

ABBOTS MORTON PARISH.

Draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Abbots Morton Village Hall, March 30th 2015 at 7.32 p.m.

<p>Present: Mr. N. Humphries (Chairman), PC Tony Carter, Mrs. N. Holland, Clerk to the Parish Council, and 9 parishioners.</p>
<p>Welcome: – the Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
<p>Apologies: Dist. Cllrs. Mrs. Steel and Mr. Lee, Mrs. P. Ansell, Cyril Burton, Angela Eason, and David Ernest.</p>
<p>Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 15th May 2014 were agreed to be an accurate record, signed by the Chairman.</p>
<p>Matters Arising: Nil.</p>
<p>Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Humphries: I would like to thank the representatives of the various parish bodies for their attendance and invite you to ask them any questions later. Firstly I would like to thank the other members who make up Abbots Morton Parish Council that is Pat Ansell, David Ernest, Clive Holt, Colin Pemberton and David Smith, for all their contributions, not only over the last 12 months but over a number of years. Their collective experience has served the Council well. I must also thank Will Clapton, who resigned as a councillor earlier in the year, after serving as chairman for nearly 2 years and as a councillor for over 5. His experience will be missed. Also, I must thank Nicky Holland who does an outstanding job as Clerk to the Council and has done over quite a number of years. The Council would struggle without her experience and expertise in the roll and my job as Chairman would be quite daunting indeed. Elections to the Parish Council are due in May and, to the best of my knowledge, we will not have a full complement of 7 councillors standing. If anyone is interested in standing, or knows anyone who might be, please speak to Nicky later this evening. Footpaths, their access and maintenance are a very important amenity to both parishioners and visitors. I would like to thank David Smith as footpaths officer for the Parish for all the time and effort he puts in to this unpaid roll which involves keeping paths open and clear and carrying out much of the repair work to stiles and bridges himself. The Parish Council met 13 times this year, including 6 planning meetings 1 extraordinary meeting and 6 Full Parish Council Meetings covering a number of topics including: FLOODING, ROAD AND DITCH MAINTENANCE. The Parish Council continues to use a Lengthsman. This work is funded by the County Council, and the Lengthsman's role is to carry out routine maintenance to the verges and ditches around the Parish. I am pleased to report that this work, coupled with the extensive work done by the statutory bodies has ensured that potential flooding risks are minimized and that the runoff from fields and properties is taken away in the most efficient manner. I would also like to thank the local landowners for their ongoing cooperation ensuring that hedges are cut back, thus make exiting from junctions easier, and we also appreciate them keeping their verges and ditched maintained. Please advise the Parish Council of any areas of concerns re ditches, drains and hedgerows so that we can monitor any issues. The condition of the road at the Low has deteriorated markedly in recent months. Problems seem to have been made worse rather than better by a number of repairs which were carried out in the summer. This situation has been taken up by our County Councillor with the relevant highways authority. PLANNING There have been a number of planning applications in the parish this year, 9 in total. The Parish Council has commented on almost all of these. As I am sure you are aware, the Parish Council has no power over the final decision on whether to grant or refuse planning permission - this rests with Wychavon District Council - but is merely able to make observations and draw the planners' attention to any issues of importance. In a number of instances the opinion of the Parish Council has been echoed by the decision made by the planners but, sadly, this has not been the case in all instances. The granting of planning permission for a Solar Farm on land at Morton Wood Farm despite the efforts of the Council, who I represented at the Planning Meeting, has been a particular disappointment. The Council are continuing to be mindful of the damage likely to be caused to the road at the Low during the construction phase and David Smith will represent the Council at a meeting with our County Councillor, Clive Holt, Mr. Pilcher from Worcestershire County Council Highways Department and an Officer from Countryside Services to</p>

inspect the condition of the public highway and the bridleway.

As you may remember, as part of their presentation to residents of the village, Sun and Soil made clear their intention to provide a community fund as part of the solar farm development. Since the application has now been approved the council saw it as our duty to investigate this matter further. Once we have more details the Parish Council will conduct a survey of all residents asking what such a fund should be used for if it was indeed available.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

I would like to thank the Village Hall Committee for their hard work in maintaining and improving the Hall. This is important for the Parish Council as a major part of the precept goes towards paying off the loan taken out for the construction of the Village Hall back in 1998. The Parish Council has also been able to further support the hall financially by paying hire charges for its meetings and recently approving a grant application for £385 for the purchase of additional crockery which is paid out of Parish Council funds. The Village Hall Committee has also prepared an application for £1000 of the parish's New Homes Bonus allocation, subject to consultation with residents. Details can be found on fliers given out at this meeting. As has been said before, this "New Homes Bonus" has not been the result of new homes in the parish but due to the two replacement dwellings constructed at Morton Spirt Farm and Morton Spirt in the last few years.

FINANCE

For, I believe, the seventh consecutive year the Parish Council has maintained the precept unchanged. Due to band changes I believe this has resulted in a small decrease on the average council tax bill. The Council is in a strong position financially having built up reserves over a number of years. We are always conscious of the need to provide value to council tax payers whilst also making a valuable contribution to the community where possible. In addition to the grant to the Village Hall the Council has also voted to support Inkberrow First Responders by means of a donation. Living where we do in a rural part of Worcestershire the first responders are a valuable resource when an ambulance would take some time to reach someone in need. I am aware of several residents who have benefited directly from First Responders in the past. The Council has also made a small amount of funding available (£100) towards the holding of a monthly community social drop-in event which is being organised by Viv Oddy and David Ernest. I would ask any community body that is interested in registering their interest for a grant this next financial year to contact Nicky Holland or any member of the Council.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

The Council has been proactive in trying to ensure the parish is able to benefit from Superfast Broadband in the future with David Ernest putting in a lot of hard work on the subject. This has included much local and national radio coverage and a meeting with Ed Vaizey, the government minister responsible, in London. Whether by coincidence or not the target in Worcestershire for the number of homes to receive superfast broadband has now been raised from 90 to 95%. More information will follow in David Ernest's report.

PARISH WEBSITE

Any information you wish to find regarding the Parish Council can be found on the website hosted by Worcestershire County Council. A Google search for "Abbots Morton Parish Council" is probably the quickest way to find this. There is also a general Abbots Morton Parish website which aims to bring together all aspect of village life including Village Hall and PCC events, Bell Tower appeal etc. Up until now, this has been financed and run by David Smith but has proved difficult to keep up to date due to a lack of information coming to him from the relevant organisations. The Parish Council has agreed to fund this for the next two years but David is looking for someone to either take over at least help in maintaining the site and we hope information and updates can be a little more forthcoming in the future. Please speak to David Smith if you would like to help with this or have any information you think belongs on the site.

West Mercia Police: (PC Tony Carter).

- A number of burglaries have taken place over the last 2 months in the village and surrounding area.
- Oil thefts have decreased; catalytic thefts are still a problem.
- Speeding is a problem along the Alcester Road. Will contact the Safer Roads Partnership (SRP) to ask if they can provide support. Rous Lench Parish Council recently held a meeting with other representatives from the Parish Council to discuss this problem. The SRP now has a promotional van which perhaps could be invited to attend at local events.
- CCTV gives owners of properties piece of mind; Guard Cam is a 240v security light that has a STD card which

records every time the beam is broken.

District Cllrs. – no report.

Thanks were recorded to David Lee, as he will not be standing for Dist. Cllr. Election this year, for supporting events in the village over the past 16 years.

Residents' Association (David Smith read report on behalf of Cyril Burton).

Our AGM on the 13th March was well attended and was followed for the fourth year in succession by a talk by Paul Harding of Discover History. Paul is taking us through the way our society has developed since the Civil War and this year's talk covered the Georgian period. Those residents who have attended will know that Paul's talks are not to be missed and I agree with them – so much so that we have already booked him to speak at next year's meeting on Friday 11th March when he will take us through the Regency period.

Refreshments were provided during the interval and at the end of the evening at no cost to all present and we are grateful to Don and Carol Humphries and Julie Cadbury for their hospitality.

Returning to our AGM, we were sorry to lose Graham Hobbs from the Committee. Graham has given first class service as Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary and he says that he is grateful to his fellow Committee members for making his time an enjoyable one. Fortunately, I am delighted to say that Don Humphries has picked up the baton. However, this leaves us with a vacancy on the Committee which, sadly, no one came forward to fill.

Of course, we never know what is round the corner and were taken completely by surprise when we found ourselves facing a proposal for a Solar Farm at The Low. Unfortunately, this caused a great deal of dissension in the parish and surrounding areas. The Parish Council voted against the proposal, as did South Lenches PC and several reputable national organisations. Some residents showed no active opinion, but of those who did we judged that the majority was opposed. The Committee decided unanimously, therefore, to support the Parish Council's objection and that of residents with a similar view.

Unfortunately, the proposal was approved, despite our best efforts and those of our co-opted Committee members. Our efforts were not without cost and our reserves have been severely depleted. However, this is the sort of situation for which our reserves are intended. It has happened before and will doubtless happen again so we must find ways of rebuilding them.

Our membership remains steady at a reasonable level though an increase in membership would be welcome. The more members we have the stronger our Association, although numbers are not paramount. Sometimes there seems to be a feeling that we speak for the Parish. That is not so; the Parish Council represents the Parish whereas we, like any Association, represent our members however few of many they may be.

Finally, I was delighted when, at the end of formal business, David Smith announced that he would seriously contemplate becoming our next chairman. I am sure that David has the interests of AMRA at heart and the skill and wherewithal to take over and do a fine job.

Public Paths Warden (David Smith).

In addition to the regular inspections there have been a number of repairs and maintenance items performed by the Parish's Paths Officer on the network over the last 12 months.

- A new two step stile on land to the rear of Whites Close
- Repair to a stile on land belonging to Mr. Adams
- New directional finger posts near the Old Shop, church gates and at Morton Spiert Farm
- Painting of parish paths notice board on the village green
- Repairs to two stiles on Mr. William's land on main path to Inkberrow
- Removal of large fallen trees in Slade Wood

A County Council specialist team was used to install new ditch crossings on land at The Low and on the main road adjacent to Mrs. Francis senior's property. Further work was done to clear heavy undergrowth on the bridleway at Morton Spiert. It's hoped that by allowing more light into this bridleway the route will dry quickly thereby reducing its continual muddy state.

Mystery surrounds the removal of one of the two steps of the new stile recently installed at the rear of Whites Close. The incident has been reported to the Countryside Department of Worcestershire County Council and replacement parts have been requested from the 'cash strapped' authority.

Repairs have been made to stile step on an unauthorised stile adjacent to Whites Close where gated access should be provided.

Concern was raised with Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council over the use of bridleways in The Low, AM555, AM557 and AM558, by proposed solar farm construction traffic. The narrow bridleway AM555 will be the main access point and it is thought severe damage will be caused to the surface and bridleway users will be put at considerable risk. As Paths Officer for the parish, I am extremely concerned over these safety issues.

Parochial Church Council and Bell Tower Appeal (Colin Pemberton).

I'd like to begin with thanks to everyone on the locking and unlocking church rota. As Rev Fran Battin remarked in her front page of the ARCH Messenger recently it is so uplifting when someone finds a church open and so disappointing when you find one locked. Thank you to Lynda Payne for organising the rota and she'd be delighted to hear from any new volunteers.

Similarly, a big thank you to everyone on the flower rota. The floral decorations do so much to enhance the church and contribute to that feeling of warmth, peace and beauty which is so often written about in the visitors' book. Thank you to Peggy Clarke for organising that rota. Peggy would be delighted to welcome any new volunteers.

St Peter's offers a welcome to everyone who comes into church, whether it's to worship, or just to sit in peace and quiet; to pray; to wander round and absorb the history of the church; to examine its architecture; to pay respects to loved ones in the churchyard or research family history there.

St Peter's is your church and the community has shown how much it values the building and its setting by the incredible response to the Bell Tower Appeal, which I shall come to shortly.

In tandem with the bell tower appeal, the PCC has also been working hard to seek ways of improving access to the churchyard, the church and the services we provide. We are well aware that a number of parishioners and visitors have disabilities of various kinds, whether they be users with walking frames, walking sticks or in wheelchairs; hard of hearing; or visually impaired.

The PCC has an Access Working Party which has been continually examining possible ways in which we can reasonably and viably improve access in the context of the Equality Act 2010. On June 17th last year we held an open evening at the church to explain proposals which we thought would work, but they proved not to be possible. Other potential schemes continue to be examined in conjunction with the new church architect, John Middleton.

