

Fladbury Annual Parish Meeting

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Minutes from Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7:15pm At Fladbury Village Hall

Present: Cllrs I Southcott, G Mills, M Neilan, D Day, P Palmer and N Manser and 33 parishioners

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Insall and A Hughes, County Cllr E Eyre and District T Rowley

Cllr Southcott welcomed everyone to the meeting, giving thanks to fellow Cllrs, the Clerk and District Cllr T Rowley for their support and assistance.

1. Chairmans Report:

- Finance – the parish council is in a healthy financial position. The internal audit has been carried out with no areas of concern identified and the process will now be completed by the external audit.
- Planning – the Wrubble application was approved despite strong opposition. Reference was made to the fact that WCC have a policy where parish councils are not permitted to speak during any ‘full planning committee’ meeting (differing from WDC who do allow this).
- Pavilion Barrier – this is now in place but has had to be repaired twice unfortunately. Cllr Southcott stressed the importance of keeping the barrier closed and locked at all times.
- Street Lighting – a number of upgrades have been carried out on some of the village street lights.
- Traffic Calming – a number of traffic calming measures have been implemented including a ‘flashing warning’ sign near the school, a new VAS sign and additional line marking. The Community Speed Watch scheme is soon to be restarted.
- Minerals Plan – The Tarmac application was withdrawn and the Inspectors’ report on the draft Minerals Plan is still awaited.

2. **Police Report:** There have been several changes in the police representative for Fladbury but other than speeding, no other real issues have been identified.

3. Special Topics:

- Housing Development off Broadway Lane** – At the time of the meeting approximately 150 comments had been posted on the WDC website, although some were duplicated and one or two supporting the application. As the application is for 100% ‘affordable’ properties, this enables the developer to submit an application on a greenfield site. It has been identified that an archaeological assessment is required on the site and it was noted that this had been commissioned by a house building company other than the original applicant We have requested that the application be decided at a full planning committee meeting, although no date has been set yet, which would be an opportunity for the parish council to speak. If the application is refused, the developer may well appeal this decision.
- Airband Ultrafast Broadband** – Cllr Southcott took part in a recent Zoom presentation hosted by Airband (anyone wanting the view the presentation should contact Cllr Southcott). Their policy is to use existing poles where possible. There is no issue with Butt Furlong although the situation in Rectory Green is a little more complicated. Residents wanting to switch to Airband will need to sign up and choose from a variety of packages available. At present the Airband infrastructure only goes as far as the railway bridge on Station Road.

- iii) **Nait and Field** – following the bequest in the Will, the parish council gave a presentation last year informing residents of the situation and the financial impact this would have on the parish council, with parishioners fully supporting the move forward. The Probate process is still ongoing.
- iv) **Conservation Area** – the parish council had requested a review of the Conservation Area in Fladbury and have been in discussion with WDC for some considerable time now. The draft proposals will include the allotments, the Nait and meadow and the Orchard and the Nature Reserve and this will eventually necessitate a consultation with parishioners (who will have the opportunity to comment) before being presented to WDC for formal consideration and approval.
- v) **Community Transport** – Now that there is no public transport serving Fladbury, a new initiative has been organised, on a trial basis, offering a service to take residents into Pershore and return. The parish council has agreed to subsidise the cost of this for 6 months but it does rely on community support and being used if it is to keep running. Feedback to date has been positive.
- vi) **Path to A44** – Some background of events -the parish council had referred the poor condition of the footway on Station Road up to the A44 to WCC, which having been assessed was going to cost approx. £44k of taxpayers' money, when all that was really required was some siding out. This was eventually agreed by WCC although no start date has yet been received by the parish council.
- vii) **Neighbourhood Plan** – the parish council are currently looking again at this as a positive way forward to enable us to manage any future development. The whole process requires seeking expert advice, consultations and a referendum is costly but there is grant funding available.
- viii) **Jubilee Celebrations** – there are events planned over the Jubilee bank holiday weekend with a leaflet with all the details distributed to everyone.
- ix) **Fladbury Walkabout** is back on the weekend of 2nd / 3rd July after a 2-year absence, and includes Open Gardens, market stalls and a Party on the Green

4. Questions Asked by Parishioners:

- A question directed at any member of the VH committee, asking for any update on the sound system – *IS to report back*
- How is Affordable Housing defined? *This can be social housing, shared ownership –*
- How will the Nait be managed this Summer – *This is still with the Executors, and there have been no issues so far during periods of warm weather and bank holidays, but this is something we would need to think about in the near future*
- Have Pugh's bought the chicken farm and what is the purpose of the traffic counting strips in Broadway Lane and resurfacing on a low priority road? *The parish council have asked WCC these questions and are awaiting a reply*
- Could some of the Walkabout profits be donated to one of the Ukraine charities? *A formal application would need to be made to the Committee*