

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th 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	12 members of public
District Councillors	Hannah Robson & Judith Coitti
Parish Councillors	A Attridge, T Askew, G Clelland, A Mathias, C Steward, S Sidwell and Z Thorpe
Parish Clerk	L Stanton

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present.

Before the Chair presented his report a minutes silence was held to remember David Cowen, who sadly passed away on 28th April 2023. David was a Parish Councillors from 2013 until 2019 and was Chair in 2016/2017 and 2018/19. He will be sadly missed. Even after stepping down as a Parish Councillor he continued to take an interest in what was happening in the parish and will be a great loss to the Parish.

2. Apologies

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

3. To receive and approve the minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 10th May 2022.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2022 be approved as true record of the meeting.

4. Chairman's report from Parish Council.

a. Chairman's report:

The Parish Council Chairman reflected on the past year -

"I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and the work they have undertaken in the various working groups. I must also thank Cllr Askew who was Chair for 2 years until stepping down in July 2022. Cllr Askew steered the Council through some challenging times.

During the year Cllrs. M Henson and C Gear have resigned. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank them for their time in office. I would also like to thank Cllr C Evans for his contributions and his work on the Council as he decided not to stand in the recent local election. All our remaining Councillors were returned unopposed at this month elections.

On behalf of the Parish Councillors we must thank Thomas Havenmann- Mart who lost his seat at this month's election, for his guidance in planning matters and his willingness to address any concerns that the PC had. The Council would like to congratulate District

CLLrs Judith Coitti and Hannah Robson on their election. The PC look forward to working with them.

The Parish Council celebrated the late Queen's platinum Jubilee by holding a 4 day event last summer which included these activities -

- 2nd June- The Parish Council together with many other parishes and councils across the UK lit a beacon to celebrate the late Queen's 70th year's reign.
- 3rd June- A 20 overs a side cricket match was held at the sports field.
- 4th June- Family fun day which included a tug of war, tombola craft stalls, bouncy castle, hot food and drinks.
- 5th June- A bring your own picnic and children's pageant which was transferred to the village hall due to the rain.

It was with great sadness that the nation heard the news of the passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022. In recognition of the national Mourning period the PC meeting in September was cancelled.

The Christmas light switch on, with the support of the Village Hall. was a great success with entertainment, craft stalls, hot food and drinks.

Each year the Parish Council has set aside a small grant budget for local voluntary Groups in the village to help with their activities. The grant budget for 2022/23 was £4200. The PC supported the following groups.

Groups	Sum Awarded
Honeybourne Village Hub- King's Coronation celebration on Sunday 8 th May 2023	£1200.00
Honeybourne Village Fete- Summer Fete on Saturday 22 nd July 2023	£1500.00
Honeybourne Indoor Bowls- to part fund the purchase of another mat	£750.00
Honeybourne Tots – for the purchase of replacement play equipment	£250.00
Honeybourne Wednesday Club- to help with the cost of trips for their members and to provide refreshments at their meetings.	£500.00

The Parish Council have held 2 consultations in recent years on which recreation facilities Parishioners would like to have at the sports field. The results of these consultations identified that a boules court, outdoor gym equipment and trim trail were the most popular requests. To fund this and other recreational projects at the PC Sports Field the PC applied for the Wychavon Legacy Grant and were successful in being awarded £31,500. An additional £6,170 was needed to construct the boules court and this is being funded by Offsite Public Open Space s106 monies. No precept money has been used to provide these facilities at the Sports Field.

It was also identified in Wychavon District Council's playing pitch strategy that Honeybourne Sports Field needed to have field enhancements work undertaken. To fund this work the PC applied to WDC to use the Off-Site Formal Sports s106 monies of £24,249.91. I am

pleased to report that the work for the field enhancement, trim trail, outdoor gym equipment and boules court will be taking place in the summer.

In the 2020 Honeybourne Neighbourhood Development Plan residents requested the "Provision of a Wildflower Meadow" within the village. The PC applied to The Natural Networks- European Union Regional Fund and were awarded 45% of the total cost of £5,740.00. The rest of the funding came from s106 Off Site Open Space. The project had to be completed by the end of April 2023. An area in the Leys was identified and cleared for the project. A total of 10 local varieties of fruit trees as well as plug plants and bulb plants were planted in January and March this year. 20 kilos of wildflower seeds were also sown. To encourage wildlife bat and bird boxes, as well as bee and insect hotels, were installed. The PROW working group volunteers, Councillors and staff helped with the planting. We are now looking forward to seeing the wildflowers coming into bloom this summer, along with the natural habitat enjoying their new facilities and the insects enjoying their new Honeybourne Hotel.

The PC have also used some s106 monies to purchase a golf/cricket cage, which is located in the Sports Field. Goal posts for the sports field will be installed, once the field enhancement work has been completed and a junior goal post will be installed at the Leys shortly.

The Parish Council have also replaced all the footway lighting, for which they are responsible, with LED lanterns which are more environment friendly and cost significantly less than the old traditional lanterns.

The PC was able to purchase 2 VAS from the Police Commissioner Grant, which captures the speed of drivers and captures the dates, which is shared with the local constabulary.

In addition to the two existing defibrillators the PC have adopted the defibrillator at the One Stop Shop. The PC are responsible for three defibrillators dotted around the village at various locations; The Sports and Recreational Field, Telephone Kiosk and at the One Stop Shop.

On behalf of all the Councillors and staff I hope you all enjoy the summer and all the new facilities in the village, which will hopefully be completed over the next few months, if the weather improves".

5. To receive reports/update from:

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 9th May.

Once again, lots has happened, and lots of improvements have occurred in our village and the surrounding villages.

Here is a reminder of some of the things I and Worcestershire County Council have been involved with;-

Improvements made to help reduce flooding **Flooding under Honeybourne Bridges**

In June 2020, a lot of work was done to the road drains opposite Grove Farm entrance; a new pipe was installed that linked the gully and ditches either side of Stratford Rd to the large ditch that runs behind Badhams. A new manhole cover was also installed to aid

ongoing maintenance of this system. This has stopped the vast majority of water that used to flow down the road towards the bridges.

Also, the farm tenant built a bund 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.

Later in the year, Highways closed the road under the bridges again and installed 2 more gullies, renewed pipes and cleared out the ditches between the bridges.

All this work did significantly reduce the flooding under the bridges, but it was disappointing to see that they flooded on 31st March 2023 by up to 2 foot. BUT this was caused by leaves and debris on top of the road gullies, and when I cleared them at about 8pm on the Friday night, the water disappeared within 5 minutes.

More work is planned – extra gullies to be fitted on the Honeybourne side of the bridges, and further investigations on the pipe that runs alongside the railway embankment to the brook.

Flooding behind Badhams Garage

Owl Homes Site mended the collapsed culvert behind Badhams by fitting a new headwall and a new drainage pipe around the side of the field to the entrance of the site and join it with the Highways system – see photos below



Flood Alleviation Scheme at the Gate in Honeybourne

More work was done in the last 12 months to the huge flood plain up stream to the Gate Inn by our fantastic farmer, Ted Mansfield, who added an extra wall within the flood plain to control the flood water better. On Friday 31st March, Honeybourne suffered from torrential rain, and the Gate Inn Brook rose to a very high level, but luckily the pub was not flooded, nor were any houses. The flood plain in the Ted Mansfield's field did work and it is estimated it held back approximately 2000m³ of water from flowing into the village. See the photo below showing an aerial view on the following day – Saturday. A HUGE thank you to Farmer Mr Mansfield for his help.



Flooding opposite Mickleton Rd

The culvert that runs from the manhole by the Owls Homes entrance down Stratford Rd and across into Mickleton Rd was surveyed and jetted to stop water running down Mickleton Rd.

Flooding in the High Street

The drains under the raised pavement in the High Street and Station Rd were cleared and renewed .

Naturally there is always more that can be done and following the recent heavy rain that resulted in a lot of water at the entrance to the High Street, there was a concern that the Hydro-Break on the attenuation pond in Grange Farm was not working correctly so that has been checked. The good news is it is working. However, the engineers have agreed to fit a new gully in the High Street about 20 metres from the junction.

Highway Improvements

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 :-

- Double yellow lines painted on the corner of High Street to prevent cars and vans parking on the blind corner.
- No Stopping outside Honeybourne School – Double yellow lines opposite the school entrance and the zig-zags to be painted during summer holidays. See plan below



- Traffic Calming along Mickleton Rd –New signs erected warning of pedestrians, and new “SLOW” painted on the road halfway between the bridge and the 30mph signs, and also paint white lines at the edge of the road to make it look narrower.
- B4085 S.Littleton to Blackminster School –New cycleway is built from South Littleton to Blackminster School and hopefully many pupils will now cycle to school.



New Car Park opposite the Honeybourne railway station

- In June, I met with Network Rail & the MD of WDC on 13th June to look at ways to resolve the issue of the connection with the existing pedestrian bridge ; Network Rail had quoted £4m for the connection. Several innovative ideas were discussed including a level crossing or a cheaper version of a pedestrian bridge (called a Flow Bridge) built. . Further work needs to be done but there is hope that a way forward can be agreed, and work can start 2024/25.

County Council Divisional grants paid in 2022/23

Grants processed so far:

1. The Pebworth Collective – for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations
2. Honeybourne Bowls Club – new mat and storage
3. Honeybourne Cricket Club – Cricket equipment
4. 1st Littleton Scout Group – improvements to the toilets
5. Cleeve Prior Heritage Trust – Poetry books for school visits
6. Cleeve Prior – contribution to security to the Marquee over the Jubilee Weekend.
7. Pebworth in Bloom – contribution to developing the wetlands area at Wesley Gardens
8. Bretforton Show – display boards
9. Offenham Village Hall – new foldable tables
10. Littletons Village Hall – new cupboards
11. Littletons Juniors – new goal posts
12. Meon View Residents Association – grant for the Children’s Halloween event
13. Offenham Cricket Club – contribution to mower
14. Badsey Rangrs Football Club – new nets
15. Bowers Hill Residents Association Badsey – new batteries and pad for their defibrillator
16. Honeybourne Village Fete Committee – grant for portable loos
17. Friends of the Honeybourne School - grant for new IT

Finally, lots of help given to ease the burden of increased energy costs caused by the Ukraine/Russia war

- £400 energy bills grant for everyone in the country, and removal of the previous clawback mechanism meaning this will not have to be repaid.
- £150 cash rebate for homes in Council Tax bands A-D
- £650 one-off cost of living payment for those on means tested benefits such as Universal Credit or Pension Credit.
- £300 one-off pensioner cost of living payment for pensioners in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance to be paid in November 2022
- £150 one-off disability cost of living payment for people in receipt of disability benefits.
- 5p fuel duty cut for a full year across all fuel duty rates.
- National Insurance threshold increase from £9,500 to £12,570 from July 2022
- Increase the National Living Wage by 6.6% to £9.50 per hour from April 2022
- Also if you use oil or LPG for heating, a £200 Alternative Fuels Payment (AFP) was paid

So in SUMMARY, a lot happened in 2022/23 and it is worth looking back and appreciating, even when the world is in turmoil with the Ukraine/Russia war, we live in a wonderful part of the world.

- b. Report from Mr. G. Clelland, the Chairman of Honeybourne Village Hall** - One of the Trustees, Mr Richard Kendrick stepped down as trustee due to ill health. The trustees would like to thank him for his contribution. The Village Hall had a restructure in 2022 due to the resignation of the Chair of the Village Hall committee. It is now run by the trustees of the of the village hall. Cllr Clelland thanked the former Chair Mr Sam Ryder and treasurer Mrs Paula Staples. The hall is hired out most days. The trustees thanked the administrator Chris Gear for his continued support.

- c. Report from Honeybourne Village News-** Mrs Judith Mellor
- a) The magazine is in its third year of being run by a team of 5 volunteers who all live in Honeybourne. Earlier this year our Editor left the village and luckily one of the existing team stepped up to fill the vacancy. Between us we write the content, seek advertisers, do the layout, arrange printing and distribution to every home in Honeybourne.
 - b) We aim to involve our readers, asking them for ideas for content or by inviting them to join the team, but we do not get much feedback. To overcome this and make sure we are providing what villagers want, we are in the process of planning our second survey – this time there will be an option to complete the survey online.
 - c) Our team meet regularly to discuss ideas for content and to review our finances. Last year, despite seeking alternative quotes, we faced considerable increases in our print costs (£346 to £473). These costs will further escalate when we order additional copies for new residents in Whitworth Gardens.
 - d) To date in 2023, we have invoiced 35 advertisers and we added 4 new advertisers to replace those we lost due to the current economic climate. We expect to receive some requests for ‘one-off’ adverts/inserts in the rest of the year.
 - e) Although we implemented a price increase to our advertisers this year, we are grateful to the Parish Council for funding three months of print costs.
- d. Report from Public Right of Way Working Group-** Chair of PROW- Cllr T Askew
The group meets monthly usually on the last Sunday of the month. The group have been helping with the planting for the wildflower meadow at the Leys. The group have also taken part in the Keep Britain Clean campaign in March. The group have cleared a number of overgrown footpaths in the parish. They have also cleared the ditch by the Gate Inn and also seeded the verge by the Gate Inn crossroads.
- e. Parish Council MUGA/Sports Field Working Group-** Chair Cllr H Jobes
Cllr Jobes thanked the members of the working group for their input and work on the equipment for the outdoor gym and trim trail equipment.
- e. Report from Traffic Management Working Group-** Chair Cllr Z Thorpe.

1. Station Road Zebra Crossing	The Zebra Crossing was finished in April 2021. Since it’s installation there have been several near misses. This is currently being investigated and the suggestion of it being change to a Pelican Crossing has been put forward.
2. VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs)	The VAS are fully operational now and providing some very interesting data. It appears whilst average speeds are within the limits there are still many occurrences of speeds being flagged at well over the limit. Other traffic calming measures do really need to be considered.
3. Community Speed Watch	CSW is now up and running and we have held several sessions around the village with our data being forwarded on to WMP for their action. Some more volunteers have come forward and training is being arranged.
4. Dangerous Driving	There have been reports of extremely dangerous driving through the village on Social Media. We would like to bring this to PC Beards attention and ask for some more visibility in the village.

6. Open Forum

A resident asked the Council if the net on the cricket/golf cage was fit for golf if there was a golf mat in the cage. The Chair confirmed that the net is a purpose made net for the use of cricket and golf. There is also a mat installed in the cage.

Meeting closed :7:30pm

H M Jobes

Signed: [H.M.Jobes \(May 17, 2026 20:29:08 GMT+1\)](#).....

Chairman — Annual Parish Meeting







Annual Parish Meeting 9 May 2023

Final Audit Report

2026-05-17

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