

**Abberley Parish Council**  
**The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Abberley**  
**Held at Abberley Village Main Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

**Present:** Cllr T Nott (Chairman), Cllr C Knight (Vice Chairman), Cllr K Andrew, Cllr G Crompton, Cllr T Eden, Cllr J Gibson, Cllr R Goodman, Cllr A Jukes, Cllr N Kedwards

**In Attendance:** Mr John Wright, Clerk

**1. Welcome & Introduction:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence:**

Sue Coley, Debbie Nott, County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Paul Cumming, Police Community Support Officer Vanessa Snape.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

The minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting were taken as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Public Question Time:**

No questions were raised.

**5. Abberley Parish Council Annual Report:**

Chairman Cllr Nott delivered his Annual Report, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

**6. Abberley Reports:**

6.a.i Abberley Parochial Church Council  
A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes

6.a.ii Abberley Village Green Trust  
A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes

6.a.iii The Hester Severne Trust  
Mr John Wright delivered his annual report, a copy of the report is appended to these Minutes.

6.a.iv Police Community Support (West Mercia) and Neighbourhood Watch  
Cllr Kedwards delivered the annual report on behalf of PCSO Vanessa Snape, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

Cllr Kedwards also reminded the meeting attendees of the need to be both careful and vigilant due to a spate of carefully co-ordinated thefts of property, mainly from sheds, garages and other out buildings. Criminals appear to be using internet based applications such as Google Earth to plan their thefts for maximum gain and effective escape routes.

Westflight Security, as outlined in PCSO Snape's report are offering a "try before buy" scheme for security equipment.

6.b. Individuals  
No individuals offered reports.

**7. District Councillor and County Councillor's Reports**

7.i District Councillor Paul Cumming's Annual Report was presented on his behalf by the Clerk. A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes.

7.ii County Councillor Dr Ken Pollack's Annual Report was presented on his behalf by the Chairman. A copy of the report is appended to these Minutes.

8. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:20.

Chairman .....

Date .....May, 2018

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**Item 5. Abberley Parish Council Annual Report: Chairman's Report**

First of all, the retirement of Mrs Anne Watson after a very successful and busy 8 years, was a huge shock. But we were fortunate in the recruitment of a new clerk, Mrs Kym Wild.

Shortly afterwards, John Lakeman decided to move and therefore offered his resignation after many years of devoted service during which he headed up the Neighbourhood Watch very successfully. Again we were fortunate that Cllr Ning Kedwards took on that role and is doing it very ably. About the same time, I received the resignation of Cllr Dawn Gage who had also served well as a Parish Cllr for nearly 20 years. We were pleased to welcome Jim Gibson and Tony Eden as new Cllrs replacing John Lakeman and Dawn Gage.

Cllr Gibson, I am pleased to say, will assist Cllr Kedwards with Neighbourhood Watch and Cllr Eden, having retired as an excellent internal auditor after many years, will, hopefully, join us on the Budget Committee. Thank you both.

Overall, there have been fewer individual planning applications this year compared with a few years ago, but we still face two large developments, one near Apostles Oak and one at The Walshes. In that regard we have a formidable team working on a Neighbourhood Plan for Abberley headed by Cllrs Andrew and Knight, which obviously entails a considerable amount of work. In the matter of developments we were pleased to support Great Witley's opposition to the large planning application (170 houses) as we do not want the floodgates opened to large scale building in the area.

We are pleased that Cllr Crompton has set up and launched the new Website which has been favourably received.

Highways have figured largely during the year with the state of Bank Lane continuing to be a major problem. Also flooding in many places including Brickyard Corner, Jacob's Well, Bank Lane and land adjacent to Wynniatt's Way. We are aware of inadequate drainage throughout the Village and we continue to badger Highways about the problem. However we were pleased to have Common Road resurfaced, at last!

Our Lengthsman, Chris Jones, has recently retired after many years of devoted service. We thank him and wish him well in his retirement. Fortunately we have been able to recruit a new Lengthsman, Mr Andrew Johnson, who is very keen.

On a similar theme, having been without a Parish Path Warden for many years, probably around 20 years, Cllr Gibson has volunteered his services and is undergoing training. Thank you Jim.

We are pleased that the Village Green continued to be well cared for, thanks to its devoted team of volunteers. In particular thanks are due to John Coley for cutting the grass regularly. The village green enhances the vista of St Mary's Church and hence of the whole village. We are pleased to support both the village green and the upkeep of both Churchyards and we wish them well in the Annual Churchyard Competition. A huge thank you is due to Abberley Gardening Club for enhancing the appearance of the Village with flower boxes etc.

