

Whittington Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2022 at 6.30pm in the Senior Citizen's Hall, Station Road, Whittington.

Present: Cllrs F Davis, K Stanton, I Johnson, S Manford, J Whitby, L Beaumont, R Harvey, V Bromley and S Charmley (joined meeting at 18.37)

Also Present: Mrs A Jones (Clerk), 10 members of the public.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MINUTES

1.22 Welcome and apologies

Cllrs S Pugh and G Hickman.

2.22 Confirmation of the Minutes

To approve and authorise the signing of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th March 2021 remotely on Zoom.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting held on 30.03.21 and they were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3.22 Parish Council Annual Report

To receive a report from the Chairman on Parish Council Activities in 2021-22 and a Financial Report from the Clerk.

The Chairman reported on highlights from the past 12 months:

- The Parish Council have made significant saving as a result of the LED streetlight conversion. It has reduced the Parish Council's carbon footprint and resulted in significant energy savings and a reduction in maintenance costs.
- Play Area – this is monitored monthly and an annual ROSPA Inspection carried out. The inspections have highlighted that some pieces of equipment are nearing the end of their economic life and following consultation with the community, the council approved plans to enhance the play area with some new equipment. This will be installed over the summer.
- Vehicle Activated Signs – One installed in Park Hall on North Drive bringing the total in the Parish to five. Proving effective and a good investment. There will be one installed on the Gobowen Road once the extension of the 30mph has been completed.
- Festive Lighting Display – The Parish Council continue to enhance this throughout the Parish.
- Two new bins were installed and the Parish Council are looking to add more in 2022.
- Several grants and donations were given including £4000.00 to the Castle for their new toilet block.
- Defibrillators – three new units were added bringing the total Parish Council owned Defibs to four.

NOTED.

The Clerk presented a Finance Report, providing details on the Parish Council's 2021/22 Year End Financial position, as well as details on the grants and donations that had been paid throughout the year. The report was **NOTED.**

4.22 Play Areas in the Parish

Receive an update from the Council on the improvements being made to Fitzgwarine Play Area and discuss ideas, possible locations and options for a new Play Area to be built in the Parish. ***This will be an opportunity for residents to put forward ideas and suggestions and will be dealt with as an open discussion.***

The improvements to Fitzgwarine Play Area were covered in the Chair's Report.

There were no suggestions put forward by members of the public present, however, the Clerk reported on feedback received via email and the following suggestions were **NOTED**:

- *A climbing wall structure – something a bit different and seemed very popular.*
- *Skate / Scooter Park / Bike Ramp*
- *Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)*
- *Park Hall as a suitable location*

5.22 Community Governance Reviews / Boundary Reviews

Parish Council to provide an update on the latest information received from Shropshire Council.

It was noted that the Parish Council responded to the first part of the consultation to propose no changes. No further updates or information has been received from Shropshire Council.

6.22 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Councillor Steve Charmley provided the following report:

- It has been a long year since elections last May and delighted to return as Shropshire Councillor.
- Shropshire continues to deliver despite underfunding on all areas of Council life, making it a very challenging environment financially. One of the biggest growth areas is children coming into care and along with adult social care this equates to 75% of the council budget.
- Mile End Roundabout (a Capital Funded Scheme) is now complete. The Innovation Park is the next phase.
- Future Oswestry are looking at everything in and around Oswestry.
- Plans for Whittington and Gobowen roundabouts on the A5.
- Extra funds have been put into the Highways Budget.
- New wheelie bins being rolled out.
- Shropshire homes for Shropshire people – Shropshire Council are delivering on this – schemes in Ellesmere and St Martins and more in the pipeline.

7.22 Annual Reports from Organisations in the Parish

Reports were received and noted from:

- Whittington Church (written report)
- Community Centre (written report)
- Friends of Whittington Cemetery (written report)
- Senior Citizen's Hall (written report)
- Community Speedwatch – the following report was provided by a representative present:
 - Babbinswood has now been removed as a monitoring site due to verbal abuse – reported to Police.
 - Making an impact on Station Road and at the Church (both ways) – a significant reduction in speeds has been evidenced.

- Meeting with the deputy head of the Primary School to discuss putting information in the Parent Newsletter as the 'school run' is where a significant number of speeding offences are committed.
- Pen-y-bryn is the hot spot.
- Hoping to start monitoring on North Drive, Park Hall, shortly.
- Whittington Together - the following report was provided by a representative present:
 - The Community Group formed in 2015 with a view to bring all organisations together to work for the benefit of the community.
 - Currently working on two projects. One with the Castle to support with the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. The second is the fete on August Bank Holiday Monday.
- Whittington Youth Club - the following report was provided by a representative present:
 - Youth Club has been back up and running since September 2021 – 30/32 each week.
 - £2 each to attend and a tuckshop helps to generate income.
 - Parish Council thanked for their continued support through the annual grant which will, this year, also support with the cost of holiday clubs. Together with additional funding, this will provide holiday club 4 hours a week every day of the holidays and 2 hours during half terms.
- Men's Sheds - the following report was provided by a representative present:
 - Parish Council thanked for previous donation.
 - An overview of what Men's Sheds do was given.
 - 31 members with a hope that this will increase.
 - Lots of local projects completed.
 - In the process of arranging an open day to show people what they do.
- Whittington Castle - the following report was provided by a representative present:
 - Full week opening 9-5 everyday.
 - The education offer has been changed slightly which has resulted in more bookings.
 - Hoping this will lead onto more adult learning bookings.
 - First year being VAT registered.
 - Eco-conscious and looking at energy consumption as a whole.
 - Full events calendar for the summer and several weddings booked.
 - Working with Whittington Together on Jubilee Celebrations.
 - Swans – an egg has been laid but the RSPCA have advised this is a 'practice run'.
- Brownies - the following report was provided by a representative present:
 - Brownies stopped during Covid but recommenced in June 2021. Although there was a drop in applications due to covid, there is now a long list of girls wanting to join.
 - Parish Council thanked for their support through the grants.
 - One Brownie has had their Gold Award.

8.22 Parish Matters / Open Forum - electors are invited to ask questions

- No matters raised.

9.22 Closing remarks by the Chairman

Councillors were thanked for all their work over the past 12 months and for activities they have carried out, alongside the role of councillor and acting as representatives. Everyone was thanked for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at: 19.31