



SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 13th May 2019 at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Cllr Chris Clews	Chairman
Cllr Phil Jones	Vice-Chairman
Cllr David Shaw	
Cllr Phil Bond	
Cllr Clive Rickhards	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Neil Edden	SDC (Studley with Sambourne)
Cllr Peter Hencher-Serafin	SDC (Studley with Mappleborough Green)
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Peter Taaffe, Cllr Hazel Wright, Cllr Justin Kerridge

There were 40 parishioners present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2018

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Our thanks to the County and District Councillors who support Sambourne and attend as many meetings as they are able. In the past year Cllr Wright has attended 3 of the 6 meetings, Cllr Rickhards 2 and Cllr Kerridge was unable to attend any of them.

Speeding Action Group - run by Peter Joynes

- Meeting with WCC - roundels and gates.
- CSW abandoned...
- Needs refocus.

Dog fouling problem has not been reported for a while.

Planning

- 27 applications. 2 when PC comment differed from SDC.
- 4 members of PC attended a planning course at Studley Village Hall

Flood prevention

- Flood Risk and Water Management at WCC surveyed various sites. They found no major problems except in Middletown Lane.
- Middletown Lane prone to flooding (lay-by to stables by Jubilee) - surveyed.
- Applied for grant to clear ditch as precursor to other work - 2 quotes.

- Grant £3480.
- Phil Bond organised the ditch clearance.
- More detailed survey of culverts revealed some work required which they will undertake.
- Finally addressed water flowing off the field onto the lane.

Sambourne Trust

- David McMullen was re-elected (by the PC) for 4 year term.

Chestnut tree replacement and benches

- The PC agreed on the quote from WCC Forestry for removal of the chestnut and planting of Hornbeam which was the advised replacement (less prone to disease). Phil J organised the work.
- Still the matter of a replacement circular bench. Only suitable site is around the new tree.
- The PC decided to refurbish the existing benches – 3 on the Green + 1 outside the church
- Clerk has obtained grant of £450.
- This work was due to start today (13th) but has been delayed by at most one week.

Broadband

After a battle that began in 2015, Sambourne was finally upgraded to Superfast broadband at the end of 2018. One issue remains: most of the village has 30 Mbps except those in Middletown Lane roughly from Middletown to The Jubilee. These 15-20 properties receive 17-20 Mbps. The reason for this is known and communications with CSW have been re-opened. We need phone numbers and speeds for all the properties.

Funding

- The Link
- Studley waste.
- Coughton cemetery.
- CPRE

Councillors standing down

- Hazel Wright, who was elected in 2016 when Nick Moon resigned from District Council. Hazel, you have been an excellent Councillor and have “fought our corner” on many occasions
- P Joynes stood down from the PC earlier this year after 5 years. Thanks to Peter for forming the Speeding Action Group and getting WCC to deploy some signing measures.

Elections –Parish Councillors

The members of the PC, plus Peter Taaffe who put his name forward – were re-elected in an uncontested election.

Thank you time

As Chairman it is a pleasure to thank those who can always be counted on.

County and District Councillors

Clive: Thank you, Clive, for shining a light into some of the more obscure areas of WCC and getting action. A skill to be envied.

Hazel has done a great job. I've been to several meetings with Hazel and she is a lesson in "getting the full picture". Thank you, Hazel from a grateful pupil. You will be missed.

Justin: A year of little involvement with the PC – resolving the issue of maintenance in Kiln Close.

Phil J for organising the tree maintenance (great amenity), for his attention to the public footpaths and for being an invaluable source of sound advice and comment, particularly on my draft emails.

With Sue – for keeping the flower beds looking superb. Praised by many.

David – for his continued efforts as our connection to the Trust, acting as editor and organiser of the Link – now handed over. David is also invaluable when we need to know what is going on and the history of an issue!

Phil B – the trained observer with the advantage that he was actually born in Sambourne . Phil has a fine feel for the place. Items standing out are flooding, contact for bus shelter refurbishment, Speeding Action Group and digging out the issues.

Sue Summers and helpers - the ones who made an effort with knitted poppies for the 100th anniversary and Remembrance Day service.

All involved in procurement, erection and lighting Christmas tree.

Terry

- Grant towards benches.
- IT grant for the equipment required for her role.
- Elections: rules, forms, returning, posters at specific date...
- Preparation of the agendas, the minutes and organising the 6 meetings each year.
- Distribution of the planning applications and submitting our comments.

Geoff Smith – for maintenance of the recreation ground.

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council for 2018/19

- i. The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2018/19 had been finalised. A copy of the final Balance Sheet was circulated to the Councillors.
- ii. The Internal Audit has been delayed due to the state of health of the Auditor. A replacement Auditor will be found and the Audit completed by 30th June 2019, as stipulated by the External Auditors, PFK Littlejohn.
- iii. The Certificate of Exemption for smaller Authorities was signed and will be returned to the external auditors.

Action: Clerk

5. To receive a Report from the Sambourne Trust

2018/19 has proved to be a very busy year, beginning with the aftermath of the disastrous flooding of cottages 6 and 7 to a burst pipe, causing considerable damage. There was a long period of drying out, together with negotiations with the insurers, all of which took quite a long time. The work covered by insurance has now been completed and listed building consent for substantial renovation work is being sought from SDC. This is proving to be a slow process but progress is being made. It is anticipated that these properties will be available for rent about September 2019.

The Trust commissioned a Maintenance Inspection Report covering all but the above two properties. This produced a number of recommendations which will be followed up. There were no serious problems found and all properties exceeded the Government's Decent Homes Standard.

The garden area, including associated hedges and ditch, has been well maintained and this, coupled with work on the properties, has been done as far as possible by local tradesmen who look after the Trust very well.

The Trust has continued to provide shopping vouchers to parishioners of 70 years of age and over, which elicited many letters and cards of appreciation. The shopping bus is still running into Redditch on a weekly basis and is well used. This enables those without transport to access banks and post offices etc, as well as the social aspect of meeting up with old friends for a coffee. Lifelines are also being provided to a number of vulnerable people.

There has been less demand this year for student and other grants but the Trust has continued to support the two Air Ambulance Services which cover our area, the Myton and Shakespeare Hospices and the Friends of the Alexandra Hospital.

During the year there have been two changes of tenancy, which still leaves a number of qualifying people on the waiting list.

My fellow Trustees have given substantial support throughout the year and our Warden has been keeping a watching brief on both properties and tenants, for which I wish to offer my grateful thanks.

6. To receive a Report from Cllr Kerridge (SDC Studley with Sambourne)

- Two residents from Kiln Close/Johns Close have had concerns about the grounds maintenance (grass and hedge cutting) in that area which is carried out by a private company since the estate was built. Since then the maintenance has been carried out (without any intervention) and there was no desire from residents to take the matter further.
- There have been some complaints about external lighting around the Allely's yard and its effect on the Jill Lane junction in foggy conditions. I don't think it is dangerous but it is an unwanted light spillage that we could do without. There is a planning condition on the new large shed planned at Allely's to submit a new lighting plan to minimise light spillage across the whole sight. If and when the shed is built out (there is also a condition to move the security fence along Green Lane back into the site and plant a new hedge-row with trees).
- Redditch Gateway (RG) development HGV routing strategy. Evidence suggests that HGV traffic South along A435 to/ from RG will be light. Even so, an HGV routing strategy through the Redditch road system and along A448 (Slough) to Spenal corner and then A435 has been proposed and largely agreed upon. This is to avoid HGV's in the centre of Studley due to the air quality management area, pedestrians, village centre, proximity and density of houses etc. The alternative route is the lesser of two evils. It does affect Sambourne more though.
- I hope that Parish, District and County Councillors take the opportunity to lobby County Council for junction improvements along this alternative route (Spenal corner, Jubilee, Station road, Jill lane, Crabbs Cross).
- My failure to get re-elected ends 9 years as a Councillor for Sambourne. It has been a privilege. I wish the new District Councillors best wishes in their role.

7. To receive a Report from Cllr Hazel Wright (SDC Studley with Sambourne)

Unfortunately Cllr Hazel Wright was unable to be at the meeting but the Chairman expressed his thanks for her dedicated support and advice to the Parish Council during her term of office.

8. To receive a Report from Cllr Rickhards (WCC)

In the past year I have pursued:

- The need for weight restriction on Whitemoor Lane.
- The gap in Broadband provision on Middletown Lane.
- Provision of roundels on the roadway and Gateways in relation to traffic concerns - financed from my delegated transport budget.
- Various issues of potential flooding - urging attention by County's Flood Risk Management team.
- Made representations on the traffic impact of the Eastern Gateway Project, including belatedly being accepted on to the Steering group in relation to diversion of HGV's (I note that the Group hasn't been summoned since I joined it).
- Made representations to County Planning and Stratford Environmental Health in relation to brick crushing operations in Sambourne
- Made Council aware of the Members' Grant system. This year Council is notified that the deadline for applications from the 6k fund (for Studley Division) is June 7th.

9. Other matters raised by an Elector of the Parish

There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm