

TIDBURY GREEN PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Wednesday 20th April 2011 at 7.00pm, Tidbury Green Village Hall

Cllr Seddon as Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Record of Members Present:

Tidbury Green Parish Councillors: Cllr. P. Seddon, Cllr. E. Child, Cllr C Farr, Cllr. G. Thomas; Mrs A. Thomas, Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Mr L Towersey, Mr D Millichamp.

Parish Clerk: Mrs K Hearn

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr A Last, Ward Cllr L Cresswell and Mr J Kane.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2010

2.1 The minutes were circulated and approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Report from Chairman of Parish Council (Cllr Peter Seddon)

3.1 Cllr Seddon read the Annual Report which forms part of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011 detailing the achievements against the set objectives and activities which had taken place during the year.

4. Report on Annual Accounts of Parish Council (Cllr Graham Thomas)

4.1 Cllr Thomas, the Parish Council's Responsible Officer, had prepared the draft accounts to be presented to the Council for approval at their meeting later in the evening. Copies of the approved accounts will be available on application to the Clerk in accordance with the Notice of Elector's Rights to be published in May. The overall financial position including the year surplus of £5101 was detailed. There were no questions.

5. Reports

5.1 Village Hall Management Committee (read by Cllr Seddon in the absence of the Chairman of the VHMC, Mr McDowell)

Mr McDowell's report opened by referring to two points from last year's report: the actions required resulting from the Health and Safety survey were completed and a full refurbishment of the moveable partition wall that divides the two main rooms was carried out. The update of other significant facilities will need consideration during the course of the coming year.

Hire charges for the year of £11,949 were 2.6% below the previous year, reflecting a lower utilisation by existing hirers. The hourly rates for hire charges remained the same as the previous year. As a result of the refurbishment charges there was an operating deficit of £345 for the year. Nevertheless, cash balances remained under careful control, so that the year end balance of £18,397 was ahead of the previous year.

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All of the regular hirers continued to support the hall facility - a commendation to those who take part in its management. Thanks were given to all the hirers for the significant contribution they make to, what can be regarded as, a very successful community amenity and to those who have ensured that the hall has been kept running efficiently during the year.

5.2 Tidbury Green Parish Allotments Association (read by Cllr Seddon in the absence of the Treasurer, Leighton Wardell)

It was reported following a far better summer in 2010 and due to increased rents and various fund raising activities the Association is in good health and solvent.

During the year, to mark the changeover from Hockley Heath Parish to Tidbury Green Parish, a new sign was purchased and fitted to the front gate, further enhancing the appearance of the allotment site. Prior to the increase in VAT the Association purchased a new petrol lawn mower, for the sole use of the chairman who has taken responsibility for keeping the grass cut in the top car park area. The chairman had been using his own private mower, and it was felt that, whilst this was commendable, the Association must have its own mower. In recognition of the work given to the Association by past committee members an additional Bramley apple tree has been purchased as a permanent feature for the ever improving orchard area: this tree being designated "The Tree of Appreciation" with small plaques bearing the names of past officers.

With six prospective gardeners on the current waiting list, and the bank balance at £ 1002.44, it was felt another successful year had been enjoyed by all concerned.

5.3 Speedwatch (Co-ordinator, Mrs Agnes Thomas)

The Speedwatch project commenced nearly three years ago in May 2008. There are 40 members averaging one session each per month. PC Sharon Williams has organised a 'Speedwatch Day' on 21st April 2011 with all local teams in action and a feature article appearing in the local press. Speedwatch is felt to fit within the 'Big Society' with SMBC and the local community working together. Other teams are being initiated in other parts of Solihull.

Fulford Hall Road has been added to the list of roads monitored. The percentage of speeders caught during the year was down on all roads except Dickens Heath Road which showed an increase to 7.1% from 6.2% in the previous year. The highest speed recorded was also down to 51mph from 63mph last year. Most vehicles caught are travelling at between 35pmh and 45mph so speeds appear to be slowing. In addition most drivers are first time offenders with only a handful of third time offenders, all of whom receive a phone call from the police.

It was felt the project was proving effective. Cllr Farr thanked Mrs Thomas for all the work she does on behalf of the Parish.

6. Other matters raised by an Elector of the Parish

6.1 Road surfaces: The variation between the road surfaces on those roads repaired by SMBC during the year was raised, with Illshaw Heath Road and Tilehouse Lane outside Whitlocks Station having very much quieter surfaces compared to those of Fulford Hall Road and Wood Lane. The Chairman commented that he felt this to be a matter of cost with the quieter surface resulting from a complete resurfacing of the road.

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6.2 Road verges: A long-standing resident expressed the view that it was unnecessary for tractors to be brought in to cut down the verges thus destroying natural beauty and wildlife habitat.

6.3 Ward Cllr Cresswell: As Cllr Cresswell is stepping down as a Borough Councillor in May the residents of Wood Lane and the Allotment Association wished to convey their thanks to him for all the support he has given them during his period in office.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

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