed.....Colin Smith.....Date.....10.05.16.....