

## **ABBOTS MORTON PARISH**

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Abbots Morton Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Mr G Barker (Chairman), Mr Holt (County Cllr), Dist.Cllr. Mr Lee, PC Wiggins, WPC Perkins and 22 members of the public.

1. Welcome – the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Barker, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Mr P. Duck, Mr D Richings, Lord and Lady Borrie, Dist. Cllr Mrs Steele
3. Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006 were proposed by Mr T Brewster and seconded by Mr C Burton
4. Matters Arising: Nil
5. Parish Council – Chairman's Report – Attached
6. County Councillor Report: C. Cllr Mr Holt paid tribute to councillors. He talked about the aging population in the country as a whole and the effect this would have on demands for services. Money has been taken from reserves this year to meet demand. He talked about the Regional Spatial Strategy, which is looking at large increases in housing. He mentioned about the local highways and current road repairs in the village.
7. District Councillor Report: Dist.Cllr Mr Lee discussed how the district councillors had been reduced from three members to two. There are 4400 inhabitants and 2130 properties. The area covers a large rural/semi rural geographical area. Wychavon DC have achieved an Award for the Best Run Council. Wychavon DC have kept increase in council tax down to 2.5%. Droitwich Lido is re-opening as is Droitwich Canal. There is a new hospital in Pershore and a campaign to keep Evesham hospital open. There is also a campaign to keep local post offices open and he warned that everyone should be campaigning for them to stay open. He paid tribute to Editorial staff of the AMRA Bulletin Board.
8. Beat Manager PC Steve Wiggins introduced himself and WPC Kayley Perkins as the Community Support for this area. They cover 12 parish councils in all and deal with non-emergency issues in this role. They discussed their involvement in PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together).

Questions from public

Clive Holt – could the telephone number go on notice board for non-urgent matters  
Answer – Yes

Don Humphries – in a real emergency how long would it take for police to arrive

Answer – response would be from Pershore and/or Evesham and take about 20 minutes. PC Wiggins reminded everyone that in a real emergency 999 should be dialled.

9. Neighbourhood Watch – report given by Geoff Barker. Report attached
10. Abbots Morton Residents Association – report given by Cyril Burton. Report attached.
11. Abbots Morton Village Hall – report given by Angela Eason. Report attached.
12. Parish Paths Warden – report given by Pat Ansell. Report attached.
13. Parochial Church Council – report given by Terry Brewster. Report attached.
14. Heritage Project – Lynne Pemberton discussed the opportunity to apply for a heritage grant. The Village Hall Committee had suggested this. They would like to work in conjunction with the PCC and the PC. Further discussions to take place
15. Matters raised by Parishioners:-

Q. (Mr Brewster) – Does the cost of election fall on the Parish Council.

A. Yes, it will cost £350 - £700 and will be funded from reserves as a non-recurring expense. Mr Holt confirmed the cost would be shared with Wychavon because the poll was for both elections.

Q. (Mr Ernest) – Why was there no notice of elections on board?

A. The original notice had been printed incorrectly, and then resent again without alteration. A further corrected version is expected in two or three days and will be placed in the notice board when received.

Q. (Mrs Dykes) – Where was there notice of invitation to apply to be a councillor?

A. Elections were advertised widely by DC and a notice was on the village notice board.

Q. (Mrs Dykes) – Is there an updated neighbourhood watch telephone tree?

A. It needs updating for new parishioners however after being posted on the website and many published requests; no one has come forward with their details. Similarly for email alerts.

Q. (Mrs Dykes) – Has the cutting of the verge been considered again this year

A. No, not yet.

Parishioners asked that it be put under review.

Q. (Mr Burton) – Have action plans in parish plan been considered.

A. Yes, all have been considered – some have been implemented, some not.

Q. (Mr Burton) – What about pavement parking ?

A. This was considered at the last meeting with only Councillor's Brewster and Barker voting in favour of any action being taken. Councillor Brewster's proposal was that each household be sent a letter requesting that where off-road parking is available, it should be used instead of parking on the pavement.

Much discussion was held on this subject after Mr Burton commented that 39% of Parish Plan respondents had expressed concern.

This is to be reviewed at next meeting.

Q. (Mrs Duck) – What was the disabled space?

A. Secondary disabled car parking space for the Village Hall.

Q. (Mr Ernest) – Was any money budgeted for after the election for training?

A. No - There are grants to cover all new councillor training. Any excess expense was to come out of reserves.

Q. (Mr Brewster) – Village green rota

A. There was a lot of discussion about this, it was suggested that Worcs Highways Agency (the owners) should be approached about paying the PC what it cost them to cut twice a year (£38). Councillor Holt felt sure that they would pay this sum. Councillor Holt said the agency would probably be prepared to give ownership to the PC. It is to be put on the next agenda.

Q. (Mr Waldron) – what did the PC mean about best value? He commented that the clerk should not have been commented on as best value. Parishioners were in favour of best value not cheap.

A. Mrs Dykes commented that saving on her precept was a mere £0.80 per week. Councillor Spooner commented that cheap was often confused with best value and it was the latter that the PC was aiming for as the working party had recommended. Mr Waldron said he felt the working party was a waste of money. The cost was in excess of £500. Mr Burton, who chaired the working party, said it was worthwhile to clear the air and make the recommendations, however, that the cost was entirely due to the involvement of the clerk. Mr Burton said he now understands that this was a totally unnecessary cost as it was never a requirement for the clerk to be on the working party, but the PC were led to believe that the clerk must be present.

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.