

THE PARISH MEETING OF WHISSENDINE 2019

This meeting was held in the Village School, Main Street, Whissendine on Wednesday 13th March 2019, beginning at 7:30pm.

Present:

Mr Will Farr (Chairman),

Mr Rob Comber, Mr David Hatton, Mrs Pat Lake and Mrs Cynthia Moss (Parish Councillors)

Dr Sue Lammin (Hon. Parish Clerk, taking minutes)

Mr M Dickinson of the Village Hall Trustees, Mr Gary Marsh, the Editor of the Grapevine, P.C Laurie Appleton, of Leicestershire Police, Mrs Ann Maddison of the Whissendine Sports Club Committee. Mr Colin Miles as manager of whissendine.net, Mr Keith Dugmore from the Allotments Committee, Mr David Penny from Whissendine's Craft and Produce Show Committee.

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chairman thanked residents for attending this year's AGM.

Apologies were received from: Mrs Linda Arnold and Mr Tim Edmunds, Parish Councillors; Mr Ian Arnold, County Councillor (who submitted a written report), Dr Andrew Moyce, of Whissendine Environment Group (who submitted a written report).

2. Minutes of 2018 Village Meeting, held 14 March 2018.

These minutes had been made available in advance on the website: whissendine.net. Paper copies were available at the meeting. They were accepted on the proposal of Mr Hatton and signed by the Chairman.

3. Report from Rutland Police

PC Laurie Appleton reported that 13 crimes since 1/4/2018 up to 28/2/2019; including: 2 house burglaries, 2 burglaries from outbuildings, 2 thefts from vehicles (Ashweil Rd, corner), one arson and 2 assaults. Thefts of lead from churches in Melton area recently. The issue of parking was touched on but no solution has been discovered.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

Will Farr reported that: The Christmas tree was purchased this year and will need to be purchased in future. The trees in the Banks, two broke in the storms and it cost a significant amount to resolve so a tree survey will be undertaken. The bus stop on the green is askew a bollard has now been put in place to deter vehicle strikes. The 100 year World War I commemoration involved posters of the fallen from the village; displayed close to their former homes. The posters and research have been retained for the future.

Grants have been awarded to village organisations and the PC would wish to do so in future. The request for a passing place in Cow Lane has been resubmitted, the PC has offered money towards this.

There are two defibrillators now in the village and a 3rd is on its way.

The village website is working well but there is only one manager, Colin

In the coming year stiles, fences, etc around the Banks will be surveyed and repaired. The play equipment needs replacement so provision has been made in the budget and a safety survey will be undertaken in May.

This year there are parish and ward elections on 2 May 2019. There are 2 vacancies on the parish council at the moment. 9 parish councillors is the full complement. For the first time election costs are being passed to the parish council by RCC.

5. Report from Ward Councillor

In the absence of Mr Arnold, the Chairman read the report he provided which focused on strategic developments affecting Whissendine in the future. These included: the Oakham Town task and finish group established by RCC but now independent; which is looking at transport, parking and trade in the market town. The one-way system plan has been scrapped and increased parking is the aim. From next month there will be 30 mins free parking tariff to encourage trade.

RCC's draft local plan had initially identified 88 new houses within the village by 2036. Since then the redevelopment of St Georges Barracks in North Luffenham, with a potential 2215 houses and associated amenities and commercial provision by 2036, has been subject to discussion. RCC has applied for a £30M HIF grant for associated infrastructure provision and the site has been incorporated into the local plan. In addition to this MOD site a private proposal for old MOD land at Woolfox has come forward which could deliver 7,500 homes. This proposal may be incorporated into the local plan. These sites may reduce the demand on Whissendine so that the plan may now be for 20 new homes by 2036.

The RCC revenue budget for 2019 is £36.4M and is based on a Council Tax increase of 4.99% for the coming year. RCC are not planning to reduce any services county-wide. Central Government funding continues to reduce year on year and the proposed RCC budget for 2019-20 has a minimal deficit of £54k. The Social Care budget accounts for around 50% of the whole, waste management £3M and Highways £3M.

It was also noted that the newly installed PO box in Melton Road has now been turned 180 degrees so the slot can be accessed from the verge. The Parish Council and RCC are trying to collaborate on provision of a paved surface to allow access to the box.

6. Report on the village website: whissendine.net

Colin Miles reported: no major changes this year. Events/activities kept up to date. Parish Council minutes published monthly. Colin working alone at the moment has had offer of help from one person recently. Colin also controls village twitter account. Contact is: info@whissendine.net.

7. Report on the village magazine, The Grapevine

Gary Marsh reported: A group is needed to distance the parish council from the publication. The editor is content to continue. No recommendations for improvements were offered.

8. Call for volunteers to establish a new group.

The need for a new group to oversee and support the production of the Grapevine was outlined. New members of the group were invited. Questions about the status of the group as not-for-profit were received and answered.

9. Report from the Allotment Committee

Keith Dugmore reported: 15 plots in Station Rd been in existence for 100 years. PC grant in 2018 allowed provision of gates to increase security. Number of plots restricted so there is a waiting list.

10. Report from Whissendine's Craft and Produce Show Committee

David Penny reported: the group is not-for-profit non-fund raising. 116 exhibitors last year and 739 exhibits. The PC grant allowed production of the schedule. This year's show is Saturday 17th August 2019.

11. Report from Trustees of the Village Hall

Mike Dickinson reported: Renovation of hall has continued; kitchen now up to standard. Funds from a donor and PC allowed this. Redecoration of hall is now planned. New storage for the STARS group's costumes is being planned. Users: pre-school (every weekday) and other rentals e.g. AgeUK, art groups, etc. Rental charges remain steady. The trustees are registering for Gift Aid.

12. Report from the Whissendine Sports Club Trustees Committee

Ann Maddison reported: The club is moving forward slowly. Brownies and Rainbows use hall on Thursday evening. There is a new table-tennis club. Pilates, gardening club, and Bowman archers provide regular sessions. The bowls club folded in 2018 due to declining membership. Grass is cut by a volunteer currently otherwise it costs £220 p.m. in growing season. The container needs scrapping but a replacement will cost £3k. The roof needs re-felting at a cost c£3k-£4k. Paperwork regarding the trusteeship is with solicitors, the club are looking to become a charity.

13. Report from Whissendine Environment Group

In the absence of Dr Moyce, Cynthia Moss read Dr Moyce's report: The group has welcomed three new members this year; and are always ready to welcome more. They have continued to maintain Chapel Walk and the approach to the windmill. The group were pleased to receive a supportive grant of £200 from parish funds.

They've planted crocuses and narcissi on the village green; and five trees (donated by Mike Hind Woodward) on the banks. The trees on the Banks will be maintained as part of the remembrance to those who fell in World War I.

Hedgehog highways are being actively promoted in the village. On 9 March a litter pick was undertaken on the approach roads to the village; Oakham Rd, Melton Rd and Ashwell Rd.

The group is keen to hear of any ideas to improve the environment in Whissendine.

14. The Parish Clerk's report on the Long Clawson Charity Activity in 2018

Sue Lammin reported that: the Poor's Land (Clawson Gift) known as the Long Clawson Land Charity was active in 2018. The income from the land in Long Clawson yielded £2130. From this money grants were given; 24 requests for support were received and 23 were accepted as within the terms of the charity. The gifts made in 2018 amounted to £2070. The charity currently holds funds on deposit of £5409.45 and income is expected during the coming year.

15. Questions on any topic from the floor.

- Traffic in Cow Lane at school time still an issue as is mud on road from cars mounting the verge to pass. It was noted that a request for a passing place has been submitted. A number of other proposals have been rejected by highways. It was asked would a 20mph zone for Cow Lane be proposed. Signage saying road liable to flooding at top of Cow Lane also proposed.

- It was queried whether the road sign at the green advertising eggs was lawful. It was agreed to investigate lawfulness. It was suggested a smaller sign would be better received.

Meeting closed at 20.58 hrs.