



SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Cllr Chris Clews	Chairman
Cllr Phil Jones	Vice-Chairman
Cllr David Shaw	
Cllr Roy Davies	
Cllr Clive Rickhards	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Justin Kerridge	Stratford District Council (Sambourne North)
Cllr Nick Moon	Stratford District Council (Sambourne South)
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Pete Joynes

There were 15 parishioners present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2014

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

The members of the PC are an excellent mix which is why I'm pleased we retain the same team in the recent (uncontested) elections. As Chairman I appreciate having them as fellow councillors. Their skills and interests help us to look after Sambourne: grass cutting, tree maintenance, responding to planning applications and looking after the fabric of parish. This includes the more personal and private issues such as making sure the elderly and infirm residents are not neglected.

I would also like to thank District and County Councillors Justin and Clive. They attend the meetings and help us behind the scenes.

Matters that have been tackled during the year include:

The Parish Plan – eventually accepted by SDC after a long struggle with the pedants. Special thanks to Dr Graham Birley who stuck with it to the bitter end. The document is important and has to be taken into consideration by SDC on issues like planning.

Model Standing Orders – developed from a template supplied by WALC, the document formalises the rules that apply to the PC and its operation.

Parish Emergency Plan – the nationwide floods last year prompted us to revise and issue the plan. The recent floods in Ambridge confirmed the need for the plan!

Newcomers Information sheet – complete and available. Thanks to those who made suggestions.

Broadband provision – an action group of 10 was formed and carried out a survey of the village. We liaised with the quango administering funds (CSW). Over a period of 10 weeks the status of Sambourne went from “awaiting funds” - i.e. probably no improvement to “funded awaiting OpenReach survey”. A brilliant effort by all involved. Many thanks to Clive who helped to facilitate meetings and put Sambourne's case at WCC.

War memorial restoration – thanks to a 50% grant from the War Memorial Trust and project management by Cllr Roy Davies this work was completed in time for the anniversary of WW1.

Flag raising and lowering – carried out following recommended practice by Cllr Roy Davies.

Planning workshop – organised by SDC, this course was attended by three members of the PC. Together with the documentation provided, this was a very useful course.

Planning applications – we responded to 11 over the year. For once SDC agreed with each of our recommendations and comments.

Funding and donations – The PC made donations to: Studley waste facility, The Link, The Voice, CPRE and Coughton cemetery maintenance.

Boundary changes – this exercise was intended to reduce the number of District Councillors by about 30%. It resulted in Sambourne parish being divided into two wards – for PC elections – Sambourne North and South.

Crossroads at The Jubilee – concern has been expressed at the number of accidents here. The PC has asked Clive to look into this.

In the past year we have asked for advice and help from WCC. On every occasion Clive has been forthcoming: chaos caused by poor diversion signing at roadworks, CSW, infringement of public footpath and road maintenance. Many thanks, Clive! He was also instrumental in continuing 24hr cover from Alcester Fire station.

There are many unsung heroes who contribute to the village – whether acting alone or contacting the PC to report any problems.

Among these special thanks is due to Sue Jones – her border tending work really improves the place for everyone!

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council for 2014/15

The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2014/15 had been finalised and agreed by the internal auditor. The accounts and reporting statements were formally approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman. The Clerk will forward the documentation to the external auditors, Grant Thornton.

5. Report of the Sambourne Trust 2014/2015

Cllr David Shaw gave the following report:

2014/15 has been a year free from any major problems and the small ones have, in the main, been resolved quickly.

- The maintenance and refurbishment programme has continued with particular reference to the updating of the central heating systems. This will continue and it is envisaged that all the heating systems will have been replaced within approximately the next 18 months.
- The Trust has continued to provide the weekly shopping bus, which is well used by Sambourne residents.
- Lifelines are also being made available to local vulnerable people, together with financial help towards mobility aids not funded by the NHS.
- Educational grants have been made, together with help towards the essential tools for a student in professional training.
- Donations have again been given to the Air Ambulance, Shakespeare and Myton Hospices and the Friends of the Alexandra Hospital. The Studley First Responders have also benefitted from a donation to help enable them to continue their much needed voluntary work around the district.
- The annual distribution of shopping vouchers to residents of 70 and over has continued at a slightly increased rate. Financial support has also been given where needed.
- The resident warden has maintained a watching brief on both our residents and our properties, liaising with the trustees, enabling action to be taken before problems escalate.

The offer of a section 106 grant from Stratford on Avon District Council towards the construction of affordable housing has been accepted. It is hoped to have a scheme prepared for inspection and, hopefully, approved in the near future.

Sincere thanks to Pauline, the Trust's recently retired secretary. Also to Anne, our warden and my fellow Trustees for all their help and hard work during the past year.

6. Report from Cllr Kerridge (SDC)

Cllr Kerridge reported that Stratford District Council continues to support the structure of Sambourne and has carried out a number of planned and reactive maintenance issues.

7. Report from Cllr Rickhards (WCC)

Fire Service: After negotiation there is now 24 hour cover 365 days per year from Alcester Fire Station.

Broadband: WCC has voted to add 4.1 million matched funding to the rural broadband budget.

Planning issues: Cllr Rickhards has been involved in the resistance to housing development, eg Bromsgrove Road. He encouraged Sambourne to become involved in the Sustainable Communities Act.

Studley Car Boot: Ongoing problems with parking being looked into.

Drainage: A budget of approx £6000 will be available to Sambourne for drainage in the next 12 months.

Jubilee Crossroads: Access has been assessed and it would be too expensive to put in traffic lights and a new island. It is likely that vehicle activated signs will be installed.

Member's Fund: The £5000 Member's Fund is still in force and Cllr Rickhards urged the Parish Council to use this facility.

8. Other Matters Raised:

None.