

FLADBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2017

The 2017 Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall on Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:	Chair I Southcott	100+ Parishioners
	V/Chair G Mills	County Cllr E Eyre
	Cllr S Insall	District Cllr Michelle English
	Cllr D Cartwright	Clerk L Yapp
	Cllr N Manser	
	Cllr A Stephens	
	Cllr A King	

Chair Southcott welcomed all to the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr and Mrs D Day, Cllr Palmer, Rev S Dangerfield, J Palfrey, Mr and Mrs Bill North.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes had been distributed to all Councillors and copies were made available to those at the meeting. Cllr Mills proposed, Cllr Manser seconded, and it was agreed that these be signed by the Chair as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes – None

4. Special Topics

a) Fladbury Bus Service

In his absence, Julian Palfrey sent a report advising that lack of usage by Fladbury residents, compared to Crophorne and Charlton, whose service was saved by them being included in the express X50 service. A replacement service has operated from Fladbury on certain days but limited due to lack of publicity, and the fact they link to villages rather than Pershore/Evesham. Suggestions has been put forward to the Pershore Public Transport Group. Services are under review and the PPTG are meeting on May 22nd with Firsts Managing Director. Chair Southcott reported it was vital that Fladbury was provided with a reliable regular service to allow residents independence – even if only a couple of days a week.

b) Crematorium – Planning Application

Following the recent notification of the planning application, the parish council had asked for an extension to the time limit to submit a response due to the vast number of documents for Cllrs to consider thoroughly, bank holidays and Cllr holidays. It has been requested that the application will be considered at committee level rather than delegated officer. The previous public meeting was well attended and included presentations containing considerable detail relating to the application and accordingly Chair Southcott advised members of the public that the meeting was prepared to accept comments and concerns raised but would not be going into lengthy discussion:

Pam Stubbs asked:

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| • Do we need a crematorium | Yes |
| • Is the crossroad a hazard | Yes |
| • Where is the traffic coming from | Fladbury and neighbouring villages |
| • Do we want increased traffic | No |
| • Is there a potential danger | Yes |
| • Will there be increased pollution | Yes |
| • Do we want it that site | No |

David Hawkins reported that there had been a useful meeting recently at a resident's home, and suggested that the proposed crematorium was in completely the wrong site, and that fumes and increased traffic would be a disaster for Fladbury. He requested a campaign to seek a 20mph speed limit through the village and urged the parish council to take this seriously.

Mike Dunning asked if the parish council were aware of any other plans to develop the site, should the crematorium plan not go through and noted that the proposed crematorium may be the better option.

David Loudoun advised that the land would be sold regardless, and that other bidders had shown interest.

Mike Izod said that the landowner, like any other, was out to make a profit, and that Westerleigh had come forward with an offer. Is it possible that Fladbury could see the same developments as Lower Moor?

Ian Tait felt it was strange that the recently published SWDP didn't refer to the area in need of a crematorium, and that it was not flagged up by the local authority as a necessity.

Sheila Smith said the crematorium would be built on green belt land as it was classed as exceptional circumstances, and that she objected to the increased traffic. Any objections would need to be in specific response to Westerleighs' report. She noted also that the company has made successful appeals at other locations.

Andy Parsloe raised concern that whilst there were plenty of objections to the proposals for the crematorium, other options could be far worse.

Mary Fisher raised awareness to traffic / emissions and the fact that the site was previously an ancient orchard, and that one family were being forced to move.

Sue Kind made those present aware that whilst the proposals were for 4 funerals daily, in reality, it could be as many as 11, for 7 days a week.

Jim Tulley reported that investigations into Westerleigh's previous planning applications found only 5 presented serious objections. He suggested that it may be worth contacting local funeral directors to see if there was a need for a crematorium.

Sheila Smith felt the proposals looked very professional.

Derek Boocock referred to a previously refused planning application on Station Road, by WDC and that the reasons for refusal would have been more suited to the crematorium.

Ian Tait felt that the company was 'money driven', and asked Chair Southcott how long had the parish council been aware of this application, and rather than 'scare mongering' over alternative uses for the site – perhaps a consortium of residents could buy the land

Mike Izod asked if the landowner was intending to sell the adjacent plot.

