

TARRINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Clerk: Janet Chester
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2017 at 7.30pm

In the Chair - Councillor P Grey

Present: 18 parishioners

In attendance –

Backbury Ward Councillor John Hardwick

Guest Speaker – Karen Usher

Janet Chester – Parish Clerk

Cllr Grey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence - Jeanette Ward, John Tallis

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 9th May 2016

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and were duly signed by the chairman.

3. Report from Backbury Ward Councillor John Hardwick

Cllr Hardwick advised that there is an exhibition and consultation on the Transport Package and Area Plan at the city library until 19th May. Herefordshire Council have their annual meeting on 19th May where the council constitution will be updated, the size of committees will be smaller with the regulation committee incorporated with the planning committee.

4. Guest Speaker – Karen Usher – the new Herefordshire University & Dorstone Front Room Projects

An informative and inspiring presentation was given by Karen Usher, co-team leader for the new university for Hereford, currently named NMiTE – a new model for engineering education. It was noted that currently a significant number of young people (in the 18 to 30 age group) leave Herefordshire each year for further education or employment. The new university will be the first non-profit making, public university to be established in the U.K. for forty five years. It aims to provide world class teaching of the highest quality combined with links to local employers. It will make a significant contribution to the future development of the great Cathedral City of Hereford and will also strive to be a step towards redressing the forecasted large shortage of engineering graduates in the U.K. The new university will hopefully open its doors to an initial intake of 300 students in September 2019 and intends to have a cohort of 5,000 students by 2032. Local people in schools, further education colleges and businesses have been widely interviewed and involved with the development of the project. The £70,000 start-up funding is split between government funding (one third of the costs) and private investment with additional funds being given by industry and philanthropists. The foundation is working in partnership with the University of Warwick, Olin College in the U.S.A. and Lassonde School of Engineering in Canada and is also supported by the Department of Education and locally by Herefordshire Council and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership. The university buildings, including small laboratories and student accommodation will be housed on brownfield sites in Hereford City Centre with just one larger laboratory being provided on the Rotherwas Estate. The students will not be allowed cars as it aims to be a car free campus.

As Ward Councillor, John Hardwick, was present, Karen took the opportunity to thank him on behalf of Herefordshire Council for their cross-party support for the university project.

In addition to her talk about the university, Karen also spoke about a project which she helped to launch in her home village of Dorstone. Following the closure of their shop and post office, the vacated premises is

now managed by the local community as a meeting place for local people, offering refreshments, a small selection of produce and activities organised by volunteers. A postal van visits twice a week and offers a limited banking service. The project was originally funded with a £500 start-up grant from Awards for All and has won the Queen's Award for Community Service.

5. Report from the Police

The police had arrived at the start of the meeting but had left before being able to give a report.

6. Annual report from Chairman of Tarrington Parish Council, Paul Grey

"Welcome everyone, thank you all for coming this evening. I must start this report by thanking all members of the Parish Council for their contribution this past year. In addition to the six scheduled bi monthly meetings there has been five additional extraordinary meetings. All of these meetings have been advertised and open to the public and many have been well attended by members of the community. Also an enormous thank you to our Clerk Janet Chester. Her work on our behalf keeps all of our affairs, financial and legal, in good order. Her input is significant in the life of the Parish Council.

Our Ward Councillor John Hardwick regularly attends our meetings and provides an essential link with Herefordshire Council. His in depth knowledge, accessibility and experience makes his contribution significant.

In addition to these regular meetings members of the Parish Council carry out many other commitments in their own time on behalf of the community. They attend numerous meetings with other bodies in the interests of the village.

The Speed Indicator Device is regularly moved by two Councillors from sites in Tarrington and about four times a year to Fownhope where it is located at two sites. This arrangement generates a small rental income which helps to provide money for replacement parts or repairs for the device.

The footpaths are regularly walked and defects either repaired by Councillors themselves or reported to Balfour Beatty for attention. The whole Parish is regularly surveyed by car for highways defects for reporting to the Lengthsman or Balfour Beatty. These highway repairs often take a long time to resolve but constant attention is given to them until they are carried out.

We have funded two new bench seats, one has been installed at the children's play area and a second is to be installed at Barrs Orchard and school lane junction when time permits.

During my time on the PC the issue of speeding vehicles on our main road has been looked at many times. We have had on-site meetings with highways engineers which have always concluded that County Council financial constraints meant that only roads with a demonstrable road accident injury record would be considered for new measures to reduce speed limits. The speeding issue was still a problem which we felt we should address. Residents crossing the road at the Tarrington Arms and at Garbrook face a terrifying dash across the road. As we could not meet the accident history requirement we decided we had no alternative but to take decisive action and pay for some traffic calming measures ourselves. This year we have decided to fund a Traffic Regulation Order to extend the thirty miles per hour restriction from its current location towards and including the Garbrook settlement. Additionally we will endeavour to extend the other way towards Hereford to the junction of School Lane and the A438. A sum of four thousand pounds has been added to the precept in order to fund the first stage of the process. With co-operation from the highways department we will hope to complete the project in a year or two.

This year we have seen the resignations of Councillors Anne Bush and more recently Celia Winter from the Parish Council. We must thank them for their contributions. One of our new Councillors to be elected is Councillor Trevor Kerr. He joined the Parish Council in May and I'm sure he will also make a great contribution and we welcome him. The newly created vacancy will be widely advertised and as always be open to any eligible candidate.

A momentous issue that has dominated the year has been the ongoing NDP. It is currently at final draft stage with our Planning Consultant after which it will pass back to the Parish Council for final approval. It will then go to Herefordshire Council for their assessment and then a six week public consultation period will take place which will give an opportunity for everyone to make comments before a final parish wide referendum occurs where everyone will have a chance to vote for it or reject it. Currently the fulfilment of grant applications are being awaited to finalise the financial element. This has been an extremely divisive process that has produced unexpected hostility, an experience shared by many Parish Councils. It should

be noted by all that this was and is something that was promulgated by Central Government and Herefordshire Council to Parish Councils that required action on housing need.
 And of course thanks to Judi Ryan and the Tatler Team who produce and deliver the magazine to everyone and to Vikki Avery for all her work on the village website.”

7. To note the Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

TARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL												
Attendance Record for Parish Councillors & Ward Councillor 2016 - 2017												
NAME	MONTH											TOTAL
	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	MARCH	
R HODGES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11 OF 11
A BUSH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	RESG	N	8 OF 9
M DARON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	APOL	APOL	Y	Y	8 OF 11
P GREY (Chairman)	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10 OF 11
J TALLIS (Vice-Chairman)	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	Y	9 OF 11
M TECTOR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11 OF 11
J WARD	APOL	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	Y	8 OF 11
C WINTER	Y	APOL	Y	APOL	Y	Y	Y	Y	APOL	APOL	Y	7 OF 11
J CHESTER (CLERK)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11 OF 11
J HARDWICK (WARD COUNCILLOR)	APOL	N/A	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	APOL	N/A	Y	N/A	5 OF 7
NO MEETING HELD =												
NOT ELECTED COUNCILLOR =												
CO-OPTION ON TO COUNCIL =												
EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING =												

8. Annual Financial Report of the Parish Council

The annual accounts have been internally audited. Thanks were expressed to Martin Townsend for carrying this out. Opening balances as at 1st April 2016 £17590.91. Income £23080.23, expenditure £17935.60, unpresented cheques £1173.02, closing balances as at 31st March 2017 £23908.56. (Figures quoted subject to external audit).

9. Report from Neighbourhood Development Plan

Nothing was said in addition to the chairmans report above which had given the present situation on the NDP.

10. Open Forum

A resident asked that cross references were put onto the website to link the NDP to the reports and updates given in Parish Council minutes. It was suggested that a simple statement would be put onto the website giving an overview and update of the NDP.

Another resident expressed villagers thanks for the volunteered work undertaken by parish councillors and NDP steering group members on both traffic problems and the NDP.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.21 pm

Signed..... Dated.....