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| **The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish**  |
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| **Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7.30pm**  |
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| **Present: Chairman**, Cllr P Trow (PT). |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans, Cllr C Dermietzel (CD), Cllr B Dallow (BD), Cllr C Jones (CJ), Cllr D Trow (DT), D Cllr P Cumming (PC) and C.Cllr D Chambers (DC).**Apologies:** Cllr A Symonds (AS), Cllr N Drew (NG), Cllr F Chapman (FC) and SNT TeamThe Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present and began with the Chairman’s Report.The following reports were then received and are attached to these Minutes:* West Mercia Police Community Support Officer (read by PT in their absence)
* District Councillor Paul Cumming
* County Councillor David Chambers
* Great Witley Village Hall Ruth Goodman
* Quarter Green Linda Cumming
* Great Witley Primary School Kate Ramsey
* Neighbourhood Plan Working Party Frank Chapman (read by PT in his absence)

The meeting closed at 20:00The reports were followed by a very entertaining talk given by BBC’s Bargain Hunt’s, Ben Cooper. It was said that this was the best meeting which we have held, and we send our sincerely thanks to Mr Cooper for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to us on this social occasion about his life in antiques and music. |
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| Signed …………………………………….. Date …………………………………….. |
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|  | Chairman |

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**Reports:**

Parish Report Great Witley 2022

It has been another busy year for the team.

Martley and Tenbury SNT are still waging war against rural crime, thefts and speeding, and road traffic offences which sadly isn’t going away. There are a number of measures that can be taken to deter thefts, and promote safer speeds on our roads, links to useful information can be found on the West Mercia Police website which includes security advice.

The PCSO’s in the team are able to give general security advice, but for more specialist advice we can signpost to, Mike Simpson, Business and Crime Prevention Officer, P C Nigel Bolton, We don’t Buy Crime Officer and Residential Security and Crime Prevention Officer, Jacqueline Godfrey Hunt.

Great Witley highlighted speeding, theft and wildlife crime as priorities as part of the Parish Contract Contact Charter.

Speeding: The issue of speeding is now being dealt with by the Road Safety Team who will visit with the van.

Thefts: Trailer, quad bike, tools and equipment are the types of thefts carried out in this and surrounding areas. We report suspicious vehicles and persons through the use of social media, groups and Neighbourhood Matters to raise awareness and vigilance with the public. We have held property marking and advice sessions and we continue to carry out patrols in the area.

Wildlife crime: Hare coursing on farm land and private property is still being reported in the area from time to time. Whilst we do patrol the area at night this is a particularly difficult issue to police due to resources and the geographical locations. Patrols will continue in the area.

Whilst the numbers for crime in this area remain relatively low, no crime is acceptable and we will continue to work to reduce numbers further.

Great Witley has low numbers for rural or other thefts, and in the wider community there have been a number of farms that have been targets for theft on several occasions, we continue to work with P C Nigel Bolton and John Meek who are tasked with Rural Crime reductions and the SNT continue to collate intelligence regarding rural crimes.

We remain committed to engagement with the community with visits to the local coffee mornings, and Parish Meetings; Martley and Tenbury SNT are always available by email for questions, queries, etc.

We are available to give talks to groups or residents, advising on what scams are currently doing the rounds, and how to keep safe and avoid being taken in by the ever increasing and sophisticated measure criminal gangs are using against the unsuspecting and vulnerable people in our communities.

We have now officially relocated to Tenbury Fire Station located in Burford Tenbury Wells. At the moment the team are:

PC Jack Sykes, PCSO Ness Snape, PCSO Deb Abbott, and PCSO Teresa Howells Brown

We are available via email: mt.snt@qwestmercia.police.uk, or mobile phones

*PC Sykes 07890 390717*

*Ness Snape 07814 040307*

*Deb Abbott 07890 535960*

*Teresa Howells Brown 07814 041496*

**You can also reach us via Tenbury Cops on Face book**

**We are increasingly using Neighbourhood Matters to send out alerts and messages etc., so if you haven’t yet signed up, please head to either West Mercia Website to do so, or Neighbourhood Matters directly online.**

**Please contact us if you need any help or information with any of the above.**

2022 Annual Parish Meeting Report

Malvern Hills District Council Woodbury Ward

After the recent resignation of the Council Leader, the controlling Group split into three. That now means that there are five political groups on the Council plus two non-aligned members. A new leader was elected at the Annual Meeting wishing all groups to work together, but early signs in relation to this did not give much cause for optimism.

The Council year also finished with the announcement of yet another unspecified delay in the production of the SWDPR on top of the two year delay announced last September.