We receive many compliments during the year concerning the appearance of both Churches and the Village Green. I was particularly pleased last Saturday when we had a concert given by the Worcester Male Voice Choir. It was a glorious evening and many choir members walked outside, around the church and the village green where they had parked and were very enthusiastic about the glorious setting and the way in which they were maintained. Thank you to everyone.

Finally, many thank you's.

I thank particularly District Cllr Paul Cumming and County Cllr Dr Ken Pollock for their attendance at meetings reports and helpful advice. I wish to thank all my fellow Cllrs for their support and work for the Village and its inhabitants because that is what we are here for. I thank them for their prompt and regular attendance at meetings, for their civility to one another and for their forbearance of me!

Last, but not least, I thank our clerk, Kym, for her support, friendship, advice and for picking up the threads so admirably and quickly. I think the interviewing team did a grand job and I wish her many happy years in her post.

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**Item 6. Abberley Reports**

**6.a.i Abberley Parochial Church Council**

Abberley PCC has twelve members and we hold meetings once a month.

All meetings are attended well.

The Incumbent, Reverend Ted Whittaker will assist with setting up a Ministry Team for Abberley which will lead to fewer PCC meeting in the future.

We have had one new member in the last twelve months and we have appointed Mrs Libby Tassell as our safeguarding contact for children.

Mrs Muriel Nott is the only Church Warden at St. Mary's Church and we would welcome anyone interested in becoming a Church Warden.

Mr John Wright is Church Warden for St. Michaels.

Fund raising is mainly organized by Mrs Muriel Nott; Christmas fayre, male voice choir evening, card sale etc.

St Mary's has had part of the roof repaired this year and has entered the Tidy Churchyard competition for 2017.

I take this opportunity of thanking Abberley Parish Council for its continued support by way of a generous donation towards the cost of the upkeep of both Churchyards.

The total annual cost of running the Churches is in excess of £30,000 – a formidable amount for a small village.

There is an on-going concern as the majority of Abberley PCC is of an increasing age and we would welcome new members.

Nevertheless we are pleased we are getting older!

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6.a.ii Abberley Village Green Trust

Abberley Village Green has had another successful year in maintaining the Green.

Regular work parties, along with part time additional assistance from a paid gardener, have ensured that the green has constantly looked good and encouraged its use. However it is disappointing that this is down to a small regular group with no new people coming along to help with the work.

With a grant from the National Lottery Fund, the village green committee was able to purchase a new quad bike and mower, the quad bike being set up to enable it to use the public roads, thus avoiding the need to transport both it and the mower to the green in a trailer. John Coley has used this and the predecessors to mow the green as and when it became necessary.

The village green committee wish to express their thanks to the Parish Council for its continuing financial support with the necessary insurance required, in turn this support has helped to ensure that the finances of the village green remain healthy, this has been further helped by Sue Coley's annual tea party.

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6.a.iii The Hester Severne Trust (as presented by Mr John Wright)

The Hester Severne Trust has been in existence for 153 years when a bequest of £200.00 was made to the Rector of Abberley and the Patron of the Parish Church, *"for the use of the Church Schools established in the Parish."*

The whole complexion of the Trust changed in 1988 when the house provided for the School Master was no longer required, and the property was sold and the proceeds invested. Since then, the school has benefited in various ways to the extent of over £80,000. Most recently, the Trustees have provided £4,400 pa towards the cost of Classroom Assistants.

In the past, interest rates have been sufficient to cover such a level of help – the 1990 accounts show an average return on money market investments of 13%. However, the very low interest rates available in recent years have necessitated a change in strategy and the Trust's capital is now invested in a managed scheme calculated to yield around 4% per annum, provided a minimum balance is maintained.

Whilst the Trustees would hope to consider requests for administration on capital expenditure should an urgent need arise, they have agreed with the Heath Teacher that it would be preferable for the Trust to grow its capital say over the next 5 years, in the expectation that low interest rates will continue.

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6.a.iv Report from PSCO Vanessa Snape, West Mercia Police (Police Team, Tenbury)

Abberley Parish has its fair share of thefts and attempted break in's, but by no means as high a number as some Parishes not too far away, which is something we must all be thankful for. However we must not be complacent, as there are would be thieves out there, who would simply stop and pick up an unattended strimmer, as was seen in Hallow, or open an unlocked shed door to simply empty the contents of the shed, whilst the owner was at the dentist.

The area is still being targeted for sheds, outbuildings, and garages break in's, with gardening items stolen. Vehicles are also being targeted on driveways for items from within, as well as thefts of Ifor Williams trailers and quad Bikes. Security of anything valuable is obviously important, whether this is within the home or in an outbuilding. There are lots of information on security on West Mercia Website.

Also there is a scheme called 'stop that thief'. This is endorsed by NFU, and has been very successful in the Herefordshire area, where rural crime has dropped significantly. NFU have teamed up with WestFlight Security, and together they have shown that with good security advice and installation, re victimisation has vanished, and crimes have dropped.

This is a 'win win' for everyone concerned.

If anyone would like further information on this please contact the team on the details at the end of this report.

I know that there are concerns raised reference speeding in Abberley, as there are in many other parishes. We are having a full time PC join the team in June, and he will be able to carry out speed enforcement, so watch this space.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Neighbourhood Watch for all your support. It is a testament to Neighbourhood Watch supporters though reports Police receive regarding, suspicious vehicles, and suspicious folks. Without this information, it would make Policing so much harder. It is really important to report anything at the time, so that Police may respond as soon as they can by getting a patrol out to the area. This has worked in the past resulting in arrests being made.

The 'Team' are still based in Tenbury Wells, and may still be contacted by voicemail, 01905 725780, or email.

If you need to report a crime please call 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Crime No: **22CC/25084P/17** Incident No: [0680S 240317](#)

Garage with the doors having been forced by a crow bar type tool. Once access has been gained petrol garden machinery has been stolen; two chainsaws, a strimmer, a lump hammer, hedge cutter and a leaf blower.

Crime No: **22CC/9277H/17** Incident No: [0820S 010217](#)

I phone 6 stolen from Public premise

Crime No: **22CC/491H/17** Unknown person has removed the spare wheel from Land Rover Discovery

Crime No: **22CC/93234Q/16** Incident No: [0313S 141116](#)

**Monies stolen from a wallet from staff room of premise**

Crime No: **22CC/69045Y/16** Incident No: [0638S 260816](#)

Person/s unknown have approached Abberley Village Hall which is a brick built construction with UPVC double doors and surround and is in the centre of the village and entry is believed to have been gained by one of the emergency exit doors on the side of the premises being wrenched open.

Crime No: **22CC/63700N/16** Incident No: [0204S 110816](#)

Victim's garden gate damaged due to it being "ripped" away the hinges. No evidence of any entry made to any premise

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Crime No: **22CC/61560M/16** Incident No: [0322S 040816](#)

REPORTING AN ATTEMPT BREAK IN TO GROUNDSMANS SHEDS. OFFENDERS HAVE TRIED TO BREAK INTO A METAL CONTAINER. THEY HAVE MANAGED TO OPEN OUTER DOOR BUT NOT INNER DOOR.

Crime No: **22CC/52486Z/16** Incident No: [0084S 050716](#)

SOMEONE HAS BROKEN INTO A SHED AND TAKEN BIKES AND QUADBIKES

Crime No: **22CC/51045H/16**

Victim has a detached brick built outbuilding to the rear of the property which is in a rural location. Between material times offenders have tampered with the door and fibreboard insulation and gained access. Nothing noted as being stolen

Crime No: **22CC/51041D/16** Incident No: [0766S 280616](#)

Person or persons unknown have opened the garage door and entered. They have removed the listed items but have left other tools and items in situ. The door of the garage has then be closed by the offender/s No forced entry

Crime No: **22CC/38843V/16** Incident No: [0469S 230516](#)

Unknown persons have entered the location and removed an insecure trailer from outside the groundsman's hut.

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**Item 7. County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**

7.ii. Report from County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock

**1. Elections, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

I am very gratified to have been re-elected two weeks ago for a third term as your County Councillor. There are serious challenges ahead for the organisation during a period of financial stringency. I will endeavour to continue to represent all residents and businesses in the Division over the next four years, and would welcome any enquiries or requests over that period, where I might be able to help solve problems and offer advice.

Overall the election results were encouraging for the administration, as we now have 40 Conservative councillors and a majority of 23 over all other parties, the largest being Labour with 10.

