

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BARROW PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT WILLEY VILLAGE HALL, WILLEY, ON THURSDAY.
11TH MAY, 2017, AT 6.30 P.M.**

- 1. PRESENT: Councillors N.D. Downes (Chairman), P. Knott, Ms. A. Skinner, S. Churchill.**
- 2. IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk and 6 members of the public.**
- 3. APOLOGIES:**
Councillor P.M. Whiteman and Shropshire Councillor D. Turner.
- 4. CHAIRMANS REPORT:**
We have again seen another year go by which I can hardly believe. I think that the last year in Barrow Parish has been fairly quiet for us as Councillors.

There have been a few planning issues and I think we as a Council have had more influence with the Planning Officer and Committee than in previous years. Let us hope that this will continue as I firmly believe we represent the feeling of the parishioner better than the higher tiers of Council and appointed Council Officers.

Parking and speeding cars remain an ongoing problem in the Parish particularly in The Benthall/Bridge Road area and we were very happy to have a Police Officer at our March meeting who listened to our concerns and offered advice and a physical presence to help monitor the situation.

Although fly tipping, thankfully is still fairly uncommon, it still occurs, and litter in general blights our roadsides and hedges. I urge anyone who spots incidents of this to take details, e.g. vehicle registration numbers, and report it to the relevant authorities. On a similar vein there has been a spate of very deliberate dumping of broken bottles on a bridleway at Shirlett, the idiots who have done this have dug holes, tied string between trees over the bridleway, felled trees etc. all with the intention of causing a nuisance to riders, walkers, cyclists using the bridleway. Fortunately, no one has been hurt but the seriousness of these incidents cannot be Understated. I urge anyone who knows who may be responsible to contact the Police before there is injury of death to animals or a person.

Last Thursday saw local and County elections and we have had a change in Barrow Parish. I am happy to welcome Miss Anne Skinner and Mr. Steven Churchill as new Councillors of Barrow. Although not a large parish we have representatives on several local organisations and I hope Anne and Steven will strengthen our ability to fulfil this obligation.

I also congratulate our Shropshire Council Member Mr. David Turner who remains in position for the Much Wenlock Ward, which includes Barrow Parish and was the only Shropshire Councillor elected un-opposed.

It is with sadness that the arrival of two new Councillors means we say goodbye to two others: we would like to say a heartfelt goodbye to Councillors Mrs. Shirley King and Mrs. Sally Gibbons who have spent many years on the Council and on various bodies as our ambassadors. They have served with diligence, breadth of knowledge and good humour and it really will be sad not to see them here again, but we wish them all the very best in their retirement.

Shirley and Philip Knott have been instrumental in securing money from Shropshire Council to erect three benches in the Parish to provide resting places for walkers on the footpaths and bridleways through our beautiful parish. Philip and myself will over the next couple of months put the benches in position for the use of anyone for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank fellow Councillor Mr. Philip Knott, Mr. Milner Whiteman, O.B.E., Mr. David Turner and our Clerk Mr. Les Oakley for all they do to help make my job as Chair an easy and pleasurable experience and to any members of the public who attend our bi-monthly meetings here at Willey Village Hall.

Thank You.

5. FOLK AND GENTRY WALK:

Councillor P. Knott gave a brief update on the Folk and Gentry Walk. Having been told by Shropshire Council that this project had been successful in the public vote it transpired that the project had not been successful but because of the error the project would receive their entitled payment.

The benches had now been ordered and delivered and would be erected in the near future and the route would be waymarked.

The project was a joint venture with Broseley Town Council.

Chairman
13th July, 2017