

SALEWAY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Carole Hirst, 1a Church Walk, Stourport on Severn, Worcestershire. DY130AL

Minutes of Saleway Annual Parish Meeting

Held at Himbleton Parish Hall
On May 8th 2019, at 7:00pm

Present : Cllr Mr S Rendle (Chair), Cllr Mr P Clamp, Cllr Mr A Knight, Cllr D Jenkins, Cllr S Rothero and Cllr R Keel

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Mrs M Rowley, County Cllr Mr A Miller, and 6 members of the public.

Meeting Opened at 7:09pm. There were no questions from the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Mr J Boaz
2. **Chairman's Report 2018/19** was given by Cllr Rendle (Chair), as follows:-

The Council have met 6 times during the previous year, I extend my thanks to all members of the Parish Council for their commitment over the last 12 months.

I would like to extend our thanks to Cllr Tony Miller and Cllr Margaret Rowley our respective County Council and District Councillors, who take the time to attend our meetings and contribute significantly to the work of Saleway Parish Council.

Lengthsman

Robin Warner has taken up the role of Parish Lengthsman. He is now fully qualified and attending to Lengthsman duties as they arise within the parishes. He also attends the Parish Council meetings to discuss any problems that may occur. The budget via the Worcestershire County Council funded Lengthsman Scheme for last year was £3,081 and has been set for the same amount for the coming year.

Crime

We receive crime reports for presentation to some of our meetings. The most commonly reported incidents within the parish is theft of property and speeding issues. The speeding issues we have tried to address with VAS equipment and through police surveying and putting pressure on the Police.

Precept

The precept for 2018/19 was £4,600. The precept for 2019/20 remains as per 2018/19 even though there were planned additional costs of an election although we are now un-contested we still have admin costs to pay.

Finance

The Clerk will present the parish accounts for the year in a moment. The accounts have been audited internally, the governance documentation will be published via the website to meet with the transparency code regulations. Due to the fact that both our gross income and gross expenditure are less than £25,000 a Certificate of Exemption will be submitted to PKF Littlejohn in line with the Annual Governance and Accountability Return procedure for 2018/19 – this exempts the Parish Council from an External Audit this year.

Website

We hope that the website will give the community easier access to up to date information relating to; the meetings, issues and initiatives that the Parish Council are

involved with. The website can be found by googling www.salewayparishcouncil.org.uk.

Planning

We have dealt with in excess of 30 planning applications in 2018/19 to date. In the majority of cases the Council have raised no objections to planning applications, but on several occasions the Parish Council involvement has been required and we have lodged our comments in writing, spoken directly with the Planning Department or attended the relevant planning meeting with Wychavon to voice concerns.

New Homes Bonus

A proposal is with Wychavon District Council to progress a project for the Himbleton Village Hall Roof Project. This is still in the planning stages.

There is currently approximately £33,380 available to spend. It is important that this money is used for the benefit of the local community.

Clerk

Our Clerk has been with us since July 2018 and has the experience of 36 years in Local Government.

Telephone Boxes

The Parish Council took ownership of the telephone boxes at; Earls Common, Sale Green and Hadzor in 2016, and we have recently acquired the kiosk in Himbleton. Volunteers are being sought to assist with the refurbishment of the kiosks and it is our hope that these iconic landmarks can be preserved for the future. Sale Green is now renovated and houses a defibrillator which both Parish and County Council donated to. This is being managed by the Heart Society at Sale Green.

Defibrillator

We have been extremely fortunate to have taken possession of a defibrillator via our County Councillor Tony Miller. This life-saving piece of equipment sited outside the Galton Arms. Free training for interested members of the community has been delivered. Sale Green Defibrillator has been recently purchased.

Notice Boards

During 2017 the Parish Council have invested in replacement notice boards. This investment is important as the noticeboards are a vital link to members of the community. We have replaced the old boards that were in poor condition with modern, weather-proof, robust equivalents. The Parish Council have installed all seven boards.

Finance

Clerk will present the parish accounts for the year in a moment. The accounts have been audited internally, the governance documentation will be published via the website to meet with the transparency code regulations. Due to the fact that both our gross income and gross expenditure are less than £25,000 a Certificate of Exemption will be submitted to PKF Littlejohn in line with the new Annual Governance and Accountability Return procedure for 2018/19 – this exempts the Parish Council from an External Audit this year.

Website

We received a grant in 2017 to enable the Parish Council to meet the Transparency Code legislation, and this has been used to; purchase a laptop computer, a printer/scanner and also to set up a website. We hope that the website will give the community easier access to up to date information relating to; the meetings, issues and initiatives that the Parish Council are involved with. The website can be found by googling www.salewayparishcouncil.org.uk.

Planning

We have dealt with in excess of 30 planning applications in 2017/18. In the majority of cases the Council have raised no objections to planning applications, but on several occasions the Parish Council involvement has been required and we have lodged our comments in writing, spoken directly with the Planning Department or attended the relevant planning meeting with Wychavon to voice concerns.

New Homes Bonus

We are pleased to report that funding from the New Homes Bonus has been used across the last few weeks to develop facilities at Himbleton Cricket Club, including refurbishment of the Gent's toilets and construction of a base for the score board. There is currently approximately £33,000 available to spend, it is important that this money is used for the benefit of the local community, ideas for larger scale projects would be welcomed for consideration. We have been delighted to receive some suggestions from the community which are being considered currently, these include a bus shelter and some pre-school age appropriate play equipment.

Clerk

Our Clerk has recently commenced studies for the CiLCA qualification, which is a recognised level 3 qualification and will take approximately one year to complete. This represents a significant commitment in terms of time and effort from the Clerk and will benefit both the Council and the local community once completed.

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Defibrillator

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Notice Boards

During 2017 the Parish Council have invested in replacement notice boards. This investment is important as the noticeboards are a vital link to members of the community. We have replaced the old boards that were in poor condition with modern, weather-proof, robust equivalents. The Parish Council have installed two boards and the remaining five are to be replaced over the coming months.

3. Parish Council Accounts 2018/19

Clerk reported that an internal audit had been conducted. The opening balance at the start of the financial year was £8,456.61 expenditure throughout the year totalled £12,694.43 and the Council receipts/income totalled £14,573.12. The closing balance for the year was £10,335.30. The Accounts were approved and signed by Chair and Clerk/RFO.

4. District Councillors Annual Report – Cllr Rowley

This year has seen a number of changes have been put in place, including:

Work has begun on updating the South Worcestershire Development Plan, extending the plan period until 2041.

Improvements have been made to the planning enforcement service. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee is closely monitoring progress.

A series of workshops have been run for parish councils and community groups.

The Council was assessed as the worst in the West Midlands for social mobility. An action plan is being drawn up to tackle the issue.

The New Homes Bonus scheme has been changed to a Community Legacy Grants Scheme.

FCC was appointed waste collection contractor is saving the Council £500,000 a year as well as taking additional items for recycling.

Owners of empty homes are being given support by the Council to bring them back into use.

The Council has appointed a Homeless Prevention Officer to help people at risk of homelessness.

5. County Councillor Annual Report – Cllr Miller

You should have had notification of the parking restrictions which should be implemented on the C2118 and the C2032 in Himbleton. This notification has been issued and any views should be communicated to Kieran Hemstock, Senior Traffic Management Engineer by 31st May, 2019.

I will continue to ensure that the roads are maintained and I will continue with the upkeep of the roads within your parish.

Flooding issues outside the Galton Arms will be addressed by an additional gully to be installed on the opposite side of the road to the Galton Arms, no date has been set yet for this action.

I have given financial support over the last year and you have received £1700 which is almost 20% of my allowance. I am pleased to announce that there are grants available to improve the energy efficiency of public parish halls, along with the Natural Networks grant of 45% towards bio-diversity and pollinators, this gives the parish the opportunity to greatly enhance the look of the local area.

I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

This report concluded the business for the Annual Parish Meeting.
Meeting closed at 7:20pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date