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| **The Minutes of The Annual Meeting of Great Witley and Hillhampton Parish** |
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| **Held at the Great Witley Village Hall on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm** |
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| **Present: Acting Chairman Cllr G Goodman (GG), Cllrs R Perkins (RP), C Shaw (CS), C Dermietzel (CD), N Drew (ND), A Symmonds (AS), B Dallow (BD), County Cllr K Pollock (KP) and District Cllr P Cumming (PC)** |
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| **In Attendance:** Clerk, J Evans |

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| **1.** | **Apologies:** Cllrs F Chapman (FC) and C Jones (CJ) | | | | | |
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| **2.** | **Progress reports:**   1. **Chairman’s Report :** GG opened the meeting. A tribute to the late David Pangbourne, Councillor, referred to how greatly David was involved with the parishes. He had led the Quarter Green Project and it was noted that he had done a “super job”. One of his last duties as councillor was to officially open the completed Quarter Green Project. GG also reported that the Clerk had spoken with Jon Fraser of WCC Highways Department regarding VeloBirmingham. He said that WCC are going to give CSM more time to put a proposal to them which if they still consider to be unsatisfactory the application for road closures will not be given. GG’s report is attached to these Minutes. 2. **West Mercia Police Community Support Officer :** In their representative’s absence GG read out the report received from them. It reported that Great Witley has ‘suffered from a number of thefts in the Parish over the last 12 months and also anti-social behaviour, which impacted on the wider community’. A scheme called ‘stop that thief’ which is endorsed by NFU has been very successful in the Herefordshire area which has resulted in the rate of crimes dropping. You can contact the ‘Team’ which are based in Tenbury Wells on 01905 725780. This report is attached to these Minutes. 3. **District Councillor Paul Cumming :** PC reported that MHDC will make huge financial savings by sharing offices with Wychavon. The new planning IT system is up and running smoothly. June will see all council staff in one building which has now been refurbished. The old Planning Department and Tourist Office may be let out. The Tourist Office is being moved in to the font area of the new building so members of the public will be able to meet face-to-face with people. PC also reported that rubbish collections will move to four nightly with wheelie bins being provided. After the antisocial behaviour problems with the family in Glendower Way MHDC met with Stonewater Housing to highlight how unhappy they’re and the local residents were with their system of allocating tenants in their social housing. The Hundred House sign has been sent away for restoration and will be replaced upon completion. There will also be a house provided for the manager of The Hundred House with a pub. The pub will be fitted out before the development can be finished to safeguard this planning requirement. Regarding the planning application for 175 new houses in the village, a decision is imminent. 4. **County Councillor Ken Pollock :** KP gave out a website for locals to use who have concerns over the planned road closures for the VeloBirmingham event. This is for individuals to make contact with CSM who have promised to answer their concerns. The address to use is : [route@velobirmingham.com](mailto:route@velobirmingham.com) KP believes CSM operates with ‘arrogance’. ND asked KP how did the proposal get through the initial stages with WCC. KP answered that 2 years ago when WCC was first approached, without knowing all the circumstances, the proposal was agreed ‘in principle’. Feelings are running high over the way CSM has approached the organisation of the event and he will ‘go up against Lord Coe’ should it be required. Such are KP’s concerns. KP’s report is attached to these Minutes. 5. **Great Witley Village Hall :** CS delivered his report. The hall continues to be used by many groups, committees and wedding bookings continue to be made. There are several successful social events which are regularly held in the hall from quiz nights and film nights to the increasingly popular ‘Charlie’s Bar’! The hall now has wi-fi and Facebook and Twitter accounts. Looking forward, there will be a Meet and Greet held on May 20th where new and old residents can get together. Improvements are also being planned including refurbishing the floor and possibly extending the hall itself to provide much needed storage space and more importantly a larger bar! CS report is attached to these Minutes. 6. **Great Witley Church :** Angela Snow, Church Warden, delivered her report for the Church. Along with Little Witley and Shrawley it is now part of the 4 Rivers Benefice, including two in Abberley and four from the Parish of Teme Valle North, making 9 churches in total. The Priest in charge is Rev. Ted Whittaker. There is a ‘fledgling’ ministry team who are helping to shape the future of services and the congregation is slowly growing. With the new young organist, Phil Johnson, recitals and concerts are scheduled for the coming year and hopefully a full programme next year. On September 2nd, there will be a concert to raise funds for The Mandalay School for the Deaf as a memorial to David Blakeway Smith. Volunteers were thanked and it was reported that the roof has now been refurbished. The Tearooms continue to be a success even with the very poor condition of the drive. It is now recommended that people use the Worcester entrance which is being maintained in reasonable condition by Mr Pain. A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes.    1. **Witleys Oral History Society :** Not on the Agenda but asked to give their report at the meeting. They are a small group in number but are hoping to grow. Members of the group spoke with older residents in the villages to hear their stories about such topics as Witley Court. A Heritage Fund of £20,000 was applied for to aid build a history of the area over the last 100 years. Interviews online from around 100 local contributors and 50 interviews were carried out focussing on people, places and events. Old maps were also provided. The information sourced is important to the younger people who live here. It is their local history. This current group is coming to the end of their time but the equipment they have used is always available for any new group. On June 17th there is a Listening Project which will be going to the British Museum. The website is – ***witleysoralhistoryproject.org*** 7. **Quartergreen Sport and Leisure Committee :** The facilities which were funded with Section 106 monies are being very well used not only from this village but surrounding areas too. Funds have been generated from events such as Promise Auctions, Country Fayre, the 100 club and a Summer Fair, this year’s to be held on June 10th. Generous donations for use of the free multi sports facilities have, for this year, amounted to £850. A copy of this report is attached to these Minutes. 8. **Scouts & Cubs :** No report submitted. 9. **Guides & Brownies :** Reports are attached to these Minutes. The Brownies had been involved in lots of activities over the year with many badges being earned. A small group visited London and a 3-night stay at Pax Lodge was enjoyed. Future activities include a Family Fun Day with Dog Show at the Cobhouse, Wichenford on May 13th. Due to a period of maternity leave, the group is in urgent need of an adult helper. Without this the unity will have no choice but to close. 10. **Great Witley Primary School :** No report submitted. 11. **Neighbourhood Plan Working Party :** BD made their report in the absence of FC. The Plan has been prepared and public consultations and is intended to reflect the views of most residents. It is intended that this Plan will ‘set the context for sustainable development’. A copy of the report is attached to these Minutes. | | | | | |
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| GUEST SPEAKER, MR SETH FORD, GAVE A VERY INTERSTING AND ENTERTAINING PRESENTATION, THE TITLE OF WHICH WAS ***‘CAN YOU STILL FIND ADVENTURE IN 2017!’*** THIS PASSIONATE, INSPIRATIONAL AND MOTIVATIONAL TALK WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO FOLLOWING SETH’S NEXT ADVENTURE WHERE HE SEARCHES FOR “TYPE 2 FUN!”  The meeting closed at 10pm | | | | | | |
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