

# ***BITTERLEY***

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Bitterley Village Hall On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

### **PRESENT**

Mr R Osbourne (Chairman) Other members of the Parish Council: Mr C Chillingworth  
Mr HWJ Watkins, Mr J Gatehouse, Mrs K. Wheeler, Mr P. Martin, Mr R. Watkins, Mr T Millard, Mr. C. Mccamley and Mr DW Rogers,  
Mrs S Jones (Clerk); Richard Huffer (Shropshire Councillor)

- 1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019.** The minutes where **APPROVED** and it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record. Proposed by Mr HWJ Watkins and seconded by Mr. P Martin, Minutes **signed by the Chairman**

- 2. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman of Bitterley Parish Council**

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their service over the last 12 months. The Parish Plan review highlighted issues with flooding, potholes and speeding. After the success of employing a lengthsman to clear out the ditches and drains and other highway works we intend to do it again this year, but we need residents to let us know the areas of work to do. Please email the clerk to report any issues or report directly online to Shropshire Council any larger issues. Any planning applications that come to the Parish Council are looked at by the planning sub-committee. The Village Hall Committee are planning to review the agreement between the Village Hall and the Parish Council. The telephone boxes in the Parish have now been adopted by the Parish Council with intention of installing defibrillators later in the year. Shropshire Council are still promoting better broadband, there was a Company that came to the Village Hall to promote better broadband.

- 3. To invite Parish Representatives (including the Shropshire Councillor for Clee) to address the Meeting.**

Richard Huffer (Shropshire Councillor) said that there is a new highway consultant to find the problems areas in Shropshire. Shropshire Council roads are poor compared to neighbouring Councils. RH believes the funding from Government will not be sufficient to make improvements on major roads let alone the minor roads. Not able to get SC to grit the main road in Bitterley let alone the other roads like Bedlam now it has been resurfaced. RH is concerned that South Shropshire will not get anything, and that Shropshire Council may look at riparian owner responsibilities. The Chairman asked RH to mention the footpath at Henley and that the footpath needs clearing not just cutting. Youth provision in Ludlow still has funding for the next 12 Months but probably not for longer. The Chairman commented that it was felt that communication and ways of working of Shropshire Council are extremely poor and inefficient.

- 4. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.**

Sally Kelland from Crow Leasow referred to how Herefordshire Parish Councils work, and the Clerk emails out information to the community especially in times of extreme weather as with the flooding we have had recently. There is a network that has been established that can then send out all sorts of community information to help everyone feel included. The Chairman pointed out that we have a Bitterley Facebook page, and there is also the Clee Hill neighbourhood watch (unofficial) site that both prove to be good sources of information. The Parish Council would need to consider who would collate the information and how. Clerk to contact the clerk from Stoke Prior to find out more information.

Ludlow Place Plan: Who updates it? The Chairman said the Parish Council review the document and send in any changes to Shropshire Council. The document is on Shropshire Council's website if anyone wishes to view the document. The Chairman also explained that if the Council were to receive any CiL monies this could be used on the list of priorities.

It was brought to the attention of the meeting how poor the traffic management was, using Henley lane as an example where traffic was being sent down there instead of the B road.

The road below Hullabloo at Bedlam has a problem with the culvert, so causing flooding to properties below, the drain apparently is not on the Highways register.

Mr and Mrs Wadham's from Cleeton St Mary explained about the flooding problem in Cleeton. In 2008 new drains were installed but no kerbs were put in. This caused four properties to be affected by recent flooding in February, due to the incomplete drainage work. The Chairman explained that Shropshire Council had Community Grants available to help in this situation, and suggested they contacted Shropshire Council for help. Mr and Mrs Wadham's also mentioned the Open Reach pole that is about to fall on the Cleeton Road, apparently it has been reported but nothing has yet happened, could the Parish Council also report the problem.

It was asked about clearing of the footpaths in the Parish. There is a Volunteer group that tries to maintain the footpaths, especially the Shropshire Way.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> May at **7.30 p.m.**