

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting 2017

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Monday, May 8th, 2017 at 7.16pm.

Present: - Retiring Chairman Councillor Newall
Councillors Bell, Briscoe, Candlish, Fogarty, B Higham, P Higham, Marsden,
McDonald, Partington, Yates and the Clerk.

Apologies:- None

1. Election of Chairman.

Chairman Newall called for nominations as Chair. Councillor B Higham proposed current Vice Chairman, Councillor Marsden, who was unable to accept at the present time.

Councillor B Higham proposed Councillor Bell, and was seconded by Councillor McDonald. All were in favour of the appointment.

2. Retiring Chairman's Remarks

The Retiring Chairman made the following comments:

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to serve again as Chairman for the last 12 months. At times I found it challenging and on occasion frustrating. I feel the Parish Council is in a transitional period with new councillors joining with new ideas, which are very welcome. I am a little disappointed that some areas have not progressed as far as I would have liked, but feel we are making some progress and we need to harness the talent of all the people around this table.

I would highlight some of our achievements this year:

The Flood Action Group who have made great progress in preparing and protecting against future flooding and have received praise for their professionalism.

The Smithyfields footpath improvements.

Introduction of Terms of Reference (TOR's) for some of the committees. (This is still to be completed to help new councillors understand their role and purpose).

Successful Neighbourhood projects – Lucas Lane triangle, wild planting and Welcome to Whittle sign (to be completed), as well as some new bins sited around the village.

Introduction of the residents' survey with a positive 5% return where we gained some valuable resident feedback and successfully tested our online survey capability.

Thank you! We are all volunteers who give our time willingly.

As I see it the main challenge we face for the coming year and beyond is a willingness to explore and accept new ideas and ways of conducting business. As with all organisations, to continue to be successful we need to take account of all properly expressed views and opinions with mutual respect and in a professional manner. Sometimes the meetings can become a little boisterous, leading to lengthy unproductive sessions. In other words we need to strike a balance, listen, make our points succinctly, reach a decision and then move on!

Notwithstanding what I've just said I believe this Parish Council is passionate about the village and is a force for good. We have an opportunity with the CIL money to build another lasting legacy (like the village hall) for the benefit of residents, and I for one want to make this my priority.

I would also like to thank Lesley and Malcolm (the Clerk and Lengthsman) for their excