

Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2019 at 7:30pm at Longdon Village Hall

Present

5 members of the council, 1 resident, Mrs S Hart (Clerk), District Cllr Mrs B Behan

1. Apologies: *None received*

2. Minutes

To consider for adoption the amended minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on May 14th 2018:

These were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the chairman.

3. County Councillors' Report

With further cuts from Central Government last year the District Council continued to make savings, build on reserves and working a balanced budget.

Led by Malvern Hills District Council, the six District Councils in Worcestershire secured a government Business Rates Retention pilot for one year. This is hoped to generate an estimated £4.9 million pounds which is being allocated to the County Council, to go towards funding specific projects to help with Adult Social Care and Children's Services. In April last year we introduced the alternate weekly waste collections service (AWC). This has been welcomed by most residents who have found the alternate week arrangement easier to manage. We have seen an overall reduction in general waste and an increase in recycling materials. Central Government have recently consulted on changes to our collections and we will have to wait to see how this impacts on Councils in Worcestershire. We will now be introducing new freighters to our fleet next month as many are past their lifetime best.

The SWDP review is underway and this will take our District development to 2041. While we are all aware that new homes and business sites are needed we need to be mindful that the distinct features and enjoyment of this area should also be retained.

The Council continues supporting the valuable work done by our community Transport and has provided £50,000 to this. £30,000 has also gone to Food Banks which have been supporting those in times of difficulty in their lives. We continue to work with our three towns to maintain thriving High Streets. This will remain a future challenge across the country.

I would like to thank all my Parish Councils for supporting me over the last year and look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

4. Chairmans' Report

The Chairman Cllr Thatcher (who took office in June 2018) thanked Cllr Beswick and Cllr Inchbald who retired from the Council this year. He also thanked Cllr Merchant who joined the council and the continuing members of the Council who regularly turn up to meetings and contribute. We've secured a new Lengthsman and a new Clerk who is doing a fantastic job.

5. Question time

During residents questions the Council was congratulated on the play equipment installed last year which is being well used and enjoyed. It was requested that the Council do not book council events on bank holiday weekends – such as the Security Marking in May. This was noted and there is likely to be another of these events soon, so watch this space, the website and notice board for a date.

It was also asked who was responsible for grass cutting. The answer is that the Parish Council is responsible for the playing field, sections of the lanes, and round the phone box. The Lengthsman is contracted to do this work. The new Lengthsman started at the beginning of April and has a schedule to follow for grass cutting. The County is responsible for the main roads. It was specifically asked who had responsibility for the grass by the bungalows in Bear Lane – and this is the Housing Association.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:00pm.