This is of much concern locally as the Planning Inspectorate has ruled that there is not a five year land supply in place. This brings a greater risk of speculative development both on sites currently under consideration for the SWDPR and others including those already rejected at the first stage. A further appeal hearing is due shortly which will test the Council’s view that this situation has changed. Abberley saw the effect of such a position when the preparation was delayed in the original Local Plan and It does seem that MHDC has not learnt from this. I will continue to press hard for both early production of the Review and the need to have an infrastructure plan that properly recognises the issues of the effect of future development, particularly on traffic in the area.

Delays in determining planning applications are producing more complaints and this is reflected in the recent residents’ survey which reinforces the falling satisfaction in the Service. Enforcement is still a long process , but it is encouraging to see that the Government is now proposing a bill that will strengthen the sanctions against non-approved development including retrospective applications.

Once new rules are in place I will be looking for Enforcement to use them to improve effectiveness.

Paul Cumming

**Worcestershire County Council Report**

**Great Witley & Hillhampton Annual Parish Meeting 19th May 2022.**

1. I have now completed my first year as County Councillor for the Tenbury Division which of course includes the Parish of Great Witley and Hillhampton. It has very much been a learning curve and I am grateful to the Chairman of Great Witley & Hillhampton Parish Council, Great Witley & Hillhampton Parish Councillors and the Clerk, for their help and support throughout.
2. In many ways, the work of the County Council has been influenced by Covid. One thing that has worked very well, is the working relationship between the County Council, the six District Councils and the various health bodies and other organisations who have worked as “One Worcestershire”. The success of the vaccine rollout in Worcestershire is but one example of a well organised Worcestershire wide project.
3. I no longer report on Covid numbers in Worcestershire at each Parish Council meeting but one health concern which continue to worry me is the delay in ambulance times, the delay in patients progressing from the emergency department at the Worcester Royal hospital to an in-patient bed and the delays in discharging patients who are well enough to either return home or transfer to alternative care. I sit on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and will continue to do my utmost to ensure these and other concerns are addressed as a matter of extreme urgency.
4. Worcestershire County Council continues to work closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and with local partners, to co-ordinate actions regarding our response to the Ukraine refugee crisis. The County Council has agreed with the six Worcestershire District Councils, to co-ordinate our response as “One Worcestershire”, to ensure a joint approach is undertaken.

At the moment the best way to provide humanitarian help for the people of Ukraine is through financial donations to organisations with a presence in the region. This is considered a more effective way to support those in need, rather than physical donations, given the complexities and time it can take to physically transport supplies.

Over 2,000 families have offered their homes to Ukrainian families in Worcestershire. 700 guests have arrived so far and are being hosted by 289 families. 228 guests in Wychavon, followed by Malvern Hills, Worcester City, Bromsgrove, Wyre Forest and Redditch. Host families offer their home for a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months, though this may be extended if necessary.

1. The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing strategy consultation 2022 – 2032, has now concluded. The results of the consultation will be made public shortly.
2. Worcestershire County Council have been unsuccessful in their Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) submission to the government. It is also extremely disappointing to hear that First Bus have announced they intend to significantly cut services in Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council and other similar councils in the region who were refused funding, are now in talks with their local MPs to urge government to reassess their decision. The Council is now considering its future policy with regards to bus services in Worcestershire.
3. We now start a new year at Worcester County Council when we hope that we will be able to put the worst of Covid behind us and move forward with a full programme that will benefit all the residents in Worcestershire. I very much look forward to being a part of this programme and to represent your best interests in the year ahead.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division.

**Quartergreen Chair report for 2020/2021**

This has obviously been an extraordinary time for everyone, unlike any other. The Quartergreen committee have not met since the 2nd November last year but have kept in touch via social media and phone conversations.

We have obviously lost a lot in court revenue donations but Mandy very kindly gave a donation £100 from pre-school and Mike has managed to raise money during the time the court was able to open. Julia has once again held a plant sale (only yesterday) to raise funds for Quartergreen for which the committee are extremely grateful. The court maintenance has been carried out at a cost of over £500 and new netball and football nets have been installed.

Unfortunately there are two “dips” on the court area and the maintenance company have given a quote of £3,500 to carry out the remedial work. It has been agreed that it would be wise to have a geological survey carried out initially to ascertain the cause before going ahead with any work.

The saga with HMRC regarding being able to charge for court use is ongoing.

There have been a few incidents over lockdown where youths have actually climbed over the fence to get onto the court; luckily no damage for has been sustained.

The committee will be organising a schedule of work e.g. drying and cleaning the marquees, cleaning guttering and clearing rubbish behind the changing room. It is hoped, if all goes well, and permission can be obtained, we will be able to hold a bonfire and firework display this year which should be good for community spirit and something for everyone to look forward to.

**Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish Council - School Update May 2022**

Dear All,

Thank you for inviting the school to submit a report for your Annual Parish Meeting. The last 12 months have continued to be extremely challenging for all schools. However, as the year has progressed, we have gradually returned to our normal way of working. At the time of writing, we have 199 pupils on roll in seven single year classes. This means we can deliver excellent provision for each year group. We continue to work very closely with the other schools in the Rivers CE Multi-Academy Trust as well as other local schools.

In September 2021, we introduced our revised Rivers Curriculum. Our aim being to ensure that each and every child leaves us fulfilling their maximum potential and ready for the next stage of their learning. We remain committed to ensuring that our pupils value education and become lifelong learners. Our vision statement is to teach children to love, learn, live as a global citizen in an ever-changing world as encapsulated in our vision ‘love, learn, live’. The driver for our curriculum is the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are committed to working together to educate our pupils about the importance of achieving these by 2030.

The lessening of Covid restrictions meant that in September our Year 6 pupils were able to go on a 5-day residential to Llanrug, Wales and our Year 5’s spent 3 days in Malvern. We were able to hold our Carol Service in the Church and invite parents in to watch our younger pupils Nativity plays. Open the Book have returned to lead our Thursday Collective Worship every fortnight and we have lots of fun trips and activities planned for the Summer Term including a Rivers Box Car Rally at Shelsley Hill Climb.

In March 2022 we updated our old staffroom to create a multi-purpose room which now serves as a kitchen for our wrap around provision, a DT room and a nurture space for lunchtimes.

In the Autumn we delivered Harvest hampers to local residents and also made a large donation of items to the Droitwich food bank. Earlier this year we were overwhelmed, when with less than 24 hours’ notice, our families donated a horsebox full of items for families affected by the war in Ukraine.

Under our new governance structure, which will be in place from September 2022, we are looking for members of our local community to fill the following important roles. Are you interested in supporting your local school and becoming a Community Advocate? The purpose of the role is to ensure that the school communicates and engages with its key stakeholders and the local community. No formal training is required, just your time, care, and attention. It will involve an annual governance event, attending one or two meetings each term and working in partnership with school leaders and other advocates to make a difference. If you are interested and would like a chat to discuss the role, please contact Mrs Kate Ramsey through the school office.

Finally, if you have any further questions or queries regarding the school, please feel free to contact me via the school office.

Kind Regards

Kate Ramsey

Head of School

[Community Advocate](../NOTICES/Primary%20School%20Community%20Advocate%20Application%202022.png)

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for AGM / Parish Meeting

The Parish Council has decided to revive the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and has sought advice from an expert called David Nicholson who assisted Abberley Parish Council in the preparation of their plan. He is preparing a quotation for the work involved so that the Council can apply for a grant to cover most if not all of the cost.

 For the time being at least all planning issues are governed by the National Framework (NF) and by the South Worcestershire Development Plan.(SWDP). The present edition of SWDP created a village plan for Great Witley which basically runs from the petrol station to the school on the north side of Worcester Road and from the petrol station to Mill Orchard farm house on the north side of Stourport Road and everywhere in between but not including Quartermans’ field. It also includes a few houses on the south side of Worcester Road and a few on the Martley Road. Applications to build within the village plan are likely to be granted in outline subject to other building rules. However, it has meant that other areas viz all of Hillhampton, Witley Court Drive, Quartermans field and the field next to the surgery are regarded as open countryside where it is very difficult to get permission to build. This is why previous applications failed.

The SWDP is due for review( and has been for 2 years ) and there is a proposal from the planners that part of Quartermans’ field should be reclassified and included in the village plan to allow 44 new houses to be built at some stage within the next 20 years. We have presented arguments against this but do not yet know the outcome. This is because the review has been postponed several rimes due to Covid and now due to the need to review all the infrastructure needed to support development. This is consistent with the arguments we have put forward that the school and surgery are already full and that the road infrastructure will not support more traffic.

 The further delay brings some benefits in that it preserves the present village plan for the time being and will delay any further development. It may mean that the criteria for development are changed ( eg infrastructure comes first ) and it gives more time for the development of our Neighbourhood Plan. The only risk is that a developer somewhere in the are covered by the SWDP may challenge the legality of the SWDP arguing that it no longer provides sufficient land to meet the needs of the area for new homes. If that argument succeeded the existing SWDP would become redundant and there would be a free for all to build. Even that assumes that developers in the current economic climate have an appetite for more building.

 So the future depends upon the economic outlook and the review of SWDP.