

BITTERLEY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Bitterley Village Hall On Wednesday 10th March 2021

PRESENT

Mr R Osborne (Chairman) Other members of the Parish Council:

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);

APOLOGIES

Mr C Chillingworth, Mr HWJ Watkins and Richard Huffer (Shropshire Councillor)

1. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman of Bitterley Parish Council

Thanks to be given to all the members of the public who have help to look after neighbours and friends in this difficult year. Thank you to the Community Volunteers and the Village Hall for the use of their facilities. We hold some funds still on behalf of the volunteers.

Thank you to the members of the Parish Council for coping with Zoom and also to their families who have helped them.

The defibrillators have been installed in the five telephone boxes and the refurbishment of the phone boxes is well under way.

There has been some headway with the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee with the agreement for the Village Hall, but this is still ongoing due the current restrictions with the aim to get clear understanding and if needed refresh the relationship into more plain English understanding for all.

Thanks to the Village Hall committee and trustees who have looked after and improved the hall and all those who have raised funds. Hopefully the coming year will see a return to full activity.

There has been a first meeting by a group of people in the parish to discuss the trees in the parish with more to follow.

The Parish Council hope to plan an event to discuss the results of the Parish Plan survey done last year. The Parish council still holds some funds for the Parish Plan.

Thank you to the Parish Council members for commenting on Planning applications and thanks to Mr and Mrs Cherry for attending the Parish council meetings.

We have recognised a desire to promote tree planting in the parish, encouraged and publicised schemes and are willing to act as applicants for tree planting grants in future if that helps.

There has been considerable frustration with Shropshire Unitary council at how they have dealt with communications and responded to road issues in the parish and we hope to help encourage an improvement in not just response but keeping informed those who are reporting issues.

2. To invite the Shropshire Councillor for Cleve to address the Meeting.

Apologies given

3. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.

Mr and Mrs Cherry: The Bitterly Parish Plan that was developed in 2007 and the subsequent survey carried out in 2018 are both dated and inaccurate. Has the Parish Council discussed any of the excellent suggestions put forward in that survey and come to any decisions about them? If not, when will they do so, and when can those living in the village expect some action by the Parish Council to update the Parish Plan, so that it does not give the impression of a village living in the past?

RO: The steering group had planned to hold an event last year but obviously due to the Pandemic were unable to do so. RO suggested that we invite the steering group to meet hopefully when face-to-face meeting can be held to formulate a response to all the outstanding issues.

JC suggested a deadline be set with key issues and possible actions.

Mr Reardon Smith has contacted the Parish Council via email to report that an HGV had used Squirrel Lane (following his Satnav) to get to Foldgate Lane in Ludlow. Fortunately, on this occasion the driver stopped and didn't attempt to go over the Listed Bridge, which other lorries have done on the past and damaged the bridge. Could the Parish Council request that some suitable signs (Weight Limit/Width restriction, unsuitable for HGV signs) be installed. It was proposed by RO and seconded by AH that we make a request to SC that signs are out at both ends of Squirrel Lane and that the PC contact Ludford Parish Council for a joint approach.

DRAFT