

## HARVINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 5th of May 2021 at 6.00 pm virtually via ZOOM.

**Present:** Cllr. Dr. Davies (Chair of the Parish Council), County Cllr Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. N. Holland (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1. **Welcome**, apologies received from Mrs. Allison, Mr. Clements, Mr. Baugh and Mr. Williams.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on April 4th 2019.** Resolved that the minutes were of a correct record, duly signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising from minutes - nil.**

4. **Report from Chairman of the Parish Council:**  
No meeting held in 2019 due to the pandemic.  
**Neighbourhood Plan:** Referendum 87% on a 10 percent turnout. Wychavon District Council approved; useful document to use in planning decisions.  
**Play Equipment** - July 2019 new play equipment installed.  
From April 2020 meetings took place virtually due to Covid 19 pandemic. No site visits were able to take place, very difficult to get quotes on any projects. Matters reported to highways - maintenance teams affected by the pandemic.  
Spent a lot of time on planning issues especially with the Crest Hill development and applications along Leys Road.  
**Road safety:** Meetings held within COVID restrictions to look at the traffic issue along the Evesham/Alcester Road. Two VAS signs ordered for this area, supply issue but hope to be installed by July 2021. Grateful to County Cllr. Mr. Hopkins for his financial contribution towards the purchase cost.

5. **Avon and Arrow Greenway Project: Ms Smith reported:**  
Plan for a walking/cycling route that will hopefully join with the Stratford Greenway route. Project has been in place for last 2-3 years. Wychavon District Council is aware of the project and discussions on funding have been held. Over the past year have contacted Parish Councils in the area between Bidford-on-Avon and the Bidford Surgery and onto Stratford-on-Avon to gauge interest in the scheme. Funding is going well; support received from various parties. Sustrans have given costs for implementing the route. Salford Priors Parish Council will discuss proposals to transfer CIL funds to the project which hopefully will go towards the walkway/cycleway to Salford Priors, Wixford and onto Alcester. This part of the project is on course to be deliverable within the next 18 months. Wychavon District Council has appointed an Active Transport Officer who will be looking at the route from Evesham to the Valley out towards Harvington and hoping to link up with Salford Priors. Waiting for discussions with Worcestershire County Council and appraising the newly elected County Councillor of the project.  
Harvington Parish Council to pick up the project from Norton - need to talk to landowners re cycle routes across their property.  
Salford Priors to Wixford - ecological studies, legal agreements being discussed. Mainly being funded through CIL monies from building projects in the area.  
Financially: Reserves Evesham Council, Worcestershire County Council, donations from

6. **Presentation on the following projects:**  
**a) BT Kiosk renovation project: Mr. Richardson reported:** Contractor found to carry out

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	<p>work on the Kiosk which will include a new door. Will be painted inside and out. The Defibrillator from the Coach &amp; Horses to be placed in the Kiosk once renovation complete.</p>
	<p><b><u>b) Update on work to the Playing Field and Jubilee Orchard:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Playing Field: Ms Smith reported:</u></b> The playing field has proved extremely popular since the enforced closure of all the equipment last year in line with Government guidance. The PC would like to thank you all for respecting those rules, also thank you for clearing your litter into the bins, which are emptied weekly by a volunteer Parish Councillor. We have a new bench which was donated by the family in memory of Mr. Eric Newing. This year we have purchased a picnic bench which is suitable for wheelchair or pram users, a new notice board has been erected, the bark has been topped up under the play equipment and the trees around the perimeter have all been pruned back. Our future plans include the surface under the swings being replaced, we are looking at a wildlife area in the far corner and, of course, there is always a chance of more play equipment.</p> <p><b><u>The Orchard: Clerk reported on behalf of Mrs Allison.</u></b></p> <p>As per the playing field we had to tape off the play equipment and again thank everyone for keeping to the rules. We have installed two new notice boards, one at the pedestrian entrance and the other at the car park entrance, although one has been damaged already and is being repaired at a cost of £141.20 + VAT, such a sad state when brand new equipment gets vandalised. There is a new picnic bench, again with accessibility for wheelchairs / prams, the brambles between the pedestrian and Blakenhurst entrances have been treated several times and a new hedge has now been planted, more trees will be purchased and planted during this year and another litter bin at the pedestrian entrance. The PC has asked Rooftop Housing to look at the fencing near the pedestrian entrance as it is in a poor state of repair. We are currently looking at ways to display the plaques with the trees planted and those residents who were involved in the set up of the orchard, so some exciting things are happening in both public areas within the village. I would also like to add, at this point, that throughout the village inspections take place by the councillors on a regular basis, looking at everything from street lamps, bus shelters etc, the flood defence systems and weekly inspections of the playing field and the orchard to ensure everything is in good order, the problem of dog fouling in the public areas remains a concern to us all but is extremely difficult to control. The PC has sought advice from many quarters but is unable to find any means to control this. We just have to hope that dog owners learn to take full responsibility for their four-legged friends.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>County Cllr Mr. Hopkins reported:</u></b> Paperwork to be distributed once Purdah is over. The footways in the conservation area in Village Street are on a list of work to be carried out shortly.</p> <p><b><u>Crossroads</u></b> - site visit took place in the summer with the Highways Officer who was concerned with the speed of the traffic. It is on Highways radar but will be slow in implementing any works.</p> <p><b><u>COVID</u></b> - numbers reduced in the area, few people remain in hospital.</p> <p>Thanked all members and the Clerk for their assistance. All members wished to thank Anthony for all his hard work over the past 4 years especially in regard to matters that were of concern to the residents.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator report:</u></b> No report received.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Harvington Village Hall: Mrs. Adkins reported:</u></b> Since lockdown the Village Hall has been</p>

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	closed to the pandemic apart from the Nursery which was kept open for use by key workers. Since the end of April 2021 Rainbows have started to use the Hall again. Problems with the heating system, repairs were required; Green Room floor is damp, repairs required - all ongoing. It is expected that the Hall will be fully opened by the 21st June depending on restrictions.
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<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Tree Warden, Mr. Williams report received:</b></p> <p>In January and early February 2020: Main tasks were removing the epicormic growth and lifting the crowns of those trees that required attention along Alcester Road. I managed to deal with half the trees along Alcester Road and also later in Jan and Feb had a good session tackling the Turkey Oaks at the bottom of Crest Hill. Work at the bottom of Crest Hill involved the help of Hugh Nunn (the past Tree Warden) on one of the days; he was visiting the village and said he was keen to keep his hand in! Unfortunately, soon after this the Pandemic was looming, and I went into isolation a couple of weeks before the official date in March 2020. I have done no further work on the trees in the village in 2020.</p> <p>In mid-March 2021, I started going out for longer walks around the village and went back to working on the remaining trees along Alcester Road in early April. After finishing on Alcester Road, I am going back to the bottom of Crest Hill to finish off pruning and crown lifting trees in the grassy area along the old bypass.</p> <p>Following this, I plan to replace the Sycamore that died at the bottom of Crest Hill and then do some needed crown lifting and ivy removal on the trees along Evesham Road, particularly those trees near the fence at the back of the houses in Orchard Place that parallel Evesham Road.</p> <p>Pandemic permitting, I hope to spend the rest of this year up Leys Road dealing with trees (particularly the Poplars) that have been in need of attention since my last visit nearly 3 years ago.</p> <p>I will also check on the health of the Elm Trees along Leys Road to see if any more have died. These Elms were planted 10 years ago are now at the height to be susceptible. They are part of Hugh Nunn's experiment to see if seeds and clones from current surviving Elms around the country can survive/ resist Dutch Elm disease. Hugh and I last checked these in 2019 and although there were a number of dead and dying trees it was good to see a large number of healthy Elms.</p> <p>Finally, I have a very small number of seedlings of Sycamore, Silver Birch, Swedish White beam and Rowan that are close to a size for planting out.</p>
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<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Parish Paths Warden:</b> Dave Harrington reported that all paths are in good order, a lot of work done down Anchor Lane -stiles removed, bridge replaced. Carries out some minor work on behalf of the County Council but the majority is done by their volunteers.</p>
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**Matters raised by parishioners:** Nil.

**Meeting closed at 6.55 pm.**

**No meeting held in 2020 due to COVID 19 pandemic.**

**Signed by the Chairman> Dr. C. Davies. 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**