

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held on 25th April, 2013
Venue - Woolaston Memorial Hall

Attendees:

David Harris - Chair
Roger Southee (PC) – Secretary

Mary Greenslade (PC)
David Storrar (PC)
Mike Fairless (PC)

Alan Robinson
Pat McDonald
Ken McDonald
Sally James
Sheila Harris
Mark Harris

1. Apologies:

Steve Greenslade (Clerk to the PC)
Andy Lord (PC)
Steve Reece (PC)

Pete Rodgers

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th April, 2012

These were read (MG)

3. Matters Arising:

None

4. Previously notified questions:

No written questions were provided, but relevant issues raised during the year were tabled

a. Grit Bins

DH explained that there had been several requests for grit bins during the winter snow and that it had been decided to put a small amount of money aside. The cost of the bins is £100 each and so there was therefore a need to prioritise (AR).

Specific locations were proposed and discussed, which included:
Birchwood/Woolaston Common

Sandtumps

Outside the village shop

Birchwood/Severn View

A suggestion was then made to approach Mark Guest who was seen spreading salt/grit from his 4x4.

b. Churchyard Maintenance

DH explained the background to the transfer of responsibility for graveyard maintenance to Parish Councils and the necessary remedial work and related costs that have been borne by the PC during the past year.

There was unanimous praise and support from the floor for the actions taken and the results.

DH explained that there was further reparative work required on the perimeter stone wall and that in the past such works had been carried out voluntarily.

The Bear House, the ownership of which is unsure, is in particular poor state. If the PC were called on the effect repairs there would not be the funds available.

Finally, DH mentioned the three Lawson trees at the entrance of the graveyard that are in urgent need of attention on the interest of H&S. The unanimous view was to fell them as this would be cheaper in the long run.

c. Amber House & The Village Shop Site

SJ asked about the current status of this long-running issue.

DH explained that how the initial development had been refused planning permission as it had not conformed to original plans. That the developer had submitted revised plans to convert the second house (Roseville) into two garages with space above. That the developer had then gone into liquidation and the site taken over by the recceivers. A senior planning officer had then called for the second house to be demolished. Finally after two sessions of the

District Planning Committee in Coleford, where presentations were made by both Woolaston PC and the Receivers, the result has been that the second house will have to be demolished and converted into a single storey garage serving Amber House. However, then responsibility to carry out this work will be that of the buyer, who will not gain access until all works are completed. The property is currently on the market for £160k.

d. Footpaths

PMc raised the dimensions and condition of the Public Footpath from Birchwood to The Fence. KMc provided the '*Countryside Access*' extract from The Ramblers website and also '*Landowners rights and responsibilities*' from the government website, both of which will add weight to the PC approach to County in efforts to rectify the situation. KMc also provided photographic evidence of the almost impassable state of the FP during the past wet autumn. It was suggested and agreed that DH & RS would walk the parish FPs with PMc and KMc in order to assess the poor state of some and lobby for their improvement.

5. Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council

This was read on behalf of SG by MG and identified major items of expenditure and income for the year

6. Report of the Chairman to the Parish Council

This comprised various items.

7. Parish Charities report:

Presented by MG

Woolaston Poores' Land:

Presented by MH

Woolaston recreational Trust

Presented by MH

8. Report on the Memorial hall and Recreational Committee

DH outlined the cost of heating the Memorial Hall (MH) and the support given to the MH by the PC, without which the hall would fail. The heating oil usage suggested theft and a lock is now in place. RC asked about the thermostat, which is locked to prevent adjustment.

Rental charges were discussed and DH was concerned that to raise them, as was suggested, would result in loss of business.

AR suggested that a public notice was placed to promote increased usage, but eh Hall is already fully utilised.

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9. Other Matters

The Mayday Carnival has suffered in recent years from a combination of poor weather and lack of volunteers to help organise and run the event.

There being no further business
DH closed the meeting at 2110 hrs