The appointment of John Middleton in November followed the decision by our former architect Peter Rhodes to retire from his church contracts. John is a partner in John C. Goom of Evesham and is one of a small number of specialist architects qualified to deal with Grade 1 listed ancient buildings. He was appointed after a two-month interviewing process by our churchwarden, Kevin Clarke. We look forward to working closely with John as he manages the Bell Tower repairs to their conclusion and conducts our next Quinquennial inspection.

It was the last five-yearly inspection which pointed up the need for essential bell tower repairs. We hope this coming inspection doesn't make too hefty a demand upon us, but if it does, we hope that we can meet whatever challenges there may be.

The church has sixteen people on the electoral roll and from them we formed a Parochial Church Council of seven, presided over by the Rector Rev Richard Thorniley. The PCC members meet bi-monthly as trustees of a charity responsible for the financial affairs of the church, the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents, and to express their views on the forms of services used at St Peter's.

The PCC also concerns itself with the welfare and pastoral care of the parish and discusses issues of wider interest in the Church of England, making representations to the Bishop and the General Synod via the Evesham Deanery and the Worcester Diocese.

Our congregations vary, from the very small at some services to the substantial at the well-established services such as Remembrance Day, Harvest Festival, Carol and Gift Service and Christmas Eve.

Indeed, the Carols on the Green service this year were particularly well attended. 30 people were singing on the village green, accompanied on guitar by Andrew Whitlow and a collection was sent to the charity Water Aid. The Pet Service was also held outdoors in the churchyard and saw the best turnout for many years with a Shetland pony, 11 dogs, two tortoises, and 20 humans (16 adults and four children).

Another 'fresh air' service was Rogation where a small band ventured into the village before turning and heading out to Goom's Hill, blessing crops and livestock on the way. This year the map is being studied with a view to devising a new route for "Beating the Bounds".

The Flower Festival Weekend in June, held in conjunction with Rous Lench and Church Lench, was particularly successful with delightful floral arrangements, and the village hall was buzzing at the Flower Festival lunch which

raised £732 for church funds.

The Harvest Supper in the village hall was well attended and, with the Auction of Promises, was once again a great success as our biggest fundraising event. That made £2,775 towards our annual costs of around £10,000. The bulk of that, around £7,000, goes to the Worcester Diocese as our "Parish Share" of general costs, particularly the salaries and pensions of the clergy.

We, or rather the congregations, also make donations to charities. The Harvest Festival service prior to the Supper concluded with an auction of produce which raised £75 for a charity; from the Remembrance Day service a donation of £125 was made to the Royal British Legion.

The Carol and Gift service brings forward scores of wonderful presents for less fortunate children.

There are many individuals to thank:

Lynne Pemberton, as our church musician and for organising the Harvest Supper and Flower Festival lunch;

Audrey Dunstone for running the Flower Fund to buy flowers for those in the parish who've been hospitalised.

Margaret Brewster for organising and contributing towards the care and maintenance of the churchyard; Terry Brewster for providing the Christmas tree and leading the Remembrance Day Service and looking after the money.

Viv Oddy and Imo Dykes for decorating the Tree; selling postcards painted by members of the Abbots Morton art group; Kevin Clarke, our churchwarden, for the variety of tasks carried out quietly and efficiently.

We give thanks to our professionals, the Rector Rev Richard Thorniley, Rev Steve Jordan and our Reader Janet Stean.

If you wish to follow the progress of St Peter's church our doors are always open and information is available on the village website. www.abbotsmorton.info and on the benefice website www.archbenefice.org.uk

BELL TOWER APPEAL

As you all know, we set ourselves a target of £40,000 and launched the Appeal in August 2013, giving us two years to raise the money by this autumn, so that work could be started before the official deadline of February 1st 2016.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people the target has been reached with 5 months to spare.

The target was always going to be an estimation. We knew there would be an uplift of costs since the time, three years ago, when the first tenders were made. So we couldn't close the Appeal and celebrate when £40,000 was reached, and indeed so amazing has been the response that we've gone above the "target".

What I can now report, after a special meeting of the PCC yesterday, is that we have received three new tenders with current 2015 costings. They have been checked and considered in detail by our church architect, who will be overseeing the project.

I'm delighted to say that, on his recommendation, we've awarded the contract to the company Tewkesbury Conservation Ltd. Together with the professional fees of the aforementioned architect John Middleton of John C Goom of High Street, Evesham, the total cost of the work will be £43,033.