It was good to see four other candidates in the local contest and I pay tribute to Tenbury Town Councillor Jonathan Morgan for his standing for Labour. It was pleased to note that he agrees with our (former) MP Harriett Baldwin and me about the importance of keeping open the Tenbury Hospital. The plans to re-organise the balance between hospitals, run by the NHS, and social care, run by the local authority, originate with the NHS itself, and are not a policy coming from Jeremy Hunt's government or the local authority.

One of the first matters WCC needs to decide is the process of replacing our Chief Executive, Clare Marchant, who has accepted the job of running the university admissions service, UCAS. She will be leaving next month and we will need an interim CEO in the period before a new permanent person can be appointed.

Clare Marchant has been an excellent leader during her time with WCC over the last 8 years and has done a great job of piloting the Council through a period of financial stringency and huge demands in the three key areas of adult social care, children's services and road maintenance.

**2. Village developments**

It is gratifying to note the Common road has been properly resurfaced after many requests over a long period. It is important to make such requests, in order to push the project up the priority list. You have many other problems, still to be solved, as with Bank Land and the drainage problems but I can assure you they are in the process of being sorted.

I will be reminding the highways people about the undulations outside Flellos that seem to indicate a short life for those patches.

We are still waiting for proper siding out on the footways to give an adequate space to walk, and I hope more will be done this summer.

Safe parking outside the school has been an issue and I trust the suggested improvements will be implemented soon and prove effective.

Abberley has benefited in the past from small amounts of money from my Divisional Fund. That has now been topped up to £10,000 for the coming year, and I will be very pleased to support worthy activities in the village, where possible. I may not allocate the full amount, but offering a proportion of the necessary funds may make the activity possible.

**3. Tesco's in Tenbury**

It was good to see Tesco's opening in Tenbury three weeks ago, with large crowds attending on the first few days. The general opinion seems to be that the store is well designed and an enjoyable place to shop. The crucial matter will be how it affects patterns of trade and I am confident that fair and open competition in the area of groceries will be good for the town overall.

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We now have a period of four months with no public realm disruption and I trust this will help trade recover in the whole of the town, prior to the last phase in the autumn. This is the principal period for tourist visits and I hope we can all be proud of the quality of the work done so far and the improvement it has brought to the town.

**4. Eastham Bridge**

Eastham Bridge is now open again, 11 months after the unfortunate collapse. This is a major project for the county to manage and it has been done quickly and efficiently by the contractor Griffiths. No-one should underestimate the seriousness of this sort of undertaking, and I am confident that the final bridge will be a credit to the Council and the County as a whole.

Of course, this is not part of the £12 million programme of highway repairs that is underway under the Driving Home banner. That programme and the £6 million work on pavements is also progressing, largely in urban estates and will continue through the summer and into next year. In addition, £5 million has been allocated to solve congestion hot spots.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Martley, Worcester, WR6 6QA

17.05.17

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7.ii Report from District Councillor Paul Cumming

In keeping with the pattern of recent years, MHDC has again been faced with further cuts in its income from government grants. We have continued finding the necessary savings by making further efficiency savings in areas that will not only save money but should also provide improvement in services.

The move to a single site of the Council House for all employees is almost complete , which will give us a chance to hopefully receive a rental income for Brunel House the former home of the planning department. Whilst there are some difficulties to be overcome , it is still our desire to carry out work to the Council chamber which will allow the TIC to move in (and rent out their building) and at the same time provide a reception to facilitate visits by the public to the Council House. All this should save around £200,000 per annum.

Joint working with Wychavon , in addition to the sharing of the Chief Executive has further developed during this year , with a common planning system allowing staff to work on either authorities applications which should help deal with the peaks and troughs in each council. The new computer system is now live and the access to planning applications details on the website is much improved after a few early issues were dealt with.

There continues to be a high volume of planning appeals , but the Council's decision is being upheld by the Inspectors on a large majority of cases, especially as the SWDP is now in place. It is most regrettable that the Apostles Oak application did not come into this category when the inspector's report on this large development was shorter in reasoning that some appeals relating to single properties.

It has been decided that from April 2018, recyclable and landfill waste will be collected on alternate weeks using wheelie bins. Together with other measures to improve the efficiency of the service, this should save £200,000 per annum which will contribute to the necessary savings target. Most other councils in the region and indeed nationally have already moved to this system or even less regular collections. As usual the Council will be keen to look at how to solve individual problems that arise and it would help if I was informed of these so I can ensure this is done.

Finally, there is a budget for each Councillor of £500 to spend on local worthwhile activities. I would be pleased to hear from any community organisation in the Parish that could make good use of a contribution.