

Penkridge Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Room 1 of the Haling Dene Centre Penkridge on Thursday 16th March 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present

Councillor	David Oldfield [Vice-Chairman]
"	Andrew Adams
"	Miss Chloe Burns
"	John Eastwood
"	Mrs Isabel G A Ford
"	Brian Heathcote
"	Victor Kelly
"	Andrew Lenz
"	Alan Smallwood
"	Mrs Vivienne Smith

Also in attendance were 10 members of the Public

1. Apologies
Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Hilary Hughes, Mrs Petula Hughes, Anthony Minshall and Calvert Stonehouse.
2. Welcome
The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. Minutes
Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2016 be accepted as a true and accurate record and be signed by the Vice-Chairman.
4. Matters Arising From The Minutes
There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. Chairman's Report
A copy of the Chairman's report was read out by the Vice-Chairman and attached to the official copy of the minutes.
6. Parishioners' Comments/Questions
Cllr Mrs Ford asked if the Cleaning Staff could be thanked for keeping the establishment in a clean order.
Janet Crossley of Rendermere Close said she would only say one word and that was Potholes.
The Vice Chair advised that this came under the remit of Staffordshire County Council Highways. The Parish Council was in constant dialogue with SCC with regard to the pot holes in the Parish. He advised all Parishioners to report pot holes either via the on-line system or by telephone.

Mrs Crossley said there was no excuse for the deterioration of the roads and maybe the local MP and Newspapers should be contacted.

Cllr Eastwood told those present that the Parish Council had face to face meetings with SCC Highways and constantly advised of the growing problems but they had decided to do nothing about this. He thought the Parish Council should maybe consider employing a private consultant to review the state of the roads in the village and investigate how Penkridge compared to other authorities.

Cllr Mrs Ford stated she had attended several meetings with representatives of SCC Highways, South Staffordshire Council and the SPCA and the bottom line was they did not have enough money to undertake the required work.

Mr Charles Cawthorne of Templars Way said he had attended the Annual Parish Meeting last year and it appeared that the village was no further forward now than it was then. He thought the village seemed to be a hub for local industries but there had been no infrastructure or additional funding to support the extra facilities required. He said that the County Council and District Councillors ignored Parishioners' concerns which left everyone to point the finger at the Parish Council. He said he attended many of the Parish Council meetings and Councillors were doing everything in their powers and people should not be pointing the finger of blame at them.

Mrs Dorothy Briggs, Cannock Road, said that there appeared to be new signs in the village stating No 7.5 Tonne Vehicles but these are being ignored by large lorries causing chaos around the village. The large heavy vehicles were causing extra strain on the roads in the village and the roads were not wide enough to take their size and weight.

Debbie Gibson of Stop The Gailey Freight Hub advised that if the application was approved for the West Midland Interchange there would be approximately 5,000 deliveries to the depot.

The Vice Chair thought the above points raised by Mrs Briggs could be referred to the next Highway Liaison meeting.

Cllr Adams said he was a new Councillor and attended the Highway Liaison meetings together with County Councillors and SCC Highways representatives. The Parish Council give the SCC representatives a hard time and do not accept feeble excuses for poor workmanship, but some potholes which have been marked up have now lost the paint around the hole as it was marked so long ago.

Cllr Mrs Ford gave her excuses and left the meeting at 7.30 pm

Mrs Crossley asked what the latest update was for the mineral track wall, she had asked Persimmon Homes but they had new staff and did not know the answer.

Cllr Kelly stated he had attended a Planning Meeting at SSC in Codsall and they were to go out to Tender to do the full length with tarmac which would then be maintained for 15 years. After this period they may then approach the Parish Council to take on the maintenance. He advised that the track started by the Wolverhampton Road Play Area and ended at the back of Pillaton by the Motorway.

The Vice Chairman asked if anyone else present had any further questions before he introduced the representatives from the Stop The Gailey Freight Hub.

Donna Gillmartin from the Group advised those present that the application was being compiled by West Midland Interchange. The proposed plans were on display which covered approximately 10 square miles. She said that the decision on the application would be made by the Planning Inspector in Bristol but the Parish Council, Staffordshire County Council and South Staffordshire Council would all have an opportunity to input their comments but the Planning Inspectorate would make the overall decision. The Duke of Westminster was funding the project which would cost in the region of 9 million pounds. The proposed site would be open 24 hours a day 7 days a week and would cause congestion problems for road and rail users.

There then followed a session of questions and answers by the Group and those present.

The Vice Chairman agreed that the plans be placed in the Village Noticeboards together with an information sheet.

The Vice Chair said that the Parish Council had to be open to all sides but individuals could submit their opinions.

He asked if anyone else had any further questions or points they wished to raise before he closed the meeting. He then thanked all for attending and members of the Stop The Gailey Freight Hub for their presentation.

- 7. Date And Time Of Next Meeting
Thursday 15th March 2018 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Chairman

Date