Tewkesbury Conservation Ltd was the lowest tender and, in his report to us, John Middleton said their previous experience confirmed their suitability for this type of work. In his view they offered the best value for money. They would be able to begin work at the start of June 2015 with completion at the end of August, that's 12 weeks.

Although we are around £2,000 short of the figure needed, work will begin with scaffolding being erected and the operations starting at the top and working down.

We are confident that by the time the project is underway we will have raised that £2,000. We still have a fund raising event just around the corner, a delightful harp and voice concert in St Peter's church by one of the world's leading exponents of Celtic harps on Saturday April 18th. We've already sold enough tickets to cover the costs and if we can sell 30 more we could add another £400 to the fund.

Our confidence is based on the extraordinary generosity and enthusiasm that has been shown over the past 19 months and just this weekend we've had a pledge which will raise further money for the Appeal.

As Chairman of the Bell Tower Committee, I would like to place on record my huge appreciation of the dedication and enthusiasm of the Committee members, without whom it would not have been possible. If you're not aware, they are Kevin Clarke, Terry and Margaret Brewster, Lynne Pemberton, Sarah Dykes and our tremendous treasurer, Tim Jones

I can't begin to express enough thanks to everyone who has given to the Appeal in whatever form. One of the remarkable and heartwarming aspects has been the large number of donations from individuals outside Abbots Morton, whether they be from neighbouring parishes or from far flung parts of the UK who have some historical or family connection with Abbots Morton. Indeed, in the past month, we've had a donation from a couple in Memphis,

Tennessee. We're also tremendously grateful for a number of grants from charitable trusts which boosted the appeal at various stages.

I do intend to draw up a "thank you" list of those individuals and organisations that are happy to be named and post it on the church notice board and the Bell Tower website. (No amounts of money donated will be revealed)

Once again, our grateful thanks go to all who have contributed in any way to the Appeal. Those thanks are paid not just on behalf of the PCC but also on behalf of everyone in generations to come who will have a safe and secure bell tower at their church.

Neighbourhood Watch – hard copy of report available to all present at the meeting.

Reported cases of fraud have gone up by 25% over the last year. Scams have become widespread especially phone scams by fraudsters pretending they are from the police or their bank. Scams of this type are very likely to increase now the new pension reforms are due to come into effect from this April. Fraudsters are expected to increasingly target the liberation of pension pot cash. Please make sure that friends and family are aware of these scams, particularly those who may be elderly or vulnerable.

Burglars are operating in our area; they appear to be very selective in choosing their targets and planning their raids. Please be vigilant to identify vehicles and maybe persons that are unknown in the parish, especially if they are there for no apparent reason. If you see anything out of the ordinary, try to take a photo, such as, a vehicle and number plate. Please report any sightings to the police or myself to pass on together with any photos.

Email reports from West Mercia police have been circulated during the past year as were reports received from our local coordinators and residents. If you wish to receive these, please provide me with your email address (which will remain confidential). The NW circulation covers 94% of active households in the parish plus some households in Radford.

Your Neighbourhood Watch coordinators can be found on the Abbots Morton website

A vacancy is open for a volunteer at Morton Speart to take up the role.

Most Home Insurers offer generous discounts off their premiums to members of "Active Neighbourhood watch areas". They consider areas 'Active' where there is a named local coordinator.

Contact Geoff Barker for free door-stickers and SmartWater kits to purchase.

Smartwater property marking liquid is still available including enhanced outdoor and farmers (larger property) packs. Window and property stickers are included in the packs. Orders can still be placed. Under West Mercia's existing Safe & Secure home security campaign, residents are being encouraged to property mark their valuables and then to register them on the national Immobilise website (www.immobilise.com). If their property is lost or stolen, the police can check the database to identify the true owners.

If you find yourself and/or family in any circumstances of an emergency or dangerous nature, then you must dial 999 for emergency services. The usual contact number for West Mercia Police is 08457 444 888.

Please note the NEW national number to call for reporting non emergency incidents directly to West Mercia Police is "101". You can still contact Crimestoppers anomalously on 0800 555 111.

Village Hall (Mel Clarke).

The present committee has made changes to the running of the Hall e.g. all user groups in the village are now charged for use of the Hall, this was a difficult decision.

Marketing campaign has been carried out with a 46% take up of the hire of the Hall and its equipment.

Equipment is being upgraded along with the access to the Hall.

Richard Timney from Community First visited the Hall and submitted a report on his findings.

Work to the emergency doors is now completed, commercial dishwasher installed, exterior to be painted partially funded from the New Homes Bonus scheme.

Future priorities are: outside paving, hearing loop, wifi and a projector and screen.

Tim Jones continues to audit the accounts.

Superfast broadband (Cllr. Mr. Ernest) – email report received.

Following my recent conversations and meeting with the Broadband team at Worcestershire County Council (WCC) I summarise the current position. Unfortunately since my report last year we are no further forward to getting a decent broadband service to this area.

Please refer the WCC coverage map for broadband

http://www.superfastworcestershire.com/media/962876/20141022_rollout_map_for_public_use_based_on_SCT_3-

[3.pdf](#)

It appears that most areas in the Lenches etc will not get superfast fibre-based broadband within the published project plan; there is no plan to upgrade unless some existing areas get their existing broadband services via the Harvington green box which could be used to extend the upgraded services into the Lenches.

WCC will leave the contractual commitment to BT to provide a very low minimum of 2mbps for those areas that will not get the upgraded Broadband service. WCC has confirmed that it does not have a project to upgrade these services, as they have no more money to put into a project, especially as they believe that they have overfunded their previous tranche to the Superfast project. Recent additional Government funding has not been directed to this area. However, WCC has not shared how they will provide even the minimum to this area, and much of the existing infrastructure (copper wires etc) cannot be upgraded to even provide that level. What is not openly revealed is that this minimum level of 2mps will not support much in the way of services to residential and business customers; even future iplayer and streaming will not be possible when the default picture is switched to High Definition and replacement SKY services will be on the iCloud rather than stored on your local hard drives. In simple terms there is little incentive for BT to upgrade rural services that have low population density. Financial and operational project targets are more focused on rolling out enhanced services in existing higher density populations, which themselves have existing good services.

The situation for residents is further exacerbated by an almost non-existent mobile phone signal so we suffer from poor communications already. Neither BT nor WCC will commit to having further meaningful discussions with residents; even when the residents would like to look at optional local alternative services / projects. This is despite the current faster broadband project being in well advanced in deployment, with the end date in sight (2017) and the project plan for the rest of the project term being defined. The UK Government policy has been to offload the responsibility for Broadband to BT. The UK Government negotiated a weak umbrella contract with BT and left it to the local Authorities to fill in the details and try to negotiate against strongly established BT procurement. The UK Government is continuing to fail the local rural communities to ensure that they will get a reasonable level of service in this Governments lifetime. There is no control or coordination of strategy for the 5-10% disenfranchised, and the likelihood that there will be inadequate targeted funding.

Tree Warden (Mr. Pemberton).

The Wild Cherry tree planted in 2012 to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration in the village has come through its third winter and is well established. During this year the Parish Council bought a substantial tree stake and tie to secure it, and although it may look a rather large stake for the size of the tree at the moment. It is a long term support and it helps reduce the risk of any inadvertent damage to the tree. It'll soon be in blossom again this Spring and be producing cherries in the autumn.

Also during the year the Parish Council authorised expenditure of £100 on a small engraved commemorative plaque in a 23" tall stake which I shall soon put in place now that we know exactly where the daffodils are that have grown around the tree.

Grateful thanks are due to Graham Hobbs who donated and planted the daffodil bulbs, not just around the Jubilee Tree but also around the base of the Abbots Morton sign at the eastern entrance to the village. I think they bring a welcome splash of brightness to the village.

I was able to steer a property owner to the proper advice in relation to work she needed to do on some of her trees in the Conservation Area at The Barn. Although I am not authorised to give advice directly I can put you in touch with the people that can.

It's been a quiet year in regard to ash die back. There was one report last summer of some disease in a park in Birmingham.

Free saplings, 30 of them in various varieties came to us via the Woodland Trust and are thriving in the hedgerow alongside the public footpath and bridleway which runs from The Low to Iron Cross. They were planted the previous year and are accessible to the public using the path and bridleway to be seen and enjoyed.

If there is any enthusiasm for me to carry out a tree survey of the Parish please email me any time with photographs of the trees in your garden.

Matters raised by parishioners: Nil.

All organisations in the Parish submitted a report, copies available from the Clerk.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm