

**BEAUDESERT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
**MONDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**  
**MINUTES**

**WELCOME BY THE CHAIR**

Cllr Leech welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised everyone that by law, the JPC had to hold two separate annual assemblies per annum.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr John Garner, Cllr Lorraine Taylor-Green, Cllr Mike Wilmott and Cllr Jayne Bridges

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014**

The Minutes had been read and were approved as a true record by Cllr Stephen Thirlwell and seconded by John Rutherford and signed by the Chairman.

**REPORT BY STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN THIRLWELL**

District Cllr Thirlwell thanked the Chair for the opportunity to report on behalf of SDC and his work over the last 12 months to April 2015. Cllr Thirlwell said that he had been re-elected Deputy Leader for the fourth consecutive year and this had ensured that he was able to represent his ward with regards to policy and key decisions. He went on to say that he was an active member of the licencing panel and made representations at planning committee meetings when necessary. Key successes over the year had been :

- Re-negotiating the grass mowing contract to ensure an extra cut at no extra cost
- No increase in district council tax for the fourth consecutive year and remaining the lowest district or borough council tax in Warwickshire
- Maintaining the position of one of the top ten re-cycling authorities in the country. Thanks to all members of the public who assisted with their re-cycling to make this possible.
- Working with partners to roll out Phase I Broadband and securing a further £475K to support Phase II of the Broadband initiative.
- Increasing SDC's satisfaction rating, as seen by residents, by 10% from 81% to 91%
- Progressing the SDC Core Strategy; earlier this year, the Inspector completed the hearing and wrote an interim report outlining further work to be done. Positives to come out of the report were that there will be no uplift in housing numbers, SDC has demonstrated their co-operation with the authorities and the policy regarding Local Centre Villages is deliverable and sustainable. Policies in respect of protecting sensitive landscapes and the character of the district will not require further work. The Inspector only had one main issue with greenbelt land and that was regarding employment and this would have required removal of the designated land from greenbelt. The Inspector suggested an alternative site.
- Cllr Thirlwell also confirmed that the proposed Burial Ground at Haven Pastures which was due to go before the SDC Planning Committee next week was now due to be refused under delegated powers. Cllr Thirlwell advised that he had requested all of the SDC Planning Committee to undertake a site visit and a piece of case law had been brought to the attention of the planners and himself. The case law had found that it was inappropriate to create a cemetery in greenbelt land. The applicants have seven days to respond to the recommendation for refusal and demonstrate that there are special circumstances.

- Cllr Thirlwell confirmed that he had also undertaken his normal case load.

### **REPORT BY WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR MIKE PERRY**

County Cllr Perry welcomed everyone and reported :

- WCC had to make £92m cuts from the period 2013-2017 which had been imposed by the Government. WCC had protected the highways and maintenance budgets and elderly care, including extra funding for the reduction of potholes and highway maintenance. There was also funds available for gritting routes in the County.
- There had been 500km fibre cabling laid and 220 cabinets installed in Warwickshire and 43,000 properties had access to broadband facilities. There was 95% coverage in the County and investment underway to deliver 97% coverage to include rural areas.
- Cllr Perry confirmed that he was Vice-Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee and he was involved in the new Social Care Bill which would help to deliver care to the elderly in their own homes and reduce hospital admissions. He went on to say that he had attended a conference and Shropshire CC had explained their model for elderly care which included call centres and extra assistance with care in the home. He said that he would be taking this model forward to WCC for consideration as there were central funds available to roll this out to the County.
- Cllr Perry confirmed that both WCC and SDC had opted out of the Combined Authorities proposals as they did not feel that a rural County would benefit.
- WCC was involved in taking an apprenticeship scheme forward and employers would have to contribute 0.5% towards provision of a scheme in the workplace.
- The Boundary Commission would reduce the number of County Cllrs from 63 to 57 which would necessitate Henley becoming a larger ward to include 9,000 residents.
- The Henley Music Festival had been successful which had provided a boost to the local economy.
- Gateway signs would be installed on Blackthorn Hill on Warwick Road, together with a flashing 30 mph sign near to the School and he was looking at the speed limits in Henley, together with the possibility of provision of extra 20 mph signage on Arden Road and High Street and the possibility of providing a zebra crossing across Warwick Road to the school gate over the bridge.
- Cllr Perry thanked everyone for their support during the last year.

