

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH.

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held in Abbots Morton Village Hall on Tuesday 4th April 2006 at 7.40 pm.

Present: Mrs. M. Brewster (Chairman), Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk), Mrs. A. Steel (District Councillor), Mr. Holt (County Cllr.), PC Cairns, and 20 members of the public.

1. Welcome – the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mrs Brewster, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies: Mr. Spooner, Mr. and Mrs. Humphries, Mrs Johnson, PC Hamer, Mr. Driver, Dist. Cllr. Mr. Lee, and Mr. Barclay.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th April 2005 were agreed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by a vote of 9 in favour with 2 against.

4. Matters arising: Nil.

5. Parish Council - Chairman's Report:

Copy attached to the minutes.

6. County Cllr. report: Mr. Holt thanked the Clerk for keeping the Notice Board up to date. He was very happy to be the County Cllr. representative for Abbots Morton Parish. He thought the Parish Lengthsman scheme was an excellent idea, and would like comments on the P3, Parish Footpaths scheme. Many years ago there used to be conflict between County and District Cllrs. but he is pleased to report that co-operation between the two parties is much improved.

District Cllr. report: Mrs Steel urged parishioners to write to the Police Authority about the proposed mergers. She holds a surgery the first Monday in each month in Inkberrow, and anyone is welcome between 6.30 – 7.30 pm, no appointment is required. She was asked to thank Wychavon District Council for keeping the Council Tax stable this financial year, and confirmed that there would be very little funding to Worcestershire County Council from the Government.

7. Beat Manager: PC Cairns introduced himself as the Local Police Officer who has taken over from Annie Hamer, and is based in Droitwich. He is responsible for the north area of the Wychavon District. With new Government reorganisation there is a plan to allocate Special Constables to each Officer. He also urged parishioners to write re the proposed police merger changes. He reiterated that if members of the public required a Police Officer urgently then they should telephone 999. Local Police Officers have more of a community involvement and deal with non-urgent matters.

Abbots Morton Village Hall – report given by Sarah Dykes, Chairperson. Copy of the report attached to the minutes.

Abbots Morton Residents' Association – report given by the Chair of the Residents' Association, Mr. Burton. Copy attached to the minutes.

Working Party – report given by the Chair of the Working Party, Mr. Burton, a copy of which is attached.

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Q. The Working Party has to make recommendation to the Parish Council and then the Parish Council has to make a decision. Should the parishioners have the facts first?

A. The Parish Council has set up the Working Party and they agreed a set of terms and references for the Working Party to abide by.

Dist. Cllr. Mrs. Steel felt that everyone should wait for the outcome of the White Paper before making any decision. Planning matters will carry more clout if dealt with by an elected body. Mrs. Barker said that it was not the intention for the Residents' Association to be represented on the Working Party.

Neighbourhood Watch – Geoff Barker reported that Monica Burton has resigned as the Deputy co-Ordinator after 10 years and thanked her for all her hard work. Ken Barclay has taken over this role. Mary Whitehead has replaced Mike Smith at Morton Spirt. Angela Smith covers Gooms Hill and Peter Holland The Low. The telephone pyramid system would continue. It was hoped that Angela Eason would help set up the system on the Abbots Morton website. Derek Richings felt that the pyramid system was not a good idea as it had failed in recent practise.

Parochial Church Council: Terry Brewster reported the following:

- Services are well attended and there is a move to attract younger members through the lay led services.
- Special services have been held through the year – VE Day.
- Maintenance costs continue to escalate each year. The annual parish share exceeds £5,000, which goes to the diocese. Other fixed costs involved are for insurance and Clergy fees. Running costs for the Church are approximately £9,000 per year.
- He wished to thank the Parish Council for the money received from the Litter Pick, and to parishioners for their contributions.
- This year the Church Council were runners up in the Best Churchyard competition.
- The Church is very dependent on fundraising events - Flower Festival, Harvest Festival.

He was asked if there was any move to become non-denomitional organisation.

Public Paths Warden: Pat Ansell's report is attached to the minutes.

Parish Plan report: Sarah Dykes gave a report; a copy is attached to the minutes.

Q. It was felt that a ballot should go to all villagers to see which format they would like, or a separate meeting be held to invite parishioners to have their say.

A. An invite had gone to each household inviting everyone to the meeting this evening. Parishioners present felt that a meeting should not be called to discuss the size of a document.

A vote was taken from electors present and the majority agreed that the adopted Parish Plan should be A5 size.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. Mr Ernest proposed that the Parish Council and the Clerk be thanked for giving up their time to serve the community. He felt it was a good representative body. Mr. Dykes seconded this.

Meeting declared closed at 9.25pm.