



SAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 12th May 2014 at 7.15pm

Present:

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

There were 11 parishioners present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Pete Joynes.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2013

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 max 6X5=30, actual 26, DC missed1, CC missed1.
- Geoff Smith left PC ... thanks for his contributions- his local knowledge proved useful on many occasions. He and Willis continue to attend PC meetings so we still have this bank of knowledge and gossip! PC co-opted Pete Joynes as his replacement in July.

Noteworthy Events

- Flagpole was erected on the Green. Designs are invited for a Sambourne flag (part of MiniFest).
- War memorial restoration is now complete. Many thanks to all involved, especially Roy who led the project.
- Signs on Green to request horse riders to keep off.
- The tenure of a member of Sambourne Trust came to an end and so the post was advertised. In accordance with the rules, the PC members chose from candidates put forward.
- Asked to adopt Kiln Close and settlement pond. This was rejected.
- We looked into a scheme for faster broadband (as installed in Feckenham). This proved costly and required 50 members. It was not pursued.

- The Parish Plan has been re-edited and resubmitted to SDC for approval.
- We investigated the railway bridge linking Sambourne Hall Farm with Wyke Lane with a view to obtaining listed status for it. The authorities will grant this only if it is deemed to be “under threat”- In the course of the investigation we learned that it is owned by the Crown.
- Phil plus volunteers continued the biodiversity effort on the wide verge in Middletown Lane. Thanks to Phil for taking care of the tree maintenance programme.
- Speeding - more data, same results but no action by WCC.
- Neighbourhood Watch still operating. (Swift response by police when NW contacted them about a woman selling artwork door to door late in the evening)
- Newcomers information sheet, PC standing orders and revised PC emergency plan produced.
- Coughton cemetery maintenance – PC decided to contribute £200 p.a. to this scheme following a letter from Coughton PC.

Planning

- We received 22 applications. In only 2 instances did SDC decide against our comments.
- There was a scheme for 60 houses on the caravan park on Bromsgrove Road. PC raised several objections and SDC have refused the scheme.
- Representation from Astwood Bank CC for an extended ground, improved facilities plus football pitch and 6 houses. Gave presentation and the scheme was unanimously rejected by the PC and those present.
- The story in the LibDem Focus newsletter announcing a proposed development of affordable housing in Sambourne by The Trust, funded by money from development in Morton Bagot. Schemes like these will continue to be a concern until the Core strategy/local plan is finalised by SDC.

Miscellaneous Items

- Flooding – Middletown Lane and Sambourne Lane. It appears that the problem is worsening and homes are at threat of flooding. We have made County aware of the two locations.
- Fourth grit box installed at Capilano corner.
- Social events and Shakespeare on the Green -thanks to everyone who organises these.
- The Link and The Voice continue to inform and amuse people.

4. Annual Accounts of Sambourne Parish Council 2013/2014

The Clerk reported that the accounts for 2013/2014 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 auditor, Grant Thornton.

5. To receive a Report from the WI

It was reported, with regret, that the WI is not at present operational. If sufficient interest is shown it will be resurrected.

6. To receive a report from the Sambourne Trust

Cllr David Shaw gave the following report:

- The Trust has had a successful year. There has been one change of trustee, the new incumbent having experience and skills which will be an asset to the Trust.

- Little damage has been experienced from the rain and wind during the winter. Minor damage was repaired within a few days.
- Central heating replacement has been carried out on two properties and two more properties are due to have similar upgrades during the coming year. Substantial renovation work is scheduled for one of the listed properties and communal gardens and boundary hedges have been maintained.
- The weekly shopping bus provided by the Trust has been well supported by the Sambourne parishioners.
- The Trust has continued to help with the cost of mobility aids for vulnerable people, as well as the annual distribution of shopping vouchers for parishioners of seventy years and over. Other financial support has been given in educational grants, donations to the Air Ambulance, Shakespeare Hospice, Myton Hospice and the Friends of the Alexandra Hospital. A defibrillator has been purchased and presented to Coughton school.
- A grant offered by SDC for the construction of additional affordable housing is under consideration pending further details from the District Council.
- Sincere thanks were given to Pauline, the Trust's secretary, Anne, the resident warden and fellow trustees.

7. **To receive a report from Cllr Kerridge (SDC)**

- The Core Strategy has been passed as a Council and will now go to the technical consultants for further consultation. It is anticipated that the document will be adopted next year.
- Sambourne is still a green belt village and there is no reason to suspect any unnecessary development. If any planning disagreement does arise the advice is to send a delegate from the Parish Council to Planning Committee.

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

- WCC plans to make further savings in the next 2 years. The local impact of this has been the downgrading of Alcester fire station. Consultation is still underway and Cllr Rickhards will keep the Parish Council informed.
- The Community Library in Studley is proving successful and thanks were expressed to all the volunteers involved.
- The current position for the Youth Service in Studley is that it will be closing in July 2014. The Children's Centre is to be retained.
- Consultation is taking place concerning parking restrictions for the Car Boot sale.
- WCC will repair the solar powered bollards on the Sough.
- WCC is negotiating with Coughton PC over parking problems in Coughton Lane.
- The £5000 Member's Fund is still in force. Claims to be made by September 2014.

9. **Issues of particular local importance :** None

10. **Other Matters raised:** None