

WHITEGATE & MARTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the annual parish assembly held via zoom on Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.30pm

The meeting was open to all residents of the parish and advertised on our social media sites (Twitter, Facebook and Next-door) as well as our website and parish notice boards. Four people attended including Ward Councillor Mike Baynham including representatives of our various community groups (WI).

Apology from Cllr Baldini, Cllr Cotterill and Cllr Matthews.

At 7.30pm Cllr Rayner welcomed everyone and confirmed under the current legislation this is the last zoom meeting. The next ordinary parish council meeting will take place face-to-face in the school hall as the temporary legislation which forced us by law to hold our meeting virtually ends. We did not need to hold an annual assembly last year, but there is no dispensation this year.

Cllr Rayner outlined the agenda and format of the meeting, anyone wishing to say anything please hold hand up, one hour has been allocated for the meeting.

Cllr Rayner reminded residents that the Parish Council meets second Monday of every month and everyone is welcome to attend. The Parish Councillors in attendance were introduced and Clerk. Ward Councillor Baynham was introduced, confirming it was a pleasure working with the Parish Council and confirmed he is available to contact directly via the contact details displayed on the CWAC website. Both Cllr Mike Baynham and Gina Lewis are regular attendees at our monthly meetings.

Cllr Rayner presented a slide presentation informing the meeting of what was happening with the Parish Council including:

- Parish Council meet second Monday of each month,
- Pauline Yould is our newest recruit,
- Main focus of activity – review 50 planning applications per year making recommendations to CWAC (they don't always take account of our recommendations); the Neighbourhood Plan has helped (this was developed over a 4-year period and was adopted in 2017) we will have to revise it next year. Government proposal is for accelerating planning applications through the system with a presumption accepted provided they meet the requirement, Whitepaper out at the moment.
- CWAC put forward Gypsy site proposals, the Parish Council put in a lot of work apposing them, one site is now an ecological mitigation site (newt farm) and other has planning permission for development of cottages Marton Hall Farm. CWAC has not come up with a new proposal for where the sites will be, but we are keeping a watch out.
- Village green – regrettably couldn't reach agreement with the Diocesan so the project is on hold until an agreement on a suitable access can be reached.
- Road safety – we have identified 6 risk areas see details below.
- Contributions – every September we look at community activities we want help within the parish and allocate a small amount of money. We have recently supported the PCC with the restoration of books. We support Whitegate United Football Club subsidising the lease, Scouts, Recreation Room, Church Wood. Open to any community group to apply.

Road Safety – we have identified 6 high risk areas outlining our objective, what we have achieved and what still needs to be done. Top priority is Chester Lane Brook (A54) small settlement of houses close to road. CWAC has promised reduction to 40mph but this has been delayed due to lockdown.

Finance precept is £19.5k pa covers clerk's salary, provision of minor services, contribution to donations and we have been putting aside money for our community green space (on hold).

Community reports: we have not received a reply from the school, Vicar or football club.

WI – Julie Parker gave an overview of what has been happening during lockdown over last 12 months. They have managed to maintain lots of activities and have embraced zoom with their monthly meeting having various guest speakers. Have learnt new crafts online, keep fit classes. Have been sewing for

hospital and care homes, have followed rule of 6 for outdoor meetings, walking groups, hopefully will return to the Recreation Room in September. Village show depends on a number of factors and a decision has not yet been made, it is on hold at the moment. It was noted the Parish Council have contributed to Village Fair in the past should it go ahead.

Café – Pauline Yould gave an update. We made the difficult decision to close most of the year as we did not want to put staff, volunteers and customers at risk. Whilst closed have spruce the place up, and have enlisted new volunteers. We have built a pergola in the Sidings area to provide more outside space in winter months, painted lovely mural on the wall. Had an initiative tea for two asked for people isolated / rough time made up picnic boxes delivered to 10 people take café out to people who couldn't get to it. In future we need to reduce our fixed costs and want to develop the community side of it improving connections with local groups. Due to reopen on 17th May and we are excited for future, toilets will reopen at the same time. We've not had a full year open following the kitchen refurbishment. As a not-for-profit community café we want to exploit the love for the café and give back to the community. Original plan for the toilet block was for an outside work space, but we currently do not have money to do that, aim is to make more money to keep going, want to increase footfall, capacity under siding area. Bring out community side of café such as donated children's books afternoon take a book. Cllr Baynham declared an interest in café as his wife is a volunteer director. We have over 1000 Instagram followers.

Scouts – Graham Turner sent through his update. They are very proud keeping the unit open online and members have adapted well. Beaver unit suspended but cubs and scouts grown in number. Looking forward to meeting face to face, meet in primary school which provides more space. Undertook a world record breaking event camping at home; 270 badges undertaken and issued to members. Looking to recruit more adult volunteers and raise some funds (towards a trailer).

Church wood - hold working parties 9.30am second Saturday of each month, looking to resume the working group soon as restrictions allow. Site 8 acres near old Vale Royal Drive. The site was donated to the Woodland Trust by a couple who lived on Vale Royal Drive and managed by a group of local volunteers who make sure wood is safe, replant trees and replacing the 100-year-old trees falling over. Parish Council supports the cost of their insurance each year.

The football club - The Parish Council are currently involved in renewing the lease from Tesco. Interested in buying but currently a 20-year lease being negotiated, which is then a sub-lease to football club. They use the Recreation Room for changing room and shower facilities. The Parish Council subsidises the lease.

School – no update received.

Vicar – we support them and help subsidise the church magazine which has not been available during lockdown.

Overview of Parish Council website – Clerk explained that we have a new website which is more user friendly to comply with the new accessibility legislation. Clerk gave a brief overview of the site (demonstration via zoom) showing the various Parish Council and community pages.

Cllr Rayner opened up the floor to questions:

Residents requested an update on the clinic/ home on Cinder Hill – Cllr Rayner provided an update having recently had a meeting with the company running the service. Have 2 residents supported by 5 carers. Residents require mental health support with the 5 cars from each carer and more vehicles at shift change as require 24-hour care. Parish Council has a good relationship with the company and have contact them several times when concerns have been raised by residents.

Resident confirmed there are more vehicles that quoted above with 8-10 cars usually 8-10 hours per day restricting people from parking at the old post office. If they want to run a care home should not be using a public space to park staff vehicles.

Cllr Rayner confirmed in our Neighbourhood Plan this area was identified as a focal point in the village to be developed with a village sign, bench, planting. The company has been warned of our ideas for development of the area, but alternative parking would be on the road itself. Parish Council is keeping close eye on it, cannot enforce no parking as public land.

Resident confirmed regular attendance of the police radar van/PCSO at various times of the day and for up to 1 hour which is very good, but asked why they need to be so visible. It was responded that the PCSO has previously confirmed they have to be visible otherwise can claim entrapment.

It was noted that there are missing 30 mph repeater signs on Cinder Hill. Cllr Baynham has a meeting with Highways on Thursday morning, Cllr Rayner to also attend. The speed signs on the wheelie bins have also been a huge success.

Resident raised concern of vehicles driving on the wrong side of the road early morning. Cllr Rayner mentioned in the past discussed interactive signs (unhappy/happy face or informing of speed) but these are expensive £5k each for solar powered ones. It was suggested seeing speed printed on the road is better than signage, but the signs disappear when road is resurfaced.

Resident raised concern about the road surface on Clay Lane. This has been reported and highways are aware of the situation, and a landowner subject of enforcement regarding diverting water onto the highway.

Cllr Rayner reconfirmed that the next parish council meeting on 10th May would be in the school hall, thanked everyone for coming and brought the meeting to a close.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated