

**MINUTES OF WHILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30 P.M. ON MONDAY 27TH APRIL 2009**

12 parishioners attended, with Mr Mike Lewis, Chairman of the Parish Council, in the chair, and Mrs Anthea Hiscock, Clerk to the Parish Council, as secretary. County Councillor Steve Osborne and District Councillor Wendy Amos attended part of the meeting.

Mr Lewis welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Ken Bowers, Ann Gilbert and Police Community Support Officer Lorraine Humfress.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was proposed by Nora Swinford and agreed that the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting be approved.

2. ANNUAL REPORTS:

a) LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Report of County Councillor Steve Osborne

Steve Osborne reported that he is on the Young People's Scrutiny Committee, that the County Council is going through a restructuring and that the highways service under MGWSP is better than before.

Report of District Councillor Wendy Amos

Wendy Amos reported that the Daventry District housing stock had now been transferred, that the Council Tax has risen but only by a small amount, and that the appeals concerning the proposed Daventry development are continuing. The proposed Flore bypass is under discussion. The DDC is expecting the return of the money invested in Icelandic banks, but the real concern is the effect on services of the loss of interest.

There is continuing concern about the provision of infrastructure for Daventry developments and parishioners expressed anxiety about the increased amount of sewage likely to be generated before Whilton Sewage Works is enlarged to cope with it.

Report of Chairman of Parish Council

Mike Lewis reported that two new councillors, Michael Thomas and Susan Wingrave had joined the council, and Greg Lye had resigned. Grants obtained through our County Councillor enabled the repair of the church clock and provision of the new seat on the Green. The Parish Design Statement was approved in May, and Manor Lane has been adopted. Planning applications have caused some problems and we are introducing an improved tracking system. We have had good responses from the new highways contractor in the "honeymoon period". The proposed expansion of Daventry is now at appeal with the main impact on Whilton likely to be the increased traffic and the doubling of capacity at the sewage works.

The results of a recent traffic survey have just been received, suggesting a considerable increase in traffic through the village. There was some discussion about the reasons for this, and the matter will be considered by the Parish Council.

Report of Footpath Warden

Maurice Clements reported that he had been contacted by Nick Wedgbrow of NCC about the possibility of creating a new path between the village and the Locks. It was agreed to ask the Parish Council to invite Mr Wedgbrow to a meeting, perhaps in July, to investigate this further. There is a new gate on the bridle path at the Locks and monitoring of problems on the footpaths continues.

The problem of a stile on the Brockhall border was mentioned and he agreed to follow this up. Gordon Emery said he was finding the NCC were less efficient at providing materials for mending styles than in the past.

Report of Highways Representative.

Jonathan Hanslip said the road at Whilton Locks had now been repaired and that it was important to keep up pressure about the drains. Some patching has been done on the road to Brington, but it is in a poor state.

b) POLICE

Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk reported that Peter Bennett has resigned as Neighbourhood Watch representative. Derek Brown offered to carry on his duties temporarily, but another representative is needed.

PCSO Surgeries

The Clerk said that PCSO Lorraine Humfress will be reporting to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 11th May. The meeting was also reminded that there is a PCSO surgery monthly in the Village Hall, which may be attended by anyone.

c) PARISH ACTIVITIES:

Village Hall Management Group

Mike Lewis reported that the financial position is sound, thanks to a bequest from the late Frances Drake. Quotes are being gathered for the refurbishment of the kitchen and store room floor and walls. Phil Waights has resigned after sterling service since 1988 and so a replacement will be sought to represent the village on the Management Group.

Roughmoor Spinney Management Group

Derek Brown reported that there had been one well-supported working party this year. Apart from this, individual volunteers make periodic visits to tidy up and keep the paths clear. There has been good growth of most of the new trees planted.

Gardner Landscapes have replaced part of the board walk and netted the whole, besides making and donating two seats in the Spinney. A safety audit is carried out quarterly. There are some boggy areas on the paths, which need attention this year.

On 2nd May this year an early morning May walk through the Spinney, followed by breakfast, has been arranged as a celebration of the tenth birthday of the Spinney.

d) PARISH CONCERNS:

Trustees of Whilton Relief in Need Charities

Keith Hiscock reported for the Charity trustees. Because of the drop in share prices, the value of the Charities' assets has dropped. However there have been four inquiries this year, of which two

have not yet been followed up. It is the policy of the Trustees to meet need, as long as funds remain.

Brington And Whilton Pre-School Report

Jenny Holman reported that the pre-school has continued to keep 15 children through the year, of whom 5 are from Whilton and the others from villages around. The staff offer a friendly atmosphere for learning and socialising. Following Government initiatives, the practitioners have undertaken much training to give the children the best start. There are plans to move eventually to Brington School grounds where outdoor play can be provided, but at present difficulties have arisen over obtaining planning permission.

e) PARISH CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Bellringers

Janet Bowers read the report by Justin Baker. The Whilton Ringers also attract members from villages around and aim to provide ringing for as many services in Whilton and the benefice as possible. New ringers are being trained and are making excellent progress. Whilton entered two bands in the Diocesan Guild Striking Competition, and the "A" Team came third. It is hoped to have an open evening in May.

Gardeners Association

A report by Ann Gilbert was read out. There are currently 30 members and the association meets bi-monthly on a Wednesday. Activities include both speakers and visits, and also at least one fund raising event each year, aiming not only to raise money, but also to bring the community together.

Local History Society

Anthea Hiscock reported that the society continues to meet bi-monthly on Thursday evenings, looking at aspects of Whilton history. The highlight was the medieval meal in January, based on foods grown in Whilton in 1388.

Photographic Club

Neil Phillips reported that the club is now in its fourth year, with a membership including all abilities from experts to beginners, mostly from Whilton, but attracting some from other villages. All are welcome to the Tuesday meetings and the outings. Over 20 people attended the meetings on wedding and landscape photography. The club is making plans to produce a calendar and perhaps Christmas cards, and may be able to mount an exhibition too.

Social Lunches

Shirley Brown reported that the occasional Social Lunches began in 2006, organised by three people after the WI went into suspension. These lunches are now run by a larger team and happen three times a year, the last having been on Shrove Tuesday in Fair Trade Fortnight, incorporating pancakes.

This year "Tuesday Chat" meetings are being trialled. These take place monthly on Tuesday afternoons in the Village Hall.

St Andrew's Church

Janet Bowers reported that regular services continue despite the interregnum, with the help particularly of Revs. David Macpherson and April Richards. At present no new incumbent has

been appointed. New helpers are always welcome to assist with the flowers, cleaning, reading or as sidespersons. Janet thanked all who help and Roy Haynes who keeps the churchyard so neat.

3. OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS

Mike Lewis thanked everyone who had contributed, particularly noting that, in several cases, Whilton activities are attracting people from other villages. The high quality of Whilton website was mentioned. The provision of the Newsletter in a hard copy is also still important as a large proportion of parishioners do not have access to computers. It was agreed that the quiet work carried out by various volunteers, who enhance the quality of life and the environment in Whilton, is much appreciated.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.