A ballot slip was handed to all residents, asking if they either supported, opposed or had no opinion, as to whether the crematorium should go ahead. The results would be made known in the Fladbury Flyer and circulated by email.

c) Neighbourhood Plan

Chair Soutcott referred to the fact the having a Neighbourhood Plan for Fladbury meant that the longer term development of the village could be more actively managed, and have more control. 6-8 volunteers were needed to set up a steering group. The scheme would be not able to stop any development but would enable it to be managed. Volunteers were asked to come forward.

d) New Homes Bonus

Monies available from the New Homes Bonus were to be applied for to enable the parish council to fulfil the two projects which have been the subject of discussion for over 12 months. This is for improvements to the car park area at the pavilion and interpretation panels at the Wharf. Residents had been advised about this via the Fladbury Flyer

e) Speeding

Minutes from as far back as 1974, recorded that speeding has been an issue for over 40 years. It was evident that residents as well as non-residents were to blame. Thanks to funding from our County Cllr, Liz Eyre, we are able to purchase 2 pairs of gates for either end of the village, to give the illusion of entering a village location, with a view to reducing the amount of speeding traffic. It is possible for the parish council to organise its own speed controls and this is being investigated. Mr Borchard asked if an independent traffic report could be looked into, by traffic consultants. The parish council would look into this and other options. The parish council were reminded that a number of vehicles in excess of the 7.5 ton limit regularly go through the village.

Mr Dunning felt that the traffic issue in the village revolves around the breach of the 7.5T (Except for Access) weight limit and the lack of its enforcement. In addition, vehicles in excess of 20T regularly drove down Farm Street and Broadway Lane trying to access Spring Hill Farm and having to perform tricky manoeuvres to come out. It was suggested that drivers Satnav's were entirely to blame but Mr Dunning disagreed as he considered drivers should ensure they use the right address, have updated software, use maps and observe local signage which should be enhanced to prevent the situation recurring.

Cllr Insall reported that she had been working closely with the PACT panel, and it had been hoped that a representative from the police had been able to attend. Successful speed checks had been carried out in Canada Bank recently, and it is hoped the same would be applied to Fladbury. One resident asked if a 20 mph speed restriction could be applied near the school and playground.

f) Village Hall Improvements

The new kitchen had been finalised and refurbishment to the toilets and heating are scheduled for later in the year subject to grant applications being successful. The parish council are the Custodian Trustees, but the grant funding had been carried out by Cllr King, Jane Bugg, Margaret Hawkins Diane Brown and the Cllr Southcott, all of whom are trustees.

5. County & District Councillors Reports

a) County Cllrs Report - Cllr Eyre reported that

- More work was necessary to support the elderly / mums to get people to hospitals.
- She has been working with residents in Broadway had enabled the community to purchase their own bus. The same offer of help was open to Crophorne, Chalton and Fladbury.
- A lot of effort had been put into the LTP4 consultation, in particular to speeding, sign changes and rural highways. It is vital that existing funding is spent where needed, and the need to educate bus services to work together i.e. church buses and special needs transport could be used to provide a community service, when they are not being used. Chair Southcott asked why the parish council has to arrange the transport. Cllr Eyre suggested that the parish council write to the MP, to get rid of concessionary fares.
- EVG/ Odours – Cllr Eyre was working with planning officers and regulatory services
- Footways are being attended to. Chair Southcott advised that repairs to Station had made a significant difference but that Farm Street was still in a poor condition
- Cllr Eyre gave thanks to Chair Southcott and parish councillors for their support over the past 12 months

b) District Cllrs Report – Cllr English reported:

- Changes to waste collections meant that small electrical items could be left kerbside, and some garden waste.
- Grants were available for security to churches and places of worship
- Grants were also available for registered charities for play schemes
- Neighbourhood Planning – residents were urged to work with parish councils

6. Policing

Cllr Insall reported that Fladbury was considered to be safe and relatively crime free. Fly tipping had resulted in culprits being located in Birmingham. Some anti-social behaviour had been reported at the Nait, and a serious road accident on the A44. At present there is no Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Fladbury

but this is being looked at. Any volunteers or those wishing to be added to the NW communication list were asked to contact Cllr Insall

7. Approval of Accounts for Year ended 31st March 2017

This will be made available on the village website. Proposed Cllr Cartwright, seconded Cllr Insall.

8. Chairs Report

Chair Southcott gave thanks to the parish councillors for giving up their time to attend meetings each month and carry out their duties as each councillor had specific responsibilities. He reminded residents that meetings were open to the public, and that they would have an opportunity to speak if they wished. The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council meeting in May would review the roles of councillors.

9. Any Other Business – Questions from the Floor

- The parish council were asked if there was any possibility of a loop system (for the hard of hearing) in the village hall
- Grass mowing in the Chantry – mowers had knocked over flower tubs and the grass was left behind, and residents unable to manage the removal. This would be raised with Rooftop Housing
- Jane Bugg asked if the results from the ballot would be made available – this will be done via the Fladbury Flyer and email.
- It was reported that a piece of equipment at the playground was in need of attention. Chair Southcott advised that this was in hand.
- Mr Hawkins said that he would like to see more unity in the village - he felt that there was a lack of community spirit
- Louise Bugg replied that she disagreed with this statement and that she would like to thank the village for fully supporting her on her taking part in the London Marathon where she had been able to raise over £3,000 for charity largely due to support from residents.