### **REPORT BY COUNCILLOR BILL LEECH, CHAIR OF BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN JPC**

Cllr Leech reported :

- A new JPC was elected in May 2015, comprising of six women and six men, all of whom have business experience, with the youngest being 24 years old.
- Since election, the new council has made many changes in line with their manifesto; admin expenses have been reduced by £25,000 annually. The JPC has also made an overdue VAT claim for the fiscal year 2014/15 of over £4,800.
- A new Parish Clerk has been appointed, Gill Bailey, who was the Clerk in Napton for over ten years.
- The old JPC committee structure has been replaced with working parties providing a better oversight and this has reduced the Clerk's working hours and made it possible to dispense with the position of Planning Clerk.
- The lease for Forward House has been terminated by mutual agreement with the landlords and the office will be vacated in the New Year. The old

administration committed the JPC to a new three year lease, nine months prior to the lease expired, which remains a mystery.

- The new JPC has improved communications significantly with a new user friendly web site and has reverted to the Old Town Crest designed in 1915 for its logo.
- Minutes are produced in draft form on the web site within five days of the meetings and regular press releases appear in Henley Focus and Henley News by the Parish Clerk. The latest financial information appears on the JPC web site and is updated monthly so residents can see in detail how funds are spent.
- With the savings of £25,000, JPC propose to provide more generous annual community grants to qualifying organisations, including the Christmas Lights Committee and Working Party. The application process has been simplified and the beneficiaries will be announced early in 2016. A recent communication circulated by the Christmas Lights Committee advising that the JPC would not give them a grant was incorrect. The JPC has offered them substantial financial and infrastructure support to enable the existing lights to be improved, however, the Committee has refused any help.
- All grant making decisions will be made in public in future. Any organisations applying for a grant must have made their accounts available to the public on a web site and be prepared to operate competitive public tendering for major expenditure. The JPC also plan to introduce a mini-grant system, which can be applied for during the year, normally restricted to a maximum of £500.
- Having looked at the administration of the JPC, the top priorities are planning, as we have received a record number of applications during the last six months. The Planning Working Party, co-ordinated by the Parish Clerk, is dealing with them promptly and comprehensively. The full council, with unrestricted public participation deals with all major applications.
- Maintenance is also a priority as the Town has become scruffy. The previous JPC cut back the maintenance budget and SDC have also cut back the street cleaning it provides, including Birdcage Walk. We have discussed this with SDC, however, we think it likely that the budget for maintenance will need to be increased. The trees at the Riverlands require maintenance and the JPC will have an expenditure of £20,000 over the next two years on tree surgery.
- Traffic and parking is a problem area and the JPC have a working party trying to develop solutions. This could result in the Medical Centre and Croft car parks being taken over by the JPC so that parking is restricted in both to short term parking.
- Parish Assemblies should be held during April or May, however the JPC was wrongly advised that they could be held at any time. We have had to hold two identical meetings on the same night in the same place, which is a legal requirement. The JPC will review this situation during 2016.
- In 1296 Henley was a borough and subsequently there were three Royal Charters making Henley a Market Town. We are in discussions with SDC in respect of Henley being recognised as a Town again in 2016.

#### **REPORT BY NORMAN KENCH, HIGH BAILIFF, COURT LEET**

The High Bailiff reported :

- He had only been appointed High Bailiff three weeks ago and it was a great honour to be appointed, however, he had served his apprenticeship with John Rutherford who had been the previous High Bailiff.
- He and his newly elected officers intended to raise the profile of the Court and be more involved in the Town activities. He advised that the next JPC

meeting will be held in the Guild Hall and it should be a fun and entertaining meeting for Christmas.

- Some of the highlights of the Court's year are the Christmas Bazaar which will be held on the night of the Christmas Lights turn on and will be in aid of Myton Hospice.
- The Boxing Day Morris Dance will also take place in the Town, as will the Court Leet Dinner and Town Dinner which are scheduled to take place during the year. The Court Leet Day will be fun and enjoyable day for all the Town and will include a re-enactment of days gone by. All these events will also raise money for charity.

#### **REPORT BY THE WAR MEMORIAL TRUST**

Peter Crathorne, as a Trustee, was asked to give a Report on behalf of the War Memorial Trust as Jayne Bridges was away on holiday and gave her apologies.

Peter reported :

- The War Memorial Trust had separated from the Hub and two Trusts had been formed. The Hub was registered with the Charities Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisations and the HWMY as a traditional trust. The new legal status meant that trusts could employ people and it takes away individual liability from the Trustees.
- The War Memorial Trust was in good order and the only issue was that the drains which had been installed in 1909 underneath the Memorial Hall were causing problems. The War Memorial Trust was in negotiations with their insurers regarding re-designing the drainage system.
- Peter thanked everyone for their continuing support and for the grants which had been received from WCC and the JPC in the past. This had enabled the War Memorial Trust and the Hub to continue for the benefit of the community.

#### **REPORT BY THE BEAUDESERT & HENLEY IN ARDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

David Jackson, Chair of the NDP Steering Group reported :

- The NDP Steering Group had been set up 18 months ago and that it would be in line with both the SDC Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- There had been a series of consultation meetings which had been held throughout the year and there had been a delay due to the elections and the development of the Core Strategy as the NDP had to accord with the policies adopted within the strategy.
- A Questionnaire had been sent out to 1600 households in Beaudesert and Henley and they had received 550 responses. This would enable the Steering Group to pick out trends and identify issues of importance to Parishioners.
- The first draft of the NDP would go out to public consultation early next year and the final document would go out to a referendum at Easter time. This will then become part of the legislative framework to 2031 and help with future planning applications.
- The formulation of a NDP would preserve the good things about Henley and things that matter to residents.

#### **REPORT BY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS :**

Peter Neville said that he had taken over as the CFR Co-Ordinator in September from John Pudney. He reported as follows :

- The CFR's were a voluntary organisation which assisted the Ambulance Service respond to calls within the eight minute guideline. The nearest ambulance was based at Stratford so the timescales for responses by them were tight.
- He said that they had eight active responders, with a further three who had recently undergone training and would be included on the rota shortly.
- During the last twelve months, they had been on call for 2,230 hours and responded to a call out once every ten hours (225 call outs). Calls had been mostly from elderly residents who had fallen.
- The CFR finances were in reasonable condition, however, they would have to replace the scheme car in the next year. The organisations relied on public contributions and he thanked everyone for their support.

## **OPEN FORUM**

- Eric Roy requested clarification about the grants procedure and asked if the Christmas Lights Committee had received a grant last year and in previous years. Cllr Leech responded by saying that the process had been simplified for the year 2016/17.
- Cllr Crathorne confirmed that organisations applying for a grant in previous years had been asked to provide annual accounts, reports and bank statements and that it had all been treated in confidence. This year, organisations wishing to apply for a grant had been asked that they publish their accounts on a web site and they are accountable publicly.
- Sheila Roy asked about Henley Town Status and Cllr Leech responded by saying that it was a long complicated procedure, however, initial discussions had taken place with SDC and if the majority of residents demonstrated that they would like to go ahead, the JPC would take this forward.
- Les Goodman confirmed that he had set up the Christmas Lights Committee 22 years ago with the help of his wife and Brian Jackson and he had supplied the lights out of his own funds. He went on to say that the Christmas Lights Committee was a stand -alone organisation which had nothing to do with the JPC and he was disappointed that they seemed to want to take it over. Mr Goodman went on to say that he had attended a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June and had been told by a Cllr that the JPC could do a better job than the Christmas Lights Committee. The Chair of the JPC had requested a full financial report and Mr Goodman felt that it was nothing to do with the JPC.
- Cllr Crathorne responded and said that he had been present at the meeting and no decision was made at that time, however, there was a discussion regarding the eligibility for a grant.
- Cllr Crathorne congratulated Mr Goodman for running the Christmas Lights Committee for 22 years and his vision for the Town and for funding the lights initially. He went on to say that this was an opportunity to thank Mr Goodman on behalf of the Town. He went on to say that when you raise money from the public you had a duty to account to the public for any expenditure. Cllr Crathorne asked if Mr Goodman owned the lights and Mr Goodman responded by saying that he didn't but Beaudesert & Henley Christmas Lights Working Party did. Cllr Crathorne said that he hoped that the JPC would be as supportive as possible.
- Mr Goodman said that he runs six organisations in the Town, all of them produce accounts and hold AGM's in private and the accounts are clear and above board. He said that he disagreed with Cllr Crathorne.
- Mrs Carsina Goodman asked if the Arden Road sign could be re-instated and the Clerk responded by saying that the matter was being attended to.

- John Rutherford asked Cllr Perry about the installation of the gateway sign on Blackthorn Hill and whether the other three approaches would also be considered. Cllr Perry responded by saying that Blackthorn Hill was perceived to be the most dangerous because of speeding traffic. Cllr Perry went on to say that he was considering alternative traffic calming measures including 20 mph limits.
- Mr Rutherford asked Cllr Perry about the broadband coverage and Cllr Perry responded by saying that he received regular reports and the rural areas that had been missed in the first phase would be targeted in the second phase. Cllr Leech said that the nearer to the cabinet you were, the faster broadband you received.

Cllr Leech concluded the Annual Assembly for Beaudesert Parish and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 19.35 p.m.

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

**Attendance List :**

**Mike Perry  
Graham Hindley  
Douglas Bridgewater  
Carsina Goodman  
Les Goodman  
V M Milsom  
C D Milsom  
John Pudney  
Sheila Roy  
Eric Roy  
Bob Morgan  
Peter Neville  
John & Ann Rutherford  
Norman Kench  
Stephen Thirlwell  
Stewart Hemus  
Heather Hemus  
Jack Hemus  
David Broadbent  
Peter Crathorne  
David Jackson**