

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May at 6:30pm at Honeybourne Village Hall, Harvest Close, WR11 7RH

The Meeting was chaired by Cllr Heath Jobes, Honeybourne Parish Council Chairman.

In attendance	25 members of public
District Councillors	Hannah Robson
Parish Councillors	A Attridge, C Clear, G Clelland, B Dubb, A Mathias and S Sidwell
Parish Clerk	L Stanton

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

2. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Cllr T Askew, Mr Elliott Nixon (WDC Community Safety Officer) Mr Steve Attridge(Chair of Honeybourne Hawks FC) Mrs Alison Baumber (Secretary of Honeybourne WI)

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 9th May 2023.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 9th May 2023 be approved as true record of the meeting.

4. Chairman's report from Parish Council.

a. Chairman's report:

"Good evening everyone and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to update you on what the Parish Council have been up to in the past 12 months. It is also an opportunity for the various voluntary organisations within the village to report on all their activities over the past year.

Honeybourne Sports Field

At last year's annual meeting I reported that the PC were successful in their grant application to Wychavon District Council Legacy Fund, along with Section 106 monies, we were able to commence work on improving the grounds at the Sport Fields, providing a boules court, a trim trail and outdoor gym equipment. The project was completed at the end of June 2023. In October the Parish Council held an official opening of the new facilities at the Sport Field



attended by our local MP Mr Nigel Huddleston. The Vice-Chair of Wychavon District Council, Cllr George Duffy officially opened the facilities on behalf of the Parish Council.

The local boules team gave a demonstration on how to play the game before the public and guests tried their skills.

In spite of the inclement weather this winter a good number of residents have braved the conditions and made good use of the new facilities. Two new benches have been located at the Sports Field and the existing picnic tables and seating were refurbished. A secure container for storage was obtained and is located adjacent to the sports field car park. Also, to improve security, a new CCTV system, covering the whole Sports Field, has been installed.

Annual Inspections

An annual safety inspection of the equipment at the Sports Field and The Leys were carried out by RoSPA Play Safety. The PC's handyman continues to inspect the equipment on a weekly basis.

The Leys Playing Field

A new eight-seater picnic bench was installed next to the play area and two gabion benches were placed in the Wildflower meadow. Our thanks goes out to a local resident who kindly donated one of these benches in memory of their grandparents.

A single junior goal post was erected which is being well used.



Defibrillators

Following requests from residents for an additional defibrillator to be installed at the top end of the village the PC would like to thank the proprietor of Ludify Automotive for allowing us to place the defibrillator on the wall of retail unit in Sycamore Drive. The defibrillator is registered with West Midlands Ambulance Services and was funded by the Department of Health and the PC.



VAS

The Parish Council is grateful to County Cllr Adams for his assistance in helping the Parish to obtain permission from WCC Highways to install a VAS on the grass verge by 'The Fish' sign, The Co-Op and Garden centre. We're now just waiting for the post be erected by Worcestershire County Council Highways department. An application for funding for an additional VAS sign was submitted to the West Mercia Police Commissioner's Grant. Unfortunately we were not successful in our grant application due to over subscription from other parishes in Worcestershire so the sign has been funded by the PC. There are now 3 VAS signs in Honeybourne which will hopefully remind people to adhere to the speed limit whilst driving through the village.

Training and equipment for PRoW (Public Right of Way) volunteers

The PC are supporting the volunteers with training in the safe use of their mechanical equipment as well as purchasing a strimmer, a hedge cutter and PPE.

Community Litter Pick

The PC held community litter picks in the spring and autumn in conjunction with the National Keep Britain Tidy.



GWR Poppies to Paddington Event

I had the privilege to be invited by GWR to represent Honeybourne Parish Council to participate in their Poppies to Paddington event on Friday 10th November at 7:57am when the train passed through Honeybourne Station. I handed a poppy wreath to the GWR team for the onward journey to Paddington Station. Our wreath, along with dozens of other wreaths from across the GWR network, were then displayed at the War Memorial in the station for Armistice Day.

GWR started the Poppy Trains during the Covid lockdown when local memorial ceremonies were not always possible. The Poppies Trains have been so well supported, GWR have continued to run every year.



Remembrance Sunday Service

I also attended the Remembrance service at St Egwin Church. Following the service, I laid the PC's wreath at the War Memorial in the church grounds.

Civic Service

The Chair of Wychavon District Council, Cllr Raphel invited the Chairs/Mayors from the District to attend his Civic Service at Pershore Abbey to celebrate 50th Anniversary of Wychavon District Council which I attended together with my partner Mark.

