



MINUTES OF BUDBROOKE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2015 AT BUDBROOKE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PCSO – Police Community Support Officer / WDC – Warwick District Council / WCC – Warwickshire County Council / NALC – National Assoc of Local Councils / WALC – Warwickshire Assoc of Local Councils WRWCF – Warwick Rural West Community Forum / HA – Highways Authority / WRCC – Warwickshire Rural Community Council.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 7th May 2014 were approved.

2. Reports

Reports were received for publication and the Chairman's annual report was read out.

Chairman's Annual Report 2014 - 2015

When I started this report I felt that the last year was largely business as usual for the Council. We have managed to work through a good number of issues relatively successfully.

- We considered 13 Planning Applications, about the same as last year.
- We commented on a number of consultations
- We drew the attention of other authorities to matters of parish maintenance
- We considered and made comments to Warwick District Council on its Gypsy & Travellers sites consultation
- We successfully tackled the encroachment on to Montgomery Avenue play area
- The Community Centre Extension planning application was eventually granted
- The Neighbourhood Plan process started to pick up following an initial group set up in April 14, explanations in July and August Newsletters including requests for people to join in and help in 5 newsletters from July to November. In December WDC confirmed the designated area, and a team was established in January. This group has now submitted a bid for funding as is awaiting a decision.
- Richard Morton who has maintained the play areas and ensured they met the required safety standards has retired. We thank him for his excellent advice and commitment. He even helped us recruit a replacement.
- Having edited the newsletter for too many years I pressed for change. We recruited a new Editor who has also taken over the development of our web site; Thanks go to Roger Mills who assiduously maintained the previous site for some 10 years. Our hope is that we will continue to promote transparency by way of having meeting minutes and other documents on both formats.
- I represented the Parish at meetings of Warwick Rural West Community Forum and Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, raising issues such as parking and planning as appropriate.
- Parking in Blandford Way continues to be an issue, but we are informed it is technically not illegal although some say it causes obstruction. The Council discussed this in detail with PC Sidhu, who leads the PCSO team, at meeting in December, and continue to do so. We are awaiting a response from WCC Highways Authority to ascertain how we can progress the matter.

I continue to be impressed by the commitment and support Parish Councillors and Alex Davis, our Clerk and Finance Officer, give to trying to ensure that Budbrooke gets the best service. Thank you all.

Community Centre Annual Report 2014 - 2015

The Budbrooke Community Association is now known as the Budbrooke Community Association (CIO). The last twelve months have been very busy for the committee. Julia Smith (Chair), now supported by Gary

Knight (Vice Chair), and committee members are doing a splendid job in keeping the centre in good upkeep. It has recently had a repaint and the named bricks are being updated.

With support from Budbrooke Parish Council, the committee have recently had new plans approved for a storage extension to the centre, so it's now all systems go to raise funds to get the job done. The plan now is to contact builders to obtain quotes for the necessary work to be carried out. The storage extension is very much needed and long overdue.

The centre bookings are excellent and it is being used every day by groups including Pre-School, Tots, the Dance School, Bingo and the uniformed groups. There are also regular bookings for birthday parties, fund-raising events and the annual Parish Show. It was also used as a Polling Station.

The BCA CIO committee will continue to hold fund raising events in 2015. I feel the future of the centre is in the hands of hard working people who want the best for the parish.

Thank you to all the main officers and to the committee members that keep our community centre open and we thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

Julia Smith would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support in the successful running of the centre.

Dave Shirley

Village Hall Annual Report 2014 - 2015

There have been a few committee changes this year for various reasons, but with new members joining the committee is up to strength. However, new committee members are always welcome to bring new ideas and impetus.

Use of the hall continues on a consistent level, with several regular user groups as well as one-off private bookings such as children's parties, resulting in a 12% increase in income. Due to increased fuel and lighting costs it has been necessary to increase booking fees which took effect on January 1st.

The bi monthly film shows continue to draw increasing numbers and so the purchase of the equipment is proving to be a sound investment. Other events planned for this year as well as the film evenings are a skittles evening on October 10th, the annual Remembrance lunch and a Rule Britannia evening on September 5th to celebrate the Queen becoming our longest reigning monarch.

Andy Thomas

County Councillor Annual Report 2014 - 2015

Following on from last year's 4 year financial plan, WCC set a budget at a 1.9% increase. Headlines within the budget put an additional £2 million into safer environments around schools, to be spent over the next 2 years, and I will be part of the team dealing with it. This is in addition to our dangerous school routes funding. All schools will be assessed and works done in partnership with schools.

We also put £4million to changing to LED street lighting to increase savings over the £600k we have saved by turning off lights. There does not appear to be any change in crime through this measure.

The money formerly allocated by area to Districts has been divided between Councillors for highway safety works. This gives me £32k to spend on capital funding. However this is top-sliced to deal with particular safety concerns in Warwick District area including Watery Lane.

The balance of £26k is for my discretionary use but I have schemes and bids from residents and parishes amounting to £97k before I allocate for rural gullies additional cleaning out to help recent road flooding. In addition I have put £4k into the Warwick West community forum grants fund.

We have won the contract for supplying Audit services to Worcestershire County Council as part of our work to obtain outside contracts on a commercial basis.

WCC continues to increase its participation and influence in the working of the Local Enterprise Partnership to gain economic growth and funding for Warwickshire. We do not support the moves to build a large economic area based on Birmingham, as our growth area based on data and facts covers from Leicester to Banbury/Oxford. We are looking at working with our Shire neighbours as we already do with Coventry in the joint LEP.

Highways are going out to tender on a contractor for our highways work, as Balfour Beatty do not wish to exercise their option to extend the existing contract.

I thought I would use this opportunity to run through some of the areas I cover in my role as Cabinet Member for Community Safety:

1. Fire and Rescue continues to spend around 60% of its time effecting rescue. This means the reorganisation going on is vital to ensure full cover to our residents and to maintain full training for our firefighters . Projects being carried out to achieve this are a new hot fire trading facility, refurbishment of HQ, introduction of day crew plus at Alcester and Stratford, new fire delivery unit at Gaydon, all within this year.
2. Trading Standards very successful with national recognition for fake cosmetics being imported via Coventry Airport , Wellesbourne Market goods,Holiday time share scams and prosecutions in Warwickshire for faulty garage work and unsafe used cars.
3. Flooding. As WCC is now the Statuary Flood Authority (SFA) we are working with communities to help them prevent flooding by local intervention .We also are the statutory consultee with the planning authorities. We have also secured approx £6m for flood schemes from the Environment Agency.
4. Priority Families Unit are nationally top of the results tables meaning Warwickshire has been awarded a further 4 years’ funding to expand the service. In the past 4 years we are credited with turning around a thousand families with major problems with crime, school attendance and unemployment. Alongside this the Youth Justice Service we provide continues to have one of the best rates nationally of stopping reoffending.
5. Drugs and Alcohol teams work with people with all alcohol-related problems and drug usage as well as working with Trading Standards on prosecuting retailers who break the law.
6. Road Safety operates speed cameras on WCC controlled roads working with the Police. We also carry out road safety in schools and do driver training for private companies alongside our speed awareness work with drivers. We support villages in their own speed recording work. Unfortunately road accidents have increased over the last year, in line with national trends, including motor cycle accidents, so we are relaunching our “be aware” campaigns.

Following the Boundary Commission’s review of WCC, for the 2017 elections this division will have added to it Hatton and Shrewley, as it has been declared as over-represented on numbers of residents per councillor.

Finally I have arranged a one to one meeting with the new Chief Constable and will be expressing to him my concerns on the above and particular rural issues about policing, speeding amongst others. Thank you chairman and councilors, along with your clerks, for your help and support this year.

Clr Les Caborn

Signed: Dated: