



SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 21st May 2018 at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Cllr Chris Clews	Chairman
Cllr Phil Jones	Vice-Chairman
Cllr David Shaw	
Cllr Pete Joynes	
Teresa Murphy	Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Phil Bond, Cllr Clive Rickhards, Cllr Hazel Wright, Cllr Justin Kerridge

There were 7 parishioners present.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2017

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

- Congratulations to Cllr Hazel Wright for 100% attendance at Parish Council meetings.
- Thanks to Terry our Clerk who handles things so well and ensures smooth running of all aspects of the PC.
- Thanks to other members of the PC for their time and effort on diverse matters: maintenance of the trees, producing the monthly biodiversity report and The Link magazine, flooding issues in the village, speeding action group and arranging the meeting with the PCC in attempt to improve policing.
- Thanks to all volunteers who do such a lot in the village – reporting problems, fixing problems, tidying the place and generally caring for Sambourne.
- Special thanks to Sue (and Phil) Jones who make all the borders so beautiful.

The following issues were addressed:

Planning

18 applications. After a successful appeal (Coach House) all 18 same outcome as PC.

Flooding

Involved flood protection officers from WCC. Cllr Bond met with them.

Automatic Extended Defibrillator

Commissioned and two training sessions completed

Seat around chestnut tree on the Green

Chestnut tree unsuitable site for the seat. Oak on bus shelter side of Green will be used.

Repair to the bus shelter

We were fortunate to win funding for this under County Councillor's Members Grant. This work has now been completed by a local builder.

Formation of Speeding Action Group

- Cllrs Pete Joynes and Phil Bond agreed to set up a Speeding Action Group.
- This met for the first time in November. A second meeting took place in May. Both were well attended.
- CSW is to be re-started. Rammy is leading this but problems have been encountered.
- We eventually obtained data from WCC for the twin pipe equipment deployed in Middletown about every 18 months or so.

Finger post – Perrymill Crossroads:

Two fingers were snapped: Perrymill Lane and the Coughton end of the Green. These have been welded and repainted. Thanks to Willis for arranging the welding.

Meeting in Studley with Police:

- A meeting with the Police has been held in Studley. Representatives from Sambourne were not invited to this meeting.
- It was felt that another meeting should be held to address the question of under-resourcing of local police. The PCC was to be invited to speak.
- Meeting took place in Studley with Police and PCC: Cllr Bond raised seven questions, which Cllr Wright submitted to the PCC in advance of the meeting.
- Representatives of Studley, Sambourne and Mappleborough Green were in attendance
- Cllr Bond felt that the questions were not dealt with satisfactorily and that another meeting should be arranged in the next 6 to 12 months.

Superfast Broadband

The properties in the Middletown area are to be connected to cabinet Studley 15. There have been a succession of delays to this final connection. Work completion is now stated as May 2018.

Dog fouling

- There has been a spate of fouling in Sambourne.
- SDC dog warden was on extended sick leave and duties were passed to environmental health who did nothing for several months.
- Thanks to three PC members: Phil Bond, Phil Jones and Peter Joynes for trying to control the problem.
- Thanks also to residents who took photographs of incidents.
- After a series of polite hints to the suspected dog owners the incidents seem fewer.
- New dog warden has been appointed. He has visited Sambourne and has committed to helping us. He intends to prosecute any proven offenders.

The Speed Activated Sign

Finally after many attempts the unit has been repaired – funded by Street Lighting at WCC!

Christmas Tree on the Green

A marvellous event which summarises everything about community spirit:

- Tree purchased by voluntary donations,
- organised by the Village Association,
- Tree raised by a JCB and a band of volunteers who were rewarded on completion with mulled wine.

- The lights were turned on this year by Father Christmas (AKA Rev Jim).
- The scene was further enhanced by a heavy fall of snow.
- It must have been the most photographed tree in Warks.
- Sadly on 12th night storm Eleanor took her wrath and snapped the tree.
- Again it was cleared up by the usual willing people.

Miscellaneous Items

- The PC adopted the Councillor Code of Conduct as adopted by Stratford upon Avon District Council on 16th October 2017; this replaces the Parish Councils existing code of Conduct.
- Clerk secured funding for IT equipment from Transparency Funding.
- Two voluntary surveys of culverts in Sambourne Lane and Middletown Lane were forwarded to WCC – poor response so far.
- Whitemoor Lane closed during September for £52K resurfacing.
- Planters on Middletown Green
- £200 donation for upkeep of Coughton Cemetery
- £100 to The Link
- Warwickshire Carer's Wellbeing Service: This is an excellent initiative between WCC and the NHS and could be of interest to residents of Sambourne who are carers or are in receipt of care.
- Facebook...Sambourne and Middletown Matters has about 300 members.

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council for 2017/18

- i. The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2017/18 had been finalised and agreed by the internal auditor.
- ii. The Certificate of Exemption for smaller Authorities was signed and will be returned to the external auditors.
- iii. The Annual Governance Statement had been considered prior to the meeting and was formally agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- iv. The Accounting Statement was formally approved by the Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.

The relevant documents will now be published on the website.

5. To receive a Report from the Sambourne Trust – Cllr David Shaw

- 2017/18 has seen the planned replacement of the central heating systems in the Trust properties reaching completion. This should increase efficiency and reduce costs for the tenants.
- The provision of a weekly shopping bus to Redditch, now in its 30th year, enabling parishioners to access banks, shops and Post Offices, has continued. This service has been well used and is seen by our parishioners as a useful social amenity.
- Lifelines have been provided for a number of vulnerable local people and mobility aids have been made available where necessary.
- Shopping vouchers for those of 70 years of age and over have been received with gratitude – a service which has been made available in various forms for well over forty years.
- Donations towards the cost of essential books for university students have been made. Donations have also been made to The Shakespeare Hospice, Myton Hospice, Friends of the Alexandra Hospital, Studley First Responders and the Air Ambulance Service, all of which play a part in the needs of the Parish.

- The communal garden area with associated ditch, hedges, grass and trees has been well maintained together with work on the properties. This has all been undertaken by local tradesmen who always do a good job for the Trust, if necessary at very short notice.
- Disaster struck in early March when the severe weather caused a water pipe in the roof space of a pair of our semi-detached properties to rupture, causing serious damage. These properties, both grade 2 listed buildings, were already scheduled for major refurbishment and the work has now been brought forward. Being listed and in a conservation area brings additional problems and, due to this, together with insurance ramifications, the work is likely to take up to 12 months to complete.
- My thanks go to our Warden who has had a busy year keeping a 'weather eye' on our properties and the tenants. I would also like to thank my fellow trustees whose support and help is going to be even more critical with the renovation work during the forthcoming year.

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

As Cllr Kerridge was unable to attend the meeting there was no Report.

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

As Cllr Wright was unable to attend the meeting there was no Report.

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

- A major item in Sambourne this past year has been the drainage problems. Part of the solution has been contacting Highways to deal with blocked and damaged drains. I have also put activists within the village in touch with Flood Risk Management Team at County to begin to look at the totality of water courses through the village. There is a particular question concerning Middletown Lane and the 'run off' from private land. Hopefully the team will be able to be persuasive in producing co-operation from local landowners. I pay tribute to the volunteer work of Cllr Phil Bond in addressing this issue.
- After much 'badgering' Traffic section repaired the VAS sign in Whitemoor Lane. There has also been resurfacing in this location, although it could be argued that this could have been at less cost.
- I have tried to press the case for an extension of Superfast Broadband in rural areas, including the more marginal areas of Sambourne. A way to go yet!
- A challenge in the coming year will be the problem of how excessive speeding can be combated.
- Finally, I would remind everyone of the lack of adequate funding of Warwickshire. It is generally not appreciated how dependant local government is on central government through the local government settlements.
- Last week I finished my tenure as Chairman of Warwickshire County Council. It has been a great honour representing such an historic County.

9. Other matters raised by an Elector of the Parish

None raised

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm