

Worton Annual Parish Meeting held in Worton and Marston Village Hall on Monday 30th May 2022

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from Tamara Raey and Rob Goss
6 councillors and 20 Residents attended

2. To approve the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting - Monday 26th April 2021

Cllr Powell proposed-seconded David Johnson

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

No Matters arising

4. Chair's introduction to the meeting

Cllr Devine briefly outlined the major aspects of the work carried out by the council over the previous year, these being:-

- Managing money
- The new Village Maintenance Group
- Planning Issues
- Speed Indicator devices-The installation of which is now 6th on list of Wiltshire Council CATG group priorities - the installation of which is imminent but we need to be patient in this regard. (Cllr Slack)
- Play areas- have some funding but nowhere near enough for a big build-if potential housing development takes place section 106 funding would become available to improve recreational facilities which we may be able to have some input on form and location.
- Worton 11 footpath improvement- Particular Thanks to Patricia Goodenough and other residents for their generosity and efforts.
- Supporting village activities
- Responding as necessary to issues raised by residents

5. Report of the finances of the Parish Council

Liz Starling is currently continuing as our Responsible Finance officer.
Cllr Devine summarised the main facts and figures.

Please see attached summary.

6. Worton Community Fund

Community Fund Grants were outlined- Please see attached summary
Joe Kid (parishioner) asked about the surplus indicated in the figures. This was explained by Cllrs present as being the result of efficiency, cutting costs by doing work within the community- eg the maintenance group and the need to budget for on-going commitments and to cover unpredictable costs.

Anne Dunham (parishioner) asked if the community could be involved in "Village in bloom", would the council be involved? Cllr Devine explained that there were rules in terms of how Community Fund grants could be allocated but that a proposal such as this or similar could well fall within the remit.-rules on this but with flexibility it would be considered.

Full details of the RFO's statement attached.

7. Report from Wiltshire Councillor Tamara Reay
Cllr Devine gave a brief summary.

Please see attached for full report plus will be available in the Bridge magazine

8. Report from Worton United Charities

Nothing to report on this occasion

9. Public Forum

a. Jubilee events- Chris Johnson reminded everyone of what is happening over the coming weekend.

a. David Johnson gave an update on the books that have been produced commemorating the two World Wars.

The WW1 edition raised £300 to date and the WW2 edition has raised £100 so far for the Charities involved. Copies will be available at the Jubilee celebration event.

c. Cllr Stokes gave a brief update on the activities of the Gardening Club, specifically the Open Gardens weekend on 25-26 June from 12-5pm. 16 gardens will be open with money raised in aid of Julia's house and village causes. Will be centred on the Rose and Crown. There has been a good response to requests for help and a rota will be issued in due course.

d, Traffic Issues

Cllr Susanne Bonfield summarised Issues and Incidents that have given cause for concern including :-

Speeding

Number of vehicles- 600 vehicles in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour

Narrow or no pavements

Struck by wing mirrors

Parked cars damaged

Walls and hedges damaged

Lorries mount pavement

Village gate hit by a car

(Please see attached for fuller details)

Parishioners also shared concerns including :-

Lack of dropped curbs- (Patricia Goodenough)

Is there any evidence that SIDs result in a decrease in traffic speed? (Gaisford Chase Resident Chris?)

Aggression by drivers

Pam Woods- Jan Rose- bus on pavement

Parking along High Street both sides hard to move round with speeding traffic

Junctions of joining roads difficult to see

Chris Nixon- road classification and road data

Seasonal agricultural vehicles driven by contractors

Practical solutions

- David Johnson- moving the speed 50-30 at the east end of the village similar to the west end
- Ann- Dunham - lobby parliament for fixed penalty fines for speeding
- Alun Numan- Parish Council lobby Police and Crime commissioner
- Chris Johnson -encourage residents to cut back hedges that grow out onto pavement making pedestrian access difficult.

Cllr Bonfield reported on discussions she had had with Gareth Rogers (Wilts council Highways) and on other developments.

This included :-

Highways things that can be done :-

- Residents can put signs on bins/gardens/gates
- Traffic calming- speed bumps (are noisy and undermine foundations). Narrowing points- expensive would need 4
- Weight limits- exemptions for local business
- Width restrictions of vehicles
- Remove road from Sat Navs.
- Advisory signs- lorry with line through
- Apply to have pavements wider- may calm? Highways and Health and Environmental issues
- Equestrian warning
- **Auto speed watch- Police are now supporting this!!**

Full details of Susanne's report attached

BD thanked Susanne and Tamara for their work on this area

Attendees then shared ideas, which included:-

Patricia Goodenough- cars parked either side- priority signs
Chris Nixon -School signage should be more visible- flashing warning lights. School should have its own traffic plan.(Tamara and Suzanne will be meeting with the new Headteacher. To clarify the school's position and intentions)

It was pointed out by members of the Council that consultations had been taking place with the school and that Highways will not support a permanent 20MPH limit, but that the school could investigate a temporary 20mph - at specific times during the school day.

Rumble strips-(Joe?)

30MPH roundels could be renewed (Cllr Powell)

Colour of tarmac could change on approaches to village (Cllr Powell)

"20 is plenty" signs - cheap and easily actioned (Parishioner Catherine...?)

Community action to encourage residents to drive below 30MPH through village - could be suggested in Bridge. (Parishioner Catherine...?)

Is it about time there was another Metro count? (supported by Cllr Stokes)

Alun Numan also questioned whether both Autospeedwatch and SIDS would be needed . Cllr Devine explained how they would hopefully complement each other.

Sandra Numan -could zebra crossings be installed at strategic points in the village?

Patricia Goodenough - A priority system to calm traffic via road emplacements and signage.

30MPH advisory signs on bins (could be supplied via PC and could also be used elsewhere)

Widening pavements which would improve pedestrian access and slow down traffic flow. (this would fall under more than one heading and might therefore attract funding and support more easily)

It was asked “What happens to these ideas?”

Cllr Devine explained that this was already an item on the agenda for the next Parish Council Agenda when the ideas raised today and at other times will be considered in the light of their practicability and potential effectiveness, whilst also considering cost implications.

10. Parish Plan- MC Cllr Powell summarised the context and outline of our Parish Plan

25 years ago traffic issues were the top 3 things villagers liked least about Worton. Has been an issue continuously since and will be one of the main themes of the current plan.

All ideas shared this evening will be considered with respect to the current plan. However, we need to be mindful of budget and what is achievable.

The village maintenance group, and a footpath trail linked to local history is also under consideration.

With regard to play areas - quotes for the replacement of the play equipment at Whatley's Leaze have been as high as £50,000 and well beyond our current resources. However, 27K could potentially be available if the planned housing development at Sandlease farm progresses , so it is prudent to “watch this space” with regard to potential play area improvement.

We are not currently pursuing a Neighbourhood plan- as we understand that it would have limited power and effect. The costs of producing one are also far too high for one to be undertaken at the present. However,

this is a situation that does evolve and we will be monitoring any changes to the planning regime at local, regional and national level as time goes on.

Cllr Parsons reminded the meeting that the proposed new housing development was outside the village boundary but that the appeal had still been successful.

Cllr Stokes informed the meeting that WPC's Neighbourhood plan group had become members of a Wiltshire based lobbying group designed to promote a stronger voice for local communities with regard to planning issues.-

Cllr Devine thanked Cllr Powell for his work, particularly in the establishment of the Village Maintenance

Parishioner Jo ..? asked where the Parish Plan could be accessed

Cllr Powell understood that it was available on the Community website and that updates have appeared regularly in the Bridge.-

Andy Bonnifeld (parishioner) - questioned whether the Precept is actually high enough and expressed the view that most villagers might be able to afford a little more.

Cllr Devine-stated that it was discussed each year, recently with the aim of limiting any increase given a background where residents had been facing sometimes exponential increases in other areas. However, an increase might seem appropriate if linked to a specific purpose of clear benefit and urgency.

A fuller version of Cllr Powell's address is attached

Meeting closed 8.35pm