

Clerk to the Council/RFO: Caroline Higgins
Chairman: Cllr Paul Breeze

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 20 May 2019 in the Memorial Hall.

Chairman: Mr Paul Breeze – Parish Council Chair

Present: Approximately 50 electors in addition to the Parish Councillors and speakers.

In attendance: Caroline Higgins – Clerk;
Invited speakers: Sgt Ram Aston and PCSO Joe Bradley; West Mercia Police Mathew Mead; Shropshire Council Place Plan Officer

The Chair of Bayston Hill Parish Council, Cllr Paul Breeze opened the meeting.

APM01.19 **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs T Lewis and A Parkhurst

APM02.19 **MINUTES** – The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21 May 2018 were taken as read. The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record.

APM03.19 **MATTERS ARISING** - None

APM04.19 **PARISH REPORT** – The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Paul Breeze thanked the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Keith Keel for his service to the Parish Council and thanked Parish Council staff for their hard work during a busy year.

He reported that the Council continued to take an active role in planning consultations, the Local Plan Review and the ongoing review of the Community Led Plan.

The Council had responded to crime concerns by adopting the We Don't Buy Crime initiative with the support of West Mercia Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Council had successfully delivered a new outdoor gym and repainted the tennis court to provide a new netball facility and an improved playing surface for tennis. The astro turf had undergone a thorough deep clean to extend its life and improve playability and the BMX track had recently been resurfaced. He hoped the improved facilities would bring the community together to live healthier lives.

The Chairman thanked the volunteers who had transformed the sensory beds at the Community Woodland and continued to meet most Friday mornings. He reported that regular maintenance of the duck weed was helping to keep the problem under control.

The Chair reported increased use of the Youth and Community Building but acknowledged the building is in decline and that the site is being considered as a

venue for a replacement scout hut, should the development of the Oakland/ Glebeland Site be approved.

The Council is also investing in a 10-year programme to replace its sodium lighting stock with low energy LED lanterns at a rate of 20 per year.

The Clerk then presented the financial report included with the Annual Report delivered to each property prior to the meeting. She reported that the Council continues to support the upkeep of Bayston Hill Library and Lyth Hill Country Park by the provision of grant funding to Shropshire Council and also maintains a small budget for grants for local groups. Grant applications are available to download from the Parish website or from the Parish Office. There were no questions on the accounts.

APM05.19 **BAYSTON HILL COMMUNITY AWARDS** – Cllr Breeze announced the following Community Awards:

Bill Warr – Exemplary Achievement Award – For his long-standing (40 years' service as Bookings Secretary and more recently projectionist to Bayston Hill Memorial Hall

Ray Evans - Exemplary Achievement Award – For his invaluable support to the Memorial Hall in providing stage lighting for the pantomime for 40 years.

Monica Rowlingson - Good Neighbour Award – For her long-standing service to Bayston Hill Crown Green Bowling Club, making and serving refreshments and for countless small neighbourly considerations

Andrew Farrow – Young Person of the Year Award – For his moving performance of the 'Last Post' at the beacon lighting event on Remembrance Sunday

Coffee in the Living Room – Community Group of the Year – For the provision of a unique community event providing company, entertainment and support for a wide range of residents.

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

APM06.19 **GUEST SPEAKERS –**

Sgt Ram Aston and PCSO Joe Bradley, West Mercia Police gave a presentation on the SmartWater/We Don't Buy Crime initiative which aims to tackle serious acquisitive crime and associated harm. SmartWater kits were available for residents to claim free of charge at the meeting and from the Parish Office as well as at a number of community events in the next few months.

They reported that whilst 7 burglaries had been reported during December and January, before the scheme was rolled out, there had been none recorded since that time.

They also reported that the scheme is about upskilling the community to spot signs of modern slavery, child sexual exploitation and other broader criminal behaviour. The Police were working with the petrol station at Dobbies and with charity shops to raise awareness of suspicious behaviour.

A resident spoke to express her appreciation of the recently installed LED light outside her property and SmartWater kit which had helped to make her feel safer.

CPSO Joe Bradley gave a brief summary of the crime report for Bayston Hill which remains a low crime area, with low levels of anti-social behaviour, no burglaries and two vehicle crimes reported in the last month.

Mathew Mead, Shropshire Council Place Plan Officer gave a presentation about the forthcoming review of Place Plans which identified infrastructure needs in the County.

Residents identified a number of issues such as the condition of the chicane on Pulley Lane that could be included as a Place Plan Priority. Mathew Mead urged residents to report defects to Shropshire Council via their website.

Residents expressed their desire to retain open space on the Glebeland site and asked the Parish Council to consult with residents before committing any Parish expenditure on the proposed community hub.

APM7.19 **OPEN FORUM –**

Speeding Concerns - Concerns were expressed about speeding vehicles and a request made for speed checks to be carried out. The Police officer responded that the most effective enforcement is a Community Speed Watch scheme which is supported by volunteers. It was suggested that the Parish Council invites a representative of a successful Speed Watch scheme to speak in the village.

Overdale Road / Gorse Lane Mini-roundabout - Concerns were expressed about road safety and the need to renew the painted road markings.

Bestune Way / Pulley Lane – A group of residents presented a petition requesting trees overhanging Pulley Lane be cut back to prevent them obscuring the view of vehicles pulling out of Bestune Way. They also requested that the speed limit be reduced to 40mph.

Parking on Pavements – The Police officer confirmed that vehicles causing an obstruction can be reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and that their contact details are available from their website.

Cllr Fred Jones spoke to thank the SNT and WDBC team for helping to get the scheme up and running. The Clerk thanked Sgt Aston and his colleague Mick Simpson for their support with the roll out events.

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm