

Attendees: M Peters (Chair), M Davis, M England, P Turner, C.Cllr M Allen, D. Cllr J Owenson, MP Harriet Baldwin

Present: 19 members of the public

Minutes Annual Parish Meeting 24th May 2024

1. Welcome from Chairman elect of Ripple Parish Council

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. To consider and approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th May 2024

COUNCIL APPROVED minutes from 26th May 2023

3. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

- Change in councillors in previous 12 months: Ian co-opted in, Ian, Dawn Long left (and Chair thanked Dawn for service)
 - Michelle Hinde had returned in Jan 2024 after maternity leave (and thanked Marion for covering in the meantime)
 - Thanked Martin and Jeremy for ongoing support
 - Had a new lengthsman this year after a period without one. Welcomed Tim (although Tim was also ill and couldn't attend)
 - Encouraged greater use of the Facebook page (noting some were not aware of tonight's meeting)
 - RPC have installed a new noticeboard in the parish (Ripple/Uckinghall)
 - Involved in planning applications, specifically gravel extraction and continue to support residents relating to poorly planned housing applications
 - Continued focus on reducing speeding
 - There's been a reduction in fly tipping
 - Dog fouling remains an issue that is being tackled
 - Have a new footpath Warden Mike Follitt
4. West Mercia Police Report : Nick Elwell
No Attendance
5. Lengthsman: Tim Hughes
No Attendance as unwell
6. Ripple Parish Council Financial Update : Chairman
The Chairman provided a financial update as per APPENDIX 1
7. Report from MP Harriet Baldwin
- Passed on thanks to councillors for their service
 - Noted the AGM was well attended
 - Recognised that GE is imminent (six days after)

- Recognised that gravel extraction is an issue
- Noted issues with drains across Worcestershire. Specifically in Naunton, and that Severn Trent raised ~£1bn to fix. Harriet is to work with ST to get works in the correct places.

Parishioner response :

- A parishioner raised concerns over the loss of highly valuable, good-quality agricultural land— and that Cemex is not returning the land correctly. Harriet explained that there is a national Food Security Plan which aims to deal with potential loss of agricultural land.

Martin Allen responded:

- Reiterated opposition to all extraction (although I noted Martin approved Fish Meadow extraction).
- Described recent issues with Glos CC having to pay costs after losing an appeal.
- Ripple East planning is still going through the process.

Jeremy Owenson responded:

- Mentioned the importance of the whole parish working together all the time (and not just at election time!).
 - Urged the parish to think long term and what would benefit the commun
8. Report from Worcestershire County Council : Martin Allen, County Councillor
- Two lampposts on the new Upton roundabout are being replaced soon.
 - Reminded that the On-Demand bus is a trial, so please use it.
 - Mentioned proposals to provide free travel to veterans have been delayed due to cost.
 - Discussed county council cost pressures, and reserves are now being utilised. Not a great position, but WCC is in a better position than some others.
 - However, there are likely to be voluntary redundancies.
 - Mentioned a new SEND school is being opened, due in 2027. This should reduce costs as the council is currently responsible for paying travel costs and pupils have to go further afield currently.
 - Also potentially a new senior school being built in Worcester, been delayed to 2028 due to access issues.
 - A proposal to reduce speed limits around schools to 20 mph has been refused at WCC.
 - Average speed at new roundabout, coming towards Upton (through Holly Green) has reduced.
 - More is being done at the A38 Ryan Grove junction. Not enough money for a crossing currently but more signage is being introduced.
 - Issues with validity of the SWDP-R, the process is ongoing but there is an issue with the latest transport data. Which will impact the issue date. This leads to speculative planning applications.

- From 2026/27 the council will be asked (by the government) to collect food waste.
- Car park charges are going up (although £1 for two hours will remain).

9. Report from Malvern Hills District Council : Jeremy Owenson, District Councillor

- Mentioned delays to SWDP are causing issues and the MHDC are having to pay where planning refusals are appealed and subsequently won.
- Reminded that communities can apply for funding for improvement of facilities.
- Need to think more about what we want and suggested getting a proper community plan.

10. Ripple Parish Church update

- Noted the warden is retiring, and a new warden has been agreed (think it was someone called Anita).
- And it is a challenging role.
- Are hoping to get some lottery funding, but there may have been a change in policy. Aiming to receive ~£250k.
- Which will cover roof repairs, heating, and lighting improvements.
- The church has removed some pews to make more space for family attendances.
- A new secretary has been appointed (I didn't get the name).
- Would like to get more representation from Ryall.

11. Ripple WI update

- Have renamed themselves to 'Making Waves' (was Ripple and Earls Crome).
- Have monthly meetings and activities, e.g. craft club and lunch club.
- Doing more to try and extol the virtues of the WI and what it can offer to get more membership.

12. Report on Ripple Parish Footpaths

- Discussed ongoing issues.
- Path accessibility
- Hampered by weather!
- Encourage people to use
- And report where necessary (need to find out how to do this).
- Most Ripple paths are graded as low.
- Reported that Saxon Lode footpath is illegally blocked currently.
 - The footpath down to the river by the recreation ground is owned by RPC

13. Invitation to electors to raise any matters of interest

14. Any other business



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- The Beechwood defibrillator was discussed, and it needs new pads. No feedback has been given to the person reported. Action for Shelley to follow up.
- Ryall Recreation Ground was the subject of significant discussion as it is currently overgrown. RPC reminded us that this was part of a long-term Wild Garden plan which was agreed with local residents. The current situation is not as desired, but the weather has had a significant impact. RPC will discuss with the lengthsman to ensure that specified paths remain to allow access to the bench at the top.