

**Little Witley Parish Council**  
**Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Little Witley held on**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Little Witley Village Hall at 8.10pm.**

**Councillors Present**

Mr P Cumming (Chairman), Mr D Buggins, Mrs P Cumming , Mr D Lowe, Mr P Owen, Mrs F Sinclair and Mrs K Wilson.

**In Attendance**

Mrs A Watson (acting Clerk), County Councillor Dr K Pollock and 14 members of the public.

**Apologies**

Mr and Mrs Hill, Mr and Mrs Lamb.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Those who could not attend the meeting but had kindly sent a written report were PCSO Ness Snape representing West Mercia Police and Jean Mills on behalf of Neighbourhood Watch.

**2. Chairman's report**

Cllr. Cumming briefly reported on a number of recent problems faced by the Parish Council appointing new Councillors and a Clerk, but these had been overcome and the Council was now 'looking good and functioning'. Cllr. Cumming paid tribute to previous Cllrs. Hillgrove Kendrick and Bob Jose for all the work they had done for the parish.

**3. Policing and security**

- Report from Local Policing Team – kindly provided by PCSO Ness Snape and read out by Cllr. Mrs P Cumming included information on a number of parishes who have seen an increase in thefts from garages and outbuildings. The local Safer Neighbourhood Team now consists of Vanessa Snape, Teresa Howells-Brown, and PC Richard Foxall working from Tenbury Station with 24 hours policing cover. Malvern Hills District Council Rural Crime and Business Liaison Officer is Mr Ian White who is available to give security advice to anyone who is interested. The Neighbourhood Watch network continues to do a fantastic job as the eyes and ears of the community. The Chairman agreed to contact Mr I White regarding a visit to the parish.
- Neighbourhood Watch Report – kindly provided by Mrs Jean Mills and read out by Cllr. Mrs P Cumming included advice on locks and security for sheds and garages, shed alarms and CCTV cameras. The network now had 81 email contacts and they are to be thanked for being so vigilant.

**4. County Councillor's report**

Councillor Pollock kindly attended the meeting and reported that the last year for the County Council has been dominated by the need to reconcile a declining income with an expanding demand. The areas seen as a priority for expenditure are, children and families, health and wellbeing, open for business and the environment. There has been a small increase in satisfaction with the state of the highways in the past year and broadband is now viewed as an essential utility. Unavoidably, this means that those in more remote and difficult areas complain about poor service and the County Council will work to seek solutions for everyone. BT have committed themselves under the "Never say no" slogan but this will take time and in certain areas will be more expensive and may need a contribution from residents. Cllr. Pollock also listened to concerns raised by parishioners regarding speeding and will chase up the Safer Roads Partnership for speed camera signs. The Chairman asked Cllr. Pollock to arrange for a representative from Highways and the Safer Roads Partnership to come to the parish. Cllr Pollock confirmed that the overgrown footpath from Main Road to Bank Road is on the list of footways to be cleared by the County Council and took note of the problems the parish has with broadband that will be

.....2016

*Chairman – Little Witley Parish Council*

## Little Witley Parish Council

chased up by Cllr. Lowe. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Pollock for his report and he left the meeting at 8.45pm.

### 5. District Councillors Report

Councillor Cumming was happy to report that after five years the South Worcestershire Development Plan was in place. This will now provide a stricter adherence to planning policy. Finance continues to be a challenge with the Council looking at having to save £1.8m each year on a budget of £8m. The desire to cut back without affecting basic services means the Council is looking at shared services with other councils. Substantial savings were made taking on 'Freedom Leisure' to run leisure services and they are planning investment in this area including a new sports pitch at Martley.

### 6. Reports from local organisations

- **Village Hall Committee** – Cllr. Owen thanked Bob Jose for his Chairmanship last year, Paul for his role as Treasurer and Jan for being Secretary. A fairly new committee is looking at quotes for work replacing the floor, electrics and painting the hall. The bar is open on the last Friday of every month and events have included the film club, a Boxing Day breakfast, a Halloween party and quiz nights.
- **Little Witley Women's Institute** – Membership has grown by 15% during the year and there is a healthy bank balance thanks to the efforts of the Committee guided by Suzanne Owen. Events during have included celebrating the National Centenary of the WI, carol singing and a strawberry tea. A number of speakers have been welcomed and interest in activities is growing. Members are already making plans for the Worcestershire WI Centenary and the 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Little Witley WI in 2018.
- **Great Witley School** – The Chairman read out a report from Head Teacher Mrs K Banford who was happy to report the school continues to thrive and be oversubscribed with 165 pupils on roll. An exciting year has seen the school convert to an Academy by joining the Rivers Multi Academy Trust and reading volunteers are always welcome, anyone interested is encouraged to contact the Mrs Banford. Everyone is very welcome to attend the Friends Fete being held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 3-6pm.
- **Friends of St Michael** – Chairman, John Gorton kindly reported on a busy year thanking the hard working committee 'with a load to do that doesn't get any less!' A 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Best Kept Churchyard competition in 2015 means a lot more work for the entry in 2017 and a successful application to Kew Gardens for wild flower seeds, has seen these arrive and be planted. Keep reading the Parish Magazine for events in the pipeline and look forward to meeting the new Shepherd Reverend Ted Whittaker.
- **Nora Parsons Day Centre** – The Chairman read out a report which included information about the loss of the main rental income for the centre. Daily charges are now £9.50 however there is £4235 income over expenditure for the year. Little Witley Parish Council were thanked for their grant.
- **Broadband** - The Chairman read out a report kindly provided by Hillgrove Kendrick. Superfast continues to be rolled out with Wichenford 1 due to take orders in June and Wichenford 2 in January 2017. Hopefully at some stage this technology will reach Little Witley but it will not be simple. Cllr. Lowe will represent the parish at County meetings for Broadband.

### 7. Any other business

- The Chairman reported on recent discussions with the owners of the phone mast and a request to paint it a more attractive colour. Road sweeping is due to be done in the parish but the Chairman will enquire why this is only done once a year.

.....2016

*Chairman – Little Witley Parish Council*

## **Little Witley Parish Council**

- A brief discussion took place regarding transport for WI members in an evening. It was agreed the WI will make a formal approach for funding to County Councillor Dr K Pollock.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

DRAFT