

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Ilmington's Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday, 11th May, 2011.

Present: Mr. A.G. Wilkins (Chairman), Mrs. A. Wright, Messrs. F.J. Edmunds, & M.P. Taylor (Parish Councillors) and some 30 Parishioners. Also present were County Cllr. I. Seccombe and District Cllr. C.J. Saint.

Apologies were received from Mrs. P.J. Maguire, Mr. D.V. Sabin and Colonel and Mrs. Bird.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Defibrillator. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had donated £2,000 to the Defibrillator group, and that the former men's outside toilet at the Village Hall had been refurbished as a central collection unit for the equipment, and was in permanent use. Ms. R. Allison thanked the Parish Council for their donation.
2. Compton Scorpion Green Lane. In October an application for a Traffic Regulation Order limiting the use of the Far Longdon track to non-motorised users was approved. There had been no appeal to date from the Trail Riders Fellowship. A bridge had been built over the stream for the use of horse riders, walkers and bicyclists.
3. Damage to Verges. This was discussed at length, but it was difficult to make contractors carry out repairs, as it was not possible to decide which contractors were responsible for such damage, particularly on the Upper Green. Mr. Chris Payne suggested that plastic mesh could be put down so that the grass could grow through it, but this was thought to be too expensive. Mrs. S. Ribbans had asked County Cllr. Seccombe if part of the road round the Upper Green could be widened when it was next resurfaced, but Cllr. Seccombe said that the money was just not available for such work.

ACCOUNTS

1. Parish Council. These had been circulated, and the Clerk explained that she had only just received the documents back from the Internal Auditor. The accounts would be available for inspection by any parishioner at the end of May, and a notice to that effect would soon be put on the notice board.

2. Village Hall. Mrs. Shirley Maybey introduced herself as the new Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, and she thanked Mr. R. Shurey, the retiring Chairman, for all his dedicated work during the last year. She gave an account of the finances and said that alterations and improvements were needed in the hall. From a recent survey of residents and user groups it had been agreed that the top priorities for the renovations were kitchen modernisation, storage and a new eco-friendly heating system, and the Committee aimed to raise £30,000 in the next year. An information sheet would be distributed to all houses about a "Buy a Brick" scheme for the hall renovations. Already the electrical system had been updated at a cost of approximately £1,600 and the District Council had given a grant for the project. The Committee hoped that the Parish Council would give them a donation of £2/3,000 which would help in their application for a Lottery grant. Mrs. Maybey was thanked by the Chairman.

3. Charities. An account of the finances was given by Miss Rene Sabin, and she was thanked by the Chairman.

4. Sports & Social Club. Mr. Richard Law reported that the Club had lost approximately £1,000 over the year. This was due largely to the significant increase in fixed costs, coupled with a reduction in events being held at the Sports Club during 2010 and the collapse of the Club floor. Additionally there were fewer clubs contributing to the fixed costs. The collapse of the Club floor in October prevented one event from being held in December, which on its own would have brought the Club back to level finances. The proposal in 2011 was to offer outside bars, as a way to generate additional income. Further sources of funding would also have to be found if the Club was to remain financially viable beyond the short term. Nevertheless the Club was currently in profit. There was to be a meeting of the committee in the next few days to discuss the situation, and they hoped to reopen the club house and bar soon. Mr. Law was thanked by the Chairman.

5. Multi Sports Club. Mr. R. Leadbeater gave an account of the activities of the club. There were some 300 members, and the income was up. There were thriving junior football, floorboard and tennis teams. He reported that they planned to carry out the renewal of the tennis court carpets later this year, and that this would cost in the region of £25,000 plus VAT. They would be applying for a grant to offset some of the cost, and the most likely source of grant, up to £10,000, would be Awards for All which was a National Lottery funded grant. Mr. Leadbeater was thanked by the Chairman for his report and also for all the work the club was doing for young people.

6. Playing Field Committee. Mr. Richard Law gave an account of the finances of the Committee. The clubs were all paying their fees, but Ilmington Revolutions were folding. There was still a great need to improve the car park. He was thanked by the Chairman.

FLOOD PREVENTION

Mr. Clive Tinson reported on the work already carried out by County Highways, which included the clearing of the culvert in Middle Street, the provision of a grid in the stream by the entrance to Wharf Farm House, work to repair the wall along the stream at the back of the Manor, and a new pipe and other work by the Fish. The one remaining important piece of work to be done was repairing the wall in Peggy's Lane alongside Linholm. Mr. Tinson asked that if anyone knew of any work being done in these areas by outside agencies, they should report it either to him or the Chairman.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mr. Rupert Wyles asked why, when the vast majority of residents cut the grass in front of their properties, that in front of the Manor was not cut. It was explained that this area of grass was the responsibility of the District Council, but it had unfortunately been missed along with other areas when the verges were cut in March. District Cllr. Saint agreed to speak to the District Streetscene Manager and ask for a time table of the Highway Verge cutting, and to ask him to make sure that no areas on the maps were missed. Mr. Geoff Davies said that the situation had become worse recently, and asked why the Parish Council could not arrange for the verges to be cut and pay people to do it. Mr. Stephen Wright said that we were living in tough times and that spending should be prioritised. He personally liked long grass, but on a show of hands it was clear that most people wanted the verges to be cut regularly. Cllr. Saint also agreed to ask the District Council whether there was any money for Parish Councils to pay for verge cutting. Cllr. Martin Taylor assured the meeting that the grass in front of the Manor would be cut before the gardens were open in June.
2. Roads and potholes. The Chairman reported that he had been all round the village with Mr. Jeff Morris of County Highways, pointing out things that wanted doing. Mrs. Bird had fallen over a dip in the edge of Campden Hill and sustained some injuries, and this should be reported to Mr. Morris. He should also be reminded of the large potholes in Featherbed Lane near the telephone exchange. Mr. Andrew Gunn reported that Foxcote Hill from the gates to Foxcote towards Ebrington was in a very bad state of repair, and County Cllr. Seccombe agreed to investigate.
3. Mr. Geoff Davies asked why the Parish Council supported the appeal against the refusal of planning permission by the District Council for the retention of the existing storage building and access at Avis Hill Corner, Campden Hill. The Chairman declared an interest and took no further part in this discussion. Cllr. Taylor explained that the owner of Avis Hill Corner had been assured that this was permitted development and that therefore no planning application was necessary. However, after a complaint had been received, a retrospective planning application was made and paid for, but was refused by the District Council. The owner then went to appeal, and the Parish Council supported him as they did not agree with any of the reasons given for the refusal. Moreover, all the neighbours of the property had agreed that the work done there had tidied up and improved the site considerably.

4. Mr. Stephen Wright welcomed Mrs. Alison Wright and Mr. Fred Edmunds as new Parish Councillors. He also suggested that the Parish Council accounts and the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting should be put on the village website. He then thanked the Chairman, the Councillors and the Clerk for all their work during the past year.

5. The Chairman spoke about the local elections and regretted the fact that Mr. Mark Robinson and Mr. Bob Scott were no longer on the Council. Both of them had done much valuable work. He also welcomed Mrs. Wright and Mr. Edmunds.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Date

Chairman