

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May at 6:30pm at Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, WR11 7RH

The Meeting was chaired by Cllr Trevor Askew, Honeybourne Parish Council Chairman.

In attendance	15 members of public
District Councillor	Thomas Havemann- Mart
Parish Councillors	A Attridge, C Clear, G. Clelland, C Evans, C Gear, H Jobes, C Steward and Z Thorpe
Parish Clerk	L Stanton

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies have been received from County Cllr A Adams, PC M Beard- Safer Neighbourhood officer.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th May 2021.

The were no previous minutes for approval.

4. Report from local council representatives.

a. Chairman's report:

The Parish Council Chairman reflected on the past year. Four new Councillors were welcomed and have made significant contributions to Parish business. Installation of the play area at the Leys recreation field and subsequent opening where large numbers of residents attended was a big success. Erection of perimeter fencing added to the facility. The lighting of the Xmas tree event on 3 December was another event which attracted large numbers of villagers.

The creation of working groups during the year, including volunteers from the local community has offered greater involvement in village life for both Councillors and residents. The volunteers managing production & distribution of the village news magazine received congratulations for producing such an interesting monthly magazine.

Mention was made about the purchase of a synthetic cricket mat which can be laid on the grass surface at the sports field and taken up & stored when not in use for cricket. This will enable both football & cricket to be played.

Looking forward to upcoming events the Chairman mentioned the application for funding as part of Wychavon Councils legacy grant. This will be submitted by 6 June. It is for £55,000 for improvements to the playing surface, trim trail around the perimeter & installation of a boules court.

A lot of work has gone into arranging the weekend event for the Queen Platinum Jubilee celebrations which will take place on the sports field from 2 to 5 June. It is hoped that the weather is kind & villagers attend what is a comprehensive programme of events for villagers to enjoy.

b. Report from County Cllr A Adams- County Cllr A Adams was not present.

“I always think it is beneficial to stand back once a year and review what has been achieved in the last 12 months in Honeybourne and the surrounding area, so it is a pleasure to send you a report for your Annual Parish Meeting on 10th May.

2021/22 was an unusual year dominated globally by COVID and lockdowns, BUT lots still happened, and lots of improvements have occurred in our village and surrounding villages. Here is a reminder of some of the things Worcestershire County Council have been involved with;-

Flooding under Honeybourne Bridges

WCC engineers visited the entrance of Grove Farm to investigate the cause of the huge amounts of water flowing down Stratford Rd and collecting underneath the bridges. Strangely there is a ditch but no apparent outlet so the water was simply running off the field and the ditch and down the drive straight onto the road. The Drain Jetting Services (contractor) then followed up and found the ditch was connected to the other side of the road via 2 culverts further up Stratford Rd. The 2 culverts were all jetted and cleared. Also the ditch on the other side of the road had a blocked culvert to the field entrance; this too was jetted. The good news is the standing water in both ditches cleared. The farmer at Grove Farm then organised on the same day to dig out the ditches. This seems to have worked to a certain extent as on the 28th December with the heavy rain, there was no flooding under the bridges. However further work is still needed – the road drain on the corner is blocked because the drainage pipe is collapsed so this needs replacing. Secondly the culvert in the ditch nearest Grove farm needs a proper cover /grate to protect it getting blocked. WCC have planned to carry out this work in May/June 2022. Ideally a bund also needs to be built in the corner of the field by the bridges to stop water pouring off the field onto the road and eroding the bank and pouring sediment into the road drains. WCC is liaising with Network Rail to improve drainage under the bridges. So again more to do, but hopefully we are getting there as the old British Rail advert use to say....

Flood Alleviation Scheme at the Gate in Honeybourne

Fantastic progress has been made by the farmer Mr Mansfield in building the flood plain upstream of The Gate pub. Wychavon District Engineers visited the site and took drone photos and video of the site. The photo below shows the extent of the earth moving. Although there is still some more work to be done, in its current form it will definitely help alleviate the flooding in Honeybourne. The rough calculations is it will hold back in excess of 2000m³. Again, good news, no flooding occurred at the Gate this winter, and when there was heavy rain this flood plain did partially fill with water (about 18 inches at its deepest point), so it is working. A HUGE thank you to Farmer Mr Mansfield for his help.





Figure 1 : Honeybourne Village Hall open by Sue Barker in September 2020



Figure 2 : Honeybourne Zebra Crossing on Station Road



Figure 3 : Re-furbished village hall in Pebworth with an amazing refurbish wooden floor !



Figure 4: New Railway Station Worcestershire Parkway opened that links the Cotswold Line to the Cross Country Line so you can get on at Honeybourne and travel all the way to Cardiff or Nottingham, London to Worcestershire

COVID and help given to businesses employees in Worcestershire:

- 17,000 grants given to business totalling £140m
- 39,700 employees furloughed = 14.7% of working population
- 753 Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans totalling £200m
- 12,228 bounce back loans totalling £353m

Highway Improvements in Honeybourne

Besides the routine work of patching and re-surfacing roads and pavements, filling potholes, cleansing gullies, hedge and verge cutting, winter gritting, replacing signs, repairing kerbs, street sweeping, there has been the following improvements started:-

1. Double yellow lines agreed to be painted on the corner of High Street.
2. The PROW footpath agreed to be upgraded to a hardstanding so residents from Grange farm can walk and use pushchairs to get to the new playground
3. Improved lighting of the Zebra crossing is being discussed

Honeybourne Resident Volunteer Group set up to help clean the ditches and keep the PROW clear of obstructions

The WCC PROW department working with them to provide tools, training and replacement gates and stiles

Police and Safer Road Partnership have carried out Speed Checks around the village and speeding tickets have been issued to re-inforce the 30mph speed limit.

County Council Divisional grants paid in 2021/22

1. Pebworth Village Hall – grant for refurbishing the wooden floor
2. Offenham Cricket Club – grant requested for playing and coaching equipment for 17 juniors
3. Honeybourne primary School – grant for use of village hall for dance, drama and PE
4. Littleton Scout Group – grant to help refurbishment of village hall
5. Pebworth Village Hall – grant for new blinds
6. Badsey Flower Show – grant to help buy a storage container
7. Honeybourne Harriers – grant requested for more flood lights
8. Honeybourne PROW & ditch clearing voluntary group – grant requested for some tools
9. Littletons Link – grant requested to restart printing the village magazine
10. Littleton village hall – grant requested for new cooker
11. Littleton Juniors football team – hire of hall
12. Pebworth Bowls Club – grant for new mat and storage stand
13. Honeybourne Village Hall – grant for a defibrillator
14. Honeybourne Bowls Club – grant for new equipment
15. Pebworth in Bloom – grant for the York Stone for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
16. Evesham Abbey Trust – grant for their music project.
- 17.

And FINALLY, I must not forget the County Council Elections in May 2021 when I stood for re-election and was elected with 69.24% of the vote. So THANK YOU for your support.

So in SUMMARY, a lot happened in 2021/22 and it is worth looking back and appreciating, even when the world is in turmoil, we live in a wonderful part of the world.”

c. Report from South Worcestershire Police Team – PC M Beard was not present

“As the local neighbourhood team for Honeybourne we aim to be a high visible presence in the village and conduct speed monitoring in target area’s mentioned as per the villages contract aims.

We will publicize when we conduct these actions on social media via twitter/neighbourhood matters and from attending the last parish council meeting this has worked well.

We hope to keep a strong link with locations such as the co-op who have been targeted for high level crime over the years along with working with the parish council to find solutions for issues in the area.”

d. Report from the Chairman of Honeybourne Village- Mr Sam Ryder

“Having re-read what I wrote this time last year, when after a difficult start, we were looking forward to having the hall buzzing, I can report lots of good progress in this area. Certainly, regular classes, meetings, social activities, coffee mornings and private hires are all doing well, and are still on the increase. The area we are now concentrating on is business use, and we have recently launched an initiative to hand-deliver printed fliers to all local businesses in a 6 mile radius. All of this activity has two purposes – to fulfil our mission statement of “making the hall the centre of the village community”, and to ensure that we generate sufficient income to cover our expenditure. On this second front, we are not there yet, but we are making progress. Chris has continued in his role as part-time Village Hall administrator, and has delighted us with his range of talents – administrator, IT expert, cleaner, catering consultant, front-of-house man and even, on race night, a cool, calm and collected bookmaker! As a day-to-day manager we really couldn’t do better!

Over the last twelve months we can look back on many successful events, which we as a committee have organised and run, including two quiz nights, a race night, a musical evening with local singers, two live theatre events, (one inside, one outside), monthly film nights and the formal opening of the hall by Sue Barker. This latter was a wonderful event, and Sue proved to be just the person for the job in hand. Unfortunately, we could not run our planned Open Day for the village as we were over-taken by Covid restrictions.

We run a weekly coffee morning (with cake!) which is well supported. Using a grant from the National Lottery to mark their 20th Anniversary, we organised a free lunch for our more senior citizens, with a showing of the film "Gosford Park", ice creams in the interval and a gift of chocolates to take home at the end!

On a personal note, I would like to say how delighted I am with the highly successful Honeytots Parent and toddler morning, which happens every Thursday.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting took place again this year, and the tree with its new lights looked wonderful. Over 300 people enjoyed the burgers, hot dogs, mulled wine and hot chocolate that were available - (support from the WI much appreciated.)

I would also like to mention the external appearance of the hall, where the many trees and shrubs, now coming into their own, are complemented by the welcome Spring daffodils – many thanks to John Stedman and his team.

Other highlights of the year saw us complete the build project, and make all final payments, saw the hall used as a film location (twice), saw the launch of our completely new website, witnessed the acquisition of a defibrillator situated just outside the front door, and saw us acquire a premises licence, which gives an extra dimension to many of our events!

Looking to the future, we have many plans to bring to fruition. We have more-or-less settled on organising two events per month, (film night plus one other), and future ideas include a Murder Mystery Night and an "Antiques Evening" – along with a re-play of some old favourites.

I would like to thank the Trustees and the Committee (and particularly Paula, as Treasurer) for their help and support over the past twelve months – and as my old head teacher used to say, "the best is yet to come!"

e. Report from Honeybourne Village News- Mrs Judith Mellor

- The magazine is in its second year of being run by a team of 6 volunteers who all live in Honeybourne. We meet regularly to discuss ideas for content and to review our finances.
- We ran a survey just before Christmas amongst residents to obtain feedback on the content of the magazine and which articles readers found interesting / useful which we have acted upon. There is still demand for a printed copy of the magazine.
- In our first year of operation, we invoiced £3457.55 for advertising (a total of 38 advertisers) and our print/delivery costs were £3136.98.
- To date in 2022, we have invoiced 42 advertisers and we expect to receive some requests for 'one-off' adverts/inserts through the year.
- We are struggling with price increases for printing (last year costs rose from £180 to £400 per month). We recently sought quotes from 3 print companies and due to the volatility of the industry, we cannot obtain any fixed price for longer than 3 months.
- Although we implemented a price increase to our advertisers this year, we are grateful to the Parish Council for funding to help us to get established with the objective of becoming independent in the future (revenue from advertising will cover our costs).

- f. Report from Honeybourne Harriers Football Club** – Club Secretary- Mr M Henson
HHFC have again gone from strength to strength by attracting more children to the football club, the forthcoming season will see a brand new U7 team play competitive football which will be managed by Charlotte and we have interest from several parents who want to join us which would mean running a second U10 team (new coach needed); we need to say our farewells to the current U16 team, this team will disband as the kids have GCSE and 6th form obligations, we wish them well.

Little kickers now have over 30 children registered, ages range from 2 years to 6 years, this means the feed for the club is constant and the benefit to HHFC is that they may have already been playing football for years by the time they are eligible for competitive football. Little Kickers has a perfect formula, not only are the coaches qualified FA coaches, but they are also childcare practitioners which means every coach understands the complex needs of a variety of children.

Amanda had to step away from Wildcats for a period, Joe who worked with Amanda has thankfully stepped up to run the crew which consists of Mandy and 18 young ladies who want to have fun which revolves around sport, Wildcats is predominantly fun based but has football elements, its only open to females and we can cater for more.

As always, we need coaches and volunteers, if you want to be part of the club, come along and talk to us.

- g. Report from Public Right of Way Working-** Chair of PROW- Cllr T Askew
The most recent group work carried out was on 8 May when the right of way from Mickleton Rd to the former railway line was cleared. During the year works have been carried out to alleviate flooding at the Gate Inn crossroads by clearing ditches. The footpath from Stratford Rd to Westbourne was cleared. Work was done as part of the Keep Britain Tidy Groups national community spring litter picking project. It was great to see so many volunteers turning up to carry out litter picking around the village. Many bags of rubbish were collected. It is disappointing to see litter dropped indiscriminately around the village especially when there are so many litter bins. Discussions are taking place with Worcestershire County Council's Rights of Way team to become registered as a community volunteer group which will attract support, equipment & machinery and assistance by staff from the County.
- h. Report from MUGA/Sports Field Working Group-** Chair Cllr H Jobes
This is a recently formed group who are looking at other usage for the facility and pavilion. The group have been working hard to develop a submission to Wychavon Council for a legacy grant for a trim trail, boules pitch, outdoor exercise equipment and field enhancement. As part of the Legacy Grant application the PC have to conduct a public consultation with the residents. Questionnaires have been circulated to every household seeking their opinion on the proposed project.
- i. Report from Leys Working Group-** Cllr Askew.
This group was working on the design, layout & invitations to tender for the installation of the play area. This has been substantially completed along with a popular request to install perimeter fencing. Bins need to be installed along with further seating. Attention will now focus on the creation of a wildflower meadow towards the bottom of the field.
- j. Report from Traffic Management Working Group-** Chair Cllr Z Thorpe.
- Station Road Zebra Crossing- The Zebra Crossing was finally finished in April 2021 with anti-skid surface being laid, making it fully operational. There have since been safety issues raised with regards to visibility to oncoming vehicles. This is currently investigated.
 - VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs)- February saw us receiving confirmation our application for a grant from The Commissioners Community Fund (Safer Roads) was successful. We

received an amount of £4,399.88 to be used to purchase two VAS to be put into circulation on Station Road, Weston Road and Bretforton Road. On the 14th of March 2022 the first sign went up on Weston Road and has been providing us with valuable data on speeding. The highest speeds recorded so far have been 77mph outgoing and 63mph incoming. Whether these were emergency service vehicles or the public, we don't know. Let's hope it's not the latter! The data overall has been an interesting read and will be useful in supporting future traffic calming measures. Unfortunately, the new sign was vandalised recently. We're not angry, just disappointed! We're awaiting installation of two posts to allow us to place the other sign on Station Road or Bretforton Road.

- Community Speed Watch In the last quarter of 2021 preparations began for setting up a Community Speed Watch Scheme in Honeybourne. Locations around the village were pinpointed and risk assessed. All volunteers required vetting by West Mercia Police and we're happy to report that training has now taken place. Our first session has taken place and 8 individuals we're recorded driving in excess of the 30mph speed limit. Unfortunately, the speeds on Weston Road are regularly too high to be safe for our volunteers to conduct the speed checks. Hopefully the Station Road locations will shortly be approved following risk assessments.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team- PC Matt Beard has been conducting speed checks around the village following our request and will continue to do so. Generally, most adhered to the speed limit and action was taken against those didn't.
- Flashing School Sign on Weston Road- The sign has not been operational for a couple of months now. This is being chased regularly and we will continue to do so until it is fixed.

k. Report from Queen Platinum Jubilee Working Group- Cllr A Mathias

The programme for the celebration has been circulated to all households. The celebration will commence on Thursday 2nd June with the Beacon lighting ceremony at 9:45pm. The local school children will be performing prior to the lighting of the beacon and there will also be a piper present during the ceremony.

3rd June a cricket tournament will be taking place at the sports field at 5 pm. On Saturday 4th June there will be various activities starting at 12:30 pm until 11:00 pm. A big screen will stream activities taking place in London throughout the day. There will be a bouncy castle, sports day events, craft stalls, cake stalls, burger and ice- cream vendors and two pop up bars. On Sunday from 12:30 pm until 6 pm there will be a picnic in the park and children's pageant.

5 Open Forum

There were none.

Meeting closed :7:30pm

Signature: 
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Annual Parish Meeting- 10th May 2022

Final Audit Report

2023-05-10

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