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**Clerk to the Council/RFO: Caroline Higgins**

**Chairman: Cllr Kieth Keel**

**Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 21 May 2018 in the Memorial Hall.**

**Chairman:** Mr Keith Keel – Parish Council Chair

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| **Present**: | Approximately 30 electors attended the Annual Parish Meeting in addition to the Parish Councillors and speakers. |
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| **In attendance:** | Caroline Higgins – Clerk;  Invited speakers: S McGrath & D Carrington (‘Atlantic Ladies’ Rowing Team)  N Fisher (Shropshire Council Senior Community Enablement Officer) |

The Chair of Bayston Hill Parish Council, Cllr Keith Keel opened the meeting.

APM01.18 **APOLOGIES –** Cllrs T Clarke and A Parkhurst

APM02.18 **MINUTES –** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 22 May 2017 were taken as read. The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record.

APM03.18 **MATTERS ARISING** - None

APM04.18 **PARISH REPORT –** The Chair of the Council presented the Annual Council Report, which had been delivered to each parish property during the preceding two weeks.

The Chair observed that it had been a difficult year with the Parish Council being asked to make up a shortfall in funding by Shropshire Council by contributing towards the maintenance of both Bayston Hill Library and Lyth Hill Country Park. Further financial challenges were anticipated due to ongoing pressures on the County Council budgets.

The Chairman reported on the successes of the Parish Council during the year including the implementation of regular maintenance around Parr’s Pool and the instigation of regular fitness activities including Walking Football. He reported that an application was being submitted to the LEADER fund to obtain a grant for a new outdoor gym; that the Council was investigating how it could improve changing facilities at Lythwood and was in discussions with the Scouting and Guiding Groups to identify a suitable site for a new Scout Headquarters at Lythwood should it be required.

The Chair thanked the Parish Council staff for all of their hard work during the year to keep the facilities in good order and the Clerk for her guidance and support.

The Chair responded to questions on the report.

The Clerk was invited to explain the financial report and stated that the Council had undertaken to pay its’ staff in accordance with the voluntary Real Living Wage recommendations, which was reflected in the accounts. She also outlined the requirements of the new General Data Protection Legislation and drew attention to the Privacy Notices that can be found on the Parish Council website.

APM05.18 **GUEST SPEAKERS –** Sharon McGrath and Di Carrington presented an account of their record breaking achievements as part of the oldest female trio to row across the Atlantic as part of the Talisker Whisky Challenge. They thanked everybody for the huge welcome they had received on their return from the expedition and for the encouraging messages they had received via their satellite phone during the voyage.

They explained how they had trained for the challenge and raised £100,000 to fit out a purpose built boat capable of carrying them unsupported across 3,000 miles of ocean. During the challenge they had seen only two other boats. The row was an enormous mental and physical challenge and the weather forced many other teams to retire. Since returning home Di Carrington has started to write a book and a play has been commissioned by the Whiteman Theatre to tell the story of their adventures including two capsizes.

APM06.18 **INVITED SPEAKER - NICOLA FISHER (Shropshire Council Senior Community Enablement Officer) -** Shropshire Council Local Plan Review

Ms Fisher confirmed that SC had identified a aspirational target of 28,500 homes to be built in the next 20 years in Shropshire of which 10,000 are already in the system. SC is looking for sites for approximately 15,000 new houses. She explained the legal obligation to maintain a 5 year supply of housing land and that larger villages would be expected to contribute to that land supply but that the community would be consulted on where those houses would best be located via the Parish Council.

She encouraged the Parish Council to get involved at an early stage with the discussions in order to have greater influence. She stated that Bayston Hill was already seen as leaders in a partnership working approach. She warned that whilst the Parish Council will be consulted the final decisions on sites will be taken by SC.

A resident stated that the proposed development of the Glebelands had not been subject to proper consultation with residents.

In response to a question on housing types she confirmed that SC can negotiate with developers to encourage them to build the mix of housing wanted by the community but cannot force them to build. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place greater influence can be applied by specifying the quality of buildings. There is nothing to prevent the Parish Council inviting a developer to bring forward a proposal that matches their aspirations.

She confirmed that SC encourages the development of affordable housing as much as possible and had delivered record numbers (400+) in the last year. There is a need to attract younger families to Shropshire and the Economic Growth Strategy is designed to promote high quality employment opportunities.

APM07.18 **POLICE REPORT** – There was no representative from the Police present.

APM08.18 **SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT** – There was no Shropshire Council Report

APM09.18 **BAYSTON HILL COMMUNITY AWARDS –** Cllr Keel announced the following Community Awards:

**Anthony Florian – Exemplary Achievement Award –** For his long standing and invaluable contribution to the maintenance and upkeep of the Memorial Hall.

**Sharon McGrath – Chairman’s Exemplary Achievement Award –** For her inspiring Atlantic Rowing Challenge and the funds which the trio raised for charity as a result of their efforts.

The Chairman warmly congratulated them both and presented them with framed certificates.

APM10.18 **OPEN FORUM** **–**

Mr A Caswell, Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee informed the meeting that the Committee had commissioned two new commemorative benches to mark the Centenary of the end of WW1. A ceremony would be held at 10:30 the following Saturday morning which residents were welcome to attend.

Mr C Lewis, member of the Community Led Plan Steering Group urged residents to complete and return their surveys which had recently been distributed to homes in the Parish.

Mr D Preston reminded residents that a separate survey was available for younger residents and that a prize draw would be held from completed surveys.

Mr Lewis informed residents that the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Group would be held in the Beeches PH in October. New members are always welcomed.

Councillor Keel identified ongoing vacancies on the Parish Council and encouraged volunteers to join.

**Meeting closed at 9:00 pm**