

TARRINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.00pm

In the Chair - Councillor R Hodges

Present: 7 parishioners

In attendance - Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Cllr Hodges welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence - Jeanette Ward, John Hardwick

2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the chairman.

3 Report from Backbury Ward Councillor

John Hardwick had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but sent through the following report which was read out by the clerk: "I was shown around the Enterprise Zone by Bill Jackson, Chairman last week and informed that progress is being made in securing further jobs. The aspiration is to achieve 4000 extra jobs within the next 4 – 5 years. To this end it is considered highly important to move forward with the Southern Link Road that is being considered by the Planning Committee on Monday, 6th June. I had a meeting with the acting Chief Exec. Geoff Hughes to voice my concern over the staffing levels. I believe that there is a danger that the council has now reached a staffing level that puts too much pressure on those still in post and this will lead to increased stress and sickness levels if not managed correctly. At Cabinet a decision was made to move forward on the process of selecting an agent to draw up plans for the sale of the Council Smallholdings. This will be presented and a decision made on the preferred agent by Cabinet in October. The lack of 5 year housing land supply is causing problems at planning appeals. Currently standing at 3.83 years a Seminar for councillors is being held tomorrow to discuss the current position. The Local Transport Plan will be discuss at the next full Council Meeting on 20th May. I spent the morning on 20th April with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team in their mobile van at Fownhope. The idea being to show a presence in the community and give residents the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have. Considering that the week before Fownhope suffered 3 burglaries it was disappointing that only a few residents decided to use the facility. The team will be touring the area; therefore if you get the van in your village please do take the opportunity to have a chat with them."

5 Report from the Police

The clerk had circulated the latest report

6 Annual report from Chairman of Tarrington Parish Council, Robert Hodges

"Chairman's Report - May 2016 - I will to start my report by thanking Janet, our clerk, for keeping our affairs in good order for us. When I first became a councillor, some 25 years ago, the job of clerk was a lot more straightforward. We now need policies for this, that, and the next thing; internal and external audits; agendas and minutes put on the website. Everything is much more available for public scrutiny. Having an experienced clerk, like Janet, is now more important than ever. So I would like to thank Janet for all her hard work during the past 12 months.

During the past 12 months we have held 6 ordinary meetings and 3 extra meetings to discuss urgent business. All these meetings have been advertised and open to the public. During the year we met to discuss 9 planning applications, a considerable increase on the previous year but still below our historical average.

I need to thank John Hardwick, our ward councillor, for his attendance at most of our meetings. In all the time I have been a councillor, none of our ward councillors have given us anywhere near the amount of support and assistance that we have received from John.

One item that has appeared regularly on the agenda is the NDP. This time last year John Tallis was chairman of the Steering Group. Following a number of acrimonious meetings and intense pressure from local residents and also from members of the Steering Group, John felt that enough was enough and decided to resign last December. We need to thank John for the immense amount of hard work that he has contributed to the NDP. Maggie Daron was elected as his replacement and the process is becoming less heated. The inputs from Samantha Banks (Herefordshire Council) and Dr David Nicholson (Planning Consultant) have helped the process considerably. At the present time, we are awaiting the results of a landscape survey by Carly Tinkler and David is about to start writing a draft of the NDP. I would like to thank Maggie for the important contribution she has made to the NDP process, especially since becoming chairman.

Highways in the parish are in a much better state than they were 3 or 4 years ago. Those which have been resurfaced are in good order but those which haven't still suffer from numerous pot-holes. John Tallis and Paul Grey regularly submit reports of highway defects to Balfour Beatty. The time taken to resolve these issues is often unacceptably long and the quality of repairs is often not good. The main reasons for some of the problems is the weight of vehicles using the roads and the fact that the road surface remains wet for long periods of time especially in the winter. As a consequence, it will always be a case of continually repairing damaged road surfaces. John and Paul have looked after the Speed Indicator Device, moving it between sites, changing batteries and generally keeping it in good working order. We need to thank them for all their efforts during the past year.

Janette Ward has been very active in inspecting the Public Rights of Way and reporting problems to us and to the Area Warden. Paul has done much of the physical work required in carrying out the necessary repairs. I would like to thank them both for their contribution towards keeping the paths accessible and safe for our residents and the many visitors we receive during the summer.

Celia Winter and Janette have been investigating the possibility of setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme for Tarrington residents. As our life expectancy increases the need for additional support is only going to increase. At present it is unclear that there is sufficient enthusiasm for such a scheme – but only time will tell. I would like to thank Celia and Janette for carrying out the initial exploratory work and wish them every success.

I need to thank other councillors for carrying out a wide variety of activities such as attending meetings, maintaining notice boards and installing signs such as the one at Garbrook.

As has been my custom I would like to thank Andy Nott for his excellent work as editor of the Tatler and to Vikki Avery for looking after the village website, they both make a valuable contribution to the wellbeing of our community.

7 To note the Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

TARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2015 - 2016

NAME	MONTH									TOTAL
	MAY	JULY	SEP T	OCT	NOV	DE C	JAN	MAR	APRIL	
R HODGES (Chairman)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9 OF 9
A BUSH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9 OF 9
M DARON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9 OF 9
P GREY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9 OF 9
J TALLIS	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 OF 9
M TECTOR		CO- OP	Y	APO L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 OF 8
J WARD	APO L	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	7 OF 9

C WINTER (VICE-CHAIRMAN)	Y	Y	Y	APO L	Y	Y	APO L	APO L	Y	6 OF 9
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9 OF 9
J HARDWICK (WARD COUNCILLOR)	APO L	Y	Y	N/A	APO L	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	5 OF 6

NO MEETING HELD =

NOT ELECTED COUNCILLOR =

CO-OPTION ON TO COUNCIL =

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING =



8 Annual Financial Report of the Parish Council

The annual accounts have been internally audited. Thanks were expressed to Martin Townsend for carrying this out. The current account opening balance as of 1st April 2015 was £6362.90. Total receipts for the year £18930.37, payments £25024.26 with a cheque for £905.32 unrepresented. Closing balance 31st March 2016 £7631.19. The reserve account opening balance as of 1st April 2015 £16416.38 Closing balance 31st March 2016 £9959.72.

9 Report from Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Darron gave a brief report on the Neighbourhood Plan and at what stage it is currently. Over the past twelve months a number of meetings, both open meetings and meetings of the steering group, have taken place. An independent landscape assessment is to be carried out. A further grant of £4663 has been agreed to cover expenditure to September. The next NDP steering group meeting is on 17th May to discuss a questionnaire which landscape consultant Carly Tinkler requires to complete the landscape assessment and green spaces. Once the assessment is carried out the draft plan can then be prepared.

10 Open Forum

The Courtyard Theatre in Hereford have had their funding severely cut, the parish council were asked if they could ask the ward councillor to question this as neighbouring county councils were not cutting their grants to the Arts.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.24 pm

Signed..... Dated.....