Wychavon Community Roadshow

The Parish Council, in conjunction with the community safety team from Wychavon District Council, hosted the Property and Home Security Roadshow. Their crime prevention trained officers offered free advice on how to better protect your home and personal belongings, to help you reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of theft or burglary.

The Civility and Respect Pledge

At the meeting on the 12th March 2024, members of Honeybourne Parish Council unanimously agreed to sign up to the Civility & Respect Pledge.

The Civility and Respect Pledge is part of a project created and overseen by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), One Voice Wales (OVW), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and county associations, to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a positive cultural change for the local council sector.

Poor behaviour, bullying or rudeness in public life should never be tolerated and by signing the pledge, we are again affirming our commitment to standing up for mutual respect and the pledge makes it clear exactly what that involves.

Honeybourne Parish Council Community Grants

The PC awarded the following voluntary groups grants to help support their activities;

- Honeybourne Indoor Bowls
- Honeybourne Village News
- Honeybourne Village Fete

Planning Applications

The Parish Council have reviewed 16 planning applications in the last year ranging from a landscaping application for the Owl Homes Development, to outline planning in the parish, domestic extensions and industrial applications. Among the applications the PC, with the help of their planning consultant, Brodie Planning submitted objections to 2 outline planning applications for the development of 40 dwellings and erection of a self-build dwelling. The PC would like to thank both Brodie Planning and our District Cllr Hannah Robson who successfully supported the PC's objections for both applications at WDC Planning Committee meeting. At this time I would also like to take the opportunity once again to say a massive "thank you" to the small but very dedicated team volunteers who devoted a significant amount of their own time of the course of two years supported by Brodie Planning to compile our Local Neighbourhood Plan. It was due to the LNP along with the support from Bodie Planning and our District Councillor, that both these applications were refused by WDC Planning Committee.

General

Due to work commitments Cllrs Z Thorpe and C Steward resigned this year. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank them for their time in office and for all their help and support over the past year. Cllr Balbir Dubb was co-opted onto the Council during the year and the council now currently has 3 casual vacancies. If anyone would like to become a councillor please contact the Clerk.

Finally, I would like to thank our clerk for all her great work, help, guidance and support over the past year and all my fellow Councillors, County Cllr Alistair Adams and District Cllrs Judith Ciotti and Hannah Robson for their support during the year. Also thank you to all the volunteers and residents for your support to make Honeybourne better place for all.

Before I end my report, I would like to invite everyone to attend the 80th D-Day Anniversary commemoration on 6th June at the Village Hall from 6:30pm. The PC will be holding a free Silver Band Concert, poetry reading by our local school children and the lighting of the peace Beacon at 9:15pm. As it is also the National Fish & Chips Day a mobile food truck will be on hand to sell Fish & chips and there will be a pop a bar.

Cllr Heath Jobes

Chair for Honeybourne Parish Council"

County Cllr's report – Not present.
District Cllrs reports – Cllr J Ciotti was not present.
The Chair welcomed Cllr Robson and asked if she would like to address the council and members of the public. Cllr Robson have no updates at time.

b) South Worcestershire Policing Team.

The Chair welcomed PC Alex Prentice and asked if she would like to address council and members of the public.
PC Alex Prentice reported;
The team has a new police sergeant – (PS 3325 Duncan EADES)
She has been the Safer Neighbourhood Officer for 9 months.
The mobile police van has been to Honeybourne a couple of times during the year with very low attendance from residents.
News for the area can be downloaded on Neighbourhood Matters and their Facebook page.
She has asked residents to report crime to 101 and not to her.
Monthly crime figures have been submitted to the PC for publishing on the agenda and minutes.

c) Honeybourne Village Hall Trustee.

The Chair welcomed the Chair of the Trustee, Mr Tim Wild and asked if he would like to present his to council and members of the public.

Honeybourne Village Hall Report 2023- 2024

“As Chairman of the Trustees, I am pleased to present the annual report for the Village Hall for the financial year 2023-2024. This year has been marked by resilience, community spirit, and progress despite the challenges we faced. Our Village Hall continues to serve as the heart of our community, fostering connections, providing resources, and enriching the lives of our residents.

Community Engagement

Our commitment to community engagement remains steadfast. Throughout the year, we hosted a variety of events and activities aimed at bringing residents together. From weekly coffee mornings, monthly film nights, Bingo, Horse Racing, Christmas events including a pantomime and a free Sunday tea for retired local residents, we strive to create opportunities for meaningful interactions and relationships to flourish. In the last few months we have had many new classes using the facilities. Additionally, we are looking for ongoing partnerships with local organisations and businesses to allow us to expand our offerings and reach a wider audience.

Facilities

We are proud to report significant progress in our efforts to enhance the Village Hall facilities. Thanks to generous donations and grants, we were able to undertake several important projects, including improvements to the outside environment, including new environmentally friendly hedges, planned improved outside lighting for safety and security in the carpark and relaying uneven paving slabs. These improvements not only enhance the functionality and aesthetics of our facilities but also ensure that they remain safe and accessible for all members of our community.

The Hall's existing solar roof panels help to reduce our environmental footprint and the car charging stations assist others to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Financial Stability

Maintaining financial stability is essential to enable us to fulfil our mission and serve our community effectively. I am pleased to report that, despite economic uncertainties, we have managed our finances prudently. In the future through careful budgeting, fundraising efforts, and the support of our donors, we hope to be able to invest in the future of the Village Hall.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We remain committed to our mission of fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community, and we will continue to seek out new ways to achieve this objective. Whether through innovative programming, strategic partnerships, or ongoing facility improvements, we are dedicated to ensuring that the Village Hall remains a beacon of community pride and solidarity for years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated Trustees, volunteers, donors, and community members for their unwavering support and commitment to the Village Hall. Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am confident that, with our continued collaboration, we will achieve even greater success in the future.

Best regards,

Tim Wild 1st May 2024.

Chairman of Trustees Honeybourne Village Hall

d) Honeybourne Village News

The Chair welcomed Mrs Judith Mellor and asked if she would like to present her report to Council and members of the public.

“The magazine is in its fourth year of being run by a team of 5 volunteers who all live in Honeybourne. Between us we write the content, seek and invoice advertisers, do the layout, arrange printing and distribution to every home in Honeybourne.

Our team meet regularly to discuss ideas for content and to review our finances.

To date in 2024, we have invoiced 41 advertisers (compared to 35 last year) and we strive to find a balance between the necessary advertisements that provide our income and interesting content. We have been quick to include new arrivals in Honeybourne placing a ‘Spotlight On’ a new resident in Whitworth Gardens, the Sliced bakery and Academy Motorsport (who operate from the former Badhams garage).

We aim to involve our readers, asking them for ideas for content or by inviting them to join the team. We ran a survey again this year and all feedback was positive.

Although we implemented a price increase to our advertisers this year, we are grateful to the Parish Council for providing a grant towards our print costs.

Judith Mellor

Committee Member”

e) Honeybourne Railway Station Adoption

The Chair welcomed Mrs Lucia Cuttle and asked if she would like to present her report to Council and members of the public.

Honeybourne Station Adoption Volunteer Group

Update on Status – May 2024

“In March 2024, I made enquiries about how we might improve the aesthetics at Honeybourne Station, having been inspired by community gardening projects elsewhere, including other railway stations. This led to an initial conversation with Colin Major, Chair of the Cotswold Line Promotion group who provided valuable insight about the mechanics and requirements to set up a volunteer group to effectively ‘adopt’ the station. During April the idea was shared informally with members of the village community and today we have 8 volunteers ready to embark on the station adoption.

The Parish Council have since helped connect me to Fraser Pithie at Network Rail who is encouraging community engagement to create vibrant and welcoming railway stations, as well as Nicola Black, who is the Community Rail Partnership Relationship Manager at GWR. GWR will be the organisation we need to work with, who offer helpful guidance and support to

station volunteers. Before we can do anything at Honeybourne station we must comply with their requirements as set out in their Volunteer Handbook. This includes a volunteer registration process and safety briefing. The good news is GWR have funds available that we can apply for on an annual basis to help with the cost of planters, water butts, signage etc; and both they and the Cotswold Line Promotion group have suggested other organisations that might be interested to support us.

In terms of next steps, there are 3 immediate items to arrange before the end of June.

1. Set up a meeting with GWR and the volunteers to complete the onboarding process.
2. Visit Droitwich and Henley in Arden stations and meet with their volunteer groups as exemplars in community station adoption, so we can learn lessons on how best to organise for Honeybourne.
3. Build an initial plan with costings for Honeybourne Station to reflect the unique character of our village so we can apply for funding via GWR and other sources.

It's an exciting project and we welcome volunteers from across the community to get involved. Once we have a more detailed plan of what we would like to do we will share via the Honeybourne Village News and provide updates to the Parish Council. Anyone interested in being part of the Honeybourne Station adoption, please email the parish clerk (cleark@honeybourne-pc.gov.uk or luciacuttle@yahoo.com)

Lucia Cuttle

f) Over 60's Wednesday Club Honeybourne

The Chair welcomed Mrs Christiane Bates, and asked if she would like to present her report to Council and members of the public.

The last 12 months have seen the club visiting the area and beyond. Many places may have been new to some of the travellers, others have been firm favourites and the grant has enabled the group to go further afield. The year started with a visit to Dobbies in Tewkesbury which had only just opened. Garden centres are always an attraction as there is so much to see and lunches are always good. The following month led to group to Shropshire for lunch and shopping at the Leading Labels. Bargains are always good. May saw a visit to Shrewsbury. June took the group to Burnham-on-Sea and July was more academic in Oxford. In August, Leamington Spa was the attraction and September was the great excursion to Weston-Super-Mare, followed the following month by a visit to Lichfield. November saw the group competing at 10 pin bowls and a visit to Dobbies in Stratford-on-Avon. December's trip was to Gloucester. Every trip enables the group to find new places for lunching and enjoying a cup of tea.

The trips are organised once a month, usually on the third Wednesday of the month. The club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall for entertainment, tea and cake and a very social occasion. We have had a talk from a local author on the history of Honeybourne, the weather man Ian Pickering and a slide show from John Pitwood. We have enjoyed games such as Play your Cards Right, caricature drawing, short mat bowling and walking sports. The local school entertained us with Christmas Carols. The Fire Brigade explained how to keep safe in the house and local police informed us how to keep safe from scammers.

The club members as well as the local residents look forward to trips out of the village and appreciate the support, we get from the Parish Council to enable us keeping the costs down. This year we are proposing a free trip to members in July and at a reduced cost to over 60's non-members Honeybourne residents and a free trip before Christmas for all members and over 60's Honeybourne residents.

Thank you very much for your continuing support."

Christiane Bates
Treasurer

g) Honeybourne Village Fete

The Chair welcomed Mr Mike Wiggett- Jones and asked if he would like to present his report to the Council and members of the public.

Since last year's parish meeting, we completed the planning and staged the initial relaunched village fete.

Despite some rather unfortunate weather conditions the event was a great success and was supported by a large number of visitors.

We had a number of local business supporters and we are very thankful for their enabling us to get the project off the ground.

Following the success of last year's event plans are well underway for this years fete to be held on 20th July.

We have confirmed some attendees and have completed the licensing necessary for the event to go ahead.

We have begun finalising the sponsors for this years event and would like to thank the Parish council for their ongoing support. We have also received another grant from the divisional fund which has secured temporary toilet facilities for the event.

We are always looking to keep the village up to date and will continue to place information in the village magazine, as well as keeping people up to date using our social media channels.

As with all community groups we are always looking for more volunteers to help with the organisation and running of the event.

As a not for profit organisation, hopefully with a little good fortune from the weather gods this year we will be able to continue to build a stable financial base to ensure the future of the event without the need for ongoing council support and build towards being able to donate any excess funds to charitable causes.

Our annual accounts can be viewed in the parish council minutes linked to our most recent funding application.

Our ongoing financial position will also be published publicly on an annual basis.

Mike Wiggett-Jones
Chairman

h) Honeybourne Public Right of Way Working Group (PROW)

The leader of the PROW was not present to present his report. The Chair of the Council read out his report.

Report on activities in 2023/24

There are eleven members of the group whose aim is to check the public rights of way in and around the village. In addition checks are made to ensure that water courses are maintained and are clear from obstacles. Support has been given to the Keep Britain Tidy group campaigns for community litter picking. The team were asked to carry out removal of Ragwort in and around the wildflower meadow at the Leys recreation ground.

In recognition of the work of the group both the Parish Council and the County Councillor community fund has given support. This is in the provision of strimmers and a hedge cutter and training of six volunteers in the usage of this equipment. This has helped the work of the group significantly.

Additionally safety equipment has been provided.

Volunteers meet on the last Sunday of the month (other than bank holiday weekends). Maintenance of PROW's from Stratford road to Westbourne, path adjacent to Maple Close development, path from Mickleton road to former railway line has been carried out.

The group decided to walk several PROW's in an around the village checking gates, stiles and bridges. Photographs were taken and passed to Worcestershire County Council. This resulted in an officer from the Public rights of way team visiting the village and meeting

several volunteers. The outcome is that support can be provided by the County Council in staff time, equipment and materials. However in terms of staff support works would have to be done during the working week. This will mean that dependence on those volunteers without work commitments to carry out repairs.

The first task that was discussed is to repair the wooden bridge from the path adjacent to Maple Close through to the farmers property.



The County Council work closely with an established volunteer group in Pebworth village. Contact has been made with the leader of the group there with a view to meeting to find out more of the works they have done and what support has been received from the County Council.

The community litter picking event held in March was very successful with several new members of the community joining the group. The weather was kind and refreshments provided at the village hall after the work was much appreciated.

Trevor Askew

Leader of the PROW volunteers.

i) Honeybourne Parish Council Christmas Event Working Group

The Chair welcomed Cllr S Sidwell and asked if he would like to present his report to the Council and members of the public.

Honeybourne Parish Council Christmas Lights Switch On and Craft Fayre Friday 1st December 2023



“It was a fantastic evening at the switch on, with something for all the family. The cold weather didn't stop people coming to this festive event with smiles.

A BIG thank you to our VIP guest, Chairman of Wychavon District Council, Cllr Robert Raphael for turning on the lights. We were also delighted to have our local MP with us to enjoy the evening.

What did we have to entertain us? Well, there was a craft & gift market, full of unique handmade products for Christmas and all of the following.....

The Christmas Tree Lights Switch On
Carol Singing
The Alcester Silver Band
FREE Merry-Go-Round rides for children
Meeting Santa
Mulled Wine
Balloon modelling

Raffle with super prizes

Delicious hot food

Hot Drinks, Wine & Beer

.....WE HAD IT ALL 🌲 🥰

We wish to thank all the following businesses and residents who have generously donated prizes to the Christmas raffle. Also the volunteers who have given up their time to help out on the night as well as the residents who supported the event. Thanked the Clerk for her support in helping with the event.”

Cllr Stephen Sidwell

Chair of Honeybourne Parish Council Christmas Event Working Group.

j) St. Ecgwins Church Fabric Team

The Chair welcomed Mr Ian Humpries and asked if he would like to present his report to the Council and members of the public.

At St Ecgwins we are continuing to work hard to find a new vicar, and we are grateful that we have been able to continue to have regular services.

Our Christmas services were well attended, particularly the Community Carol Service at the Village Hall where the Nine Lessons were read by representatives of the school and various village organisations.

Last summer, we formed a Fabric Team who carry out various tasks to look after our Grade 1 listed church.

We have worked with our architect to prioritise jobs and determine those where we need professional help and those, we can do ourselves.

In the last year we have engaged professionals to clear the tower of bird nesting material, had the gutters and downpipes cleared and had the necessary electrical safety inspections.

At our regular Working Parties we have cleared vegetation from the stonework; and rubbed down and re-waxed the pews.

Our organ tuner put us in contact with the Assistant Director of Music at Worcester Cathedral who came to do free recitals for the school and for the villagers - both of which were very well attended.

Sadly, the roof has been leaking for some while and we are in the process of arranging a temporary repair while we set about raising funds for a full repair in the future.

We want to encourage the village community to enjoy our lovely church and in addition to another organ recital, we have arranged a plant sale and advertised our plan for a poppy installation for Remembrance.

We have successfully applied for one grant and we shall report more about how everyone can support our fundraising plans in the future.

Ian Humpries

Volunteer (St Ecgwins Fabric Team)

5. Open Forum

a) Stiles:

A member of the PROW volunteers felt very disheartened that there are so many stiles around the village that need replacing but it still has not been done.

The leader of the PROW, Cllr Askew, explained that he and a few of the PROW volunteers have met with WCC PROW Officer to identify some of the stiles that needs replacing. WCC PROW can support the group by providing materials and County Council staff time to assist the group in the replacement of the stiles but it will have to be done during the week, as the County Council staff do not work weekends. This will mean PROW volunteers who do not have work commitments can carry out the repair.

To note Cllr Askew join the meeting at 7:30pm.

b) CSW (Community Speedwatch)

Cllr C Clear volunteered to be the leader of the Community Speedwatch. He asked PC Prentice to have a meeting with him at his residence to discuss the organising of the group. PC Prentice advised Cllr Clear to organise a meeting with his group before any meeting with her. At his group meeting he should:

- Advise the volunteers that he is the leader of the group.
- Ask them if they are still willing to volunteer for the speedwatch.
- Advise them that they need to attend training with West Mercia police prior to the CSW operating in Honeybourne.
- Check with the volunteers if they need their vetting to be renewed.
- Any new volunteers who have not been vetted, to give him their names and contact details for him to pass to PC Alex to enable her to commence vetting.

Once the group have completed their training and been fully vetted he needs to arrange the speedwatch sessions. Before the group go out for the sessions he needs to provide the dates, time and location of the speed watch sessions to the West Mercia Speed watch officer. Following the sessions he need to forward the data to West Mercia speed watch officer.

Meeting closed :7:40pm

H M Jobs

H M Jobs (May 7, 2025 20:40 GMT+1)

07/May/25







Annual Parish Meeting - 14th May 2024

Final Audit Report

2025-05-07

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