



SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 13th May 2013 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Chris Clews	Chairman
Cllr Phil Jones	
Cllr David Shaw	
Cllr Geoff Smith	
Cllr Roy Davies	
Cllr Clive Rickhards	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Justin Kerridge	Stratford District Council
Mrs T Murphy	Clerk

There were 6 parishioners present.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2012

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

- Thanks to Terry the clerk, fellow Councillors and for District and County representatives for attending as frequently as possible.
- 6 meetings: PC 100% except 1 meeting, DC ½, CC 2/3.
- Willis left PC ... thanks for his contributions. PC co-opted Roy Davies as his replacement.
- War Memorial – Roy agreed to head this. Quotes have been obtained so we can seek grants for the work.
- Flag pole on the Green – Geoff is looking after this and we hope to install this year.
- Alexandra Hospital – Clerk contacted MP to express concerns.
- Coughton cemetery maintenance – PC sent cheque to help with purchase of equipment to carry out the work.
- Community Governance Review – Parish boundaries.
- Core strategy
- *Traffic*
 - Handed petition to Cllr Rickhards and secured media coverage.

- Presentation to Community Forum from whom we got unanimous support.
- Parish Plan – completed and printed. Still to be adopted by SDC.
- Code of Conduct and Register of Interests for members of PC.
- *Planning*
 - Bloor homes – gave presentation
 - Outline application for comment – 6 houses in Brickyard Lane. Studley PC is opposed.
 - Results: received 14 – SDC decisions concurred, with the exception of 1 - extra lighting at Chestnut Court.
- Tree maintenance
- Biodiversity – more bird boxes have been installed and Phil has on-going interest.
- Rights of way partnership
- Flooding – Middletown Lane and Sambourne Lane. It appears that the problem is worsening and homes are at threat of flooding. We have involved County in the Middletown Lane problem. Sandbags have been provided in Sambourne Lane.
- Social events– thanks to everyone who organises these.
 - MiniFest
 - Diamond Jubilee – rescheduled due to weather. Funds for Air ambulance and Cancer research
 - Shakespeare on the Green.

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council for 2012/2013

The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2012/13 had been prepared and have been signed off 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 auditor, Grant Thornton.

5. To receive a Report from the WI

The Clerk read out the report at the request of the WI.

“It was with great sadness that we announced in December that we were suspending Sambourne WI for three years. If, during that period, people cannot be found to form a committee it will be officially closed after serving our community for so many years.

It is a huge loss as so many of our meetings have been open to non-members and we had, during 2012, interesting and even prestigious speakers such as Liam Darcy-Brown on The Grand Canal of China, Bernard Mills on Kays, the mail-order firm and Alan Benjamin on Morris dancing. We also heard about gardens and living abroad in the 60s and we made Christmas table flower decorations.

The Resolutions meeting kept us linked to the wider world. We should love our WI to be resurrected but need younger people to come forward.”

6. To receive a Report from the Sambourne Trust

David Shaw gave the following report on behalf of the Trust

2012/2013 has, like the previous year, been fairly problem free though a close eye on ever changing legislation has been necessary.

Our programme of maintenance and refurbishment has continued with two more properties having a completely new central heating system installed. A further two properties are scheduled for similar treatment during the forthcoming year.

The exceptionally wet weather in late spring/early summer tested the extensive drainage work which was done a few years ago and no problems were reported.

Some tree maintenance within the communal garden was undertaken, allowing more light into the area and eliminating potential risks from low and dead branches. The gardens were kept clean and tidy, with the paths being lit during the hours of darkness.

Public transport in the immediate vicinity being more or less non-existent, the weekly shopping bus provided by the Trust has been well supported. Some of the passengers use walking aids and wheelchairs and the extremely helpful drivers stow these safely away and reunite them with their owners as required.

The annual distribution of shopping vouchers to residents of 70 and over continued as in previous years. Financial support was given where needed, educational grants given and donations made to the Air Ambulance, the Shakespeare Hospice and the Friends of the Alexandra Hospital. Lifelines were again provided for vulnerable people together with mobility aids not funded by the NHS.

Our resident warden has liaised with the trustees whenever problems have arisen, enabling prompt action to be taken. She has also made frequent visits to our oldest resident who suffers mobility and other age related problems, augmenting the routine work undertaken by the carers.

As far as is practical all our maintenance and refurbishment is carried out by local tradesmen who have proved to be thorough and have given us prompt and first class service.

My sincere thanks go to Pauline, our secretary, to Anne, our warden, and to my fellow trustees for their work and help during the past year.

7. To receive a Report from Councillor Kerridge (SDC)

- SDC has been working on the Core Strategy. The final version is due in July 2013 but it will not be formally adopted until late 2014.
- New housing is planned for the Studley area, some of which come within Sambourne Parish. If there are planning concerns it is advisable to send a PC representative to the relevant Planning Committee meeting.
- Parish Boundary Review – resolution to be adopted by 2015.

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

The new composition of Warwickshire County Council is:

Conservative: 26; Labour : 22; Lib Dem: 9; Independent : 3; Green : 2

- At present cuts amount to at least £100 million over the next 4 years.
- There is a current issue over cuts now revealed but not present in the Budget which clearly threaten Children's Centres. These had been very much part of the Council's response to the expansion of Early Years Education.
- Locally the Studley Library has reached a Junior footfall now equal to that achieved under the full County system.
- There has been a programme of pothole filling and road resurfacing in central Studley. Cllr Rickhards is aware of more work outstanding in Sambourne.
- There is to be an extension of the 30 mph limit at the Sernal junction and back along Bromsgrove Road (which borders Sambourne). There is as yet no resolution of the enforcement of limits question in Middletown Lane and other parts of Sambourne.
- Some drainage work has been done in Sambourne over the past few months with hopefully more to come.
- Cllr Rickhards has been keeping a watch on staffing levels at Four Acres Residential Home and will continue to do so.
- We need to continue to pursue the possibility of at least partial usage of the Redditch Tip.

9. Issues of Local Importance

The resurfacing of potholes carried out on the Oak Tree Lane/Jill Lane junction was considered farcical. The work was done by a contract company, which neglected to repair extra potholes but were seen attempting to sell excess tarmac to local residents. Cllr Rickhards agreed to investigate.

Action: Cllr Rickhards

10. Other matters raised by an Elector of the Parish

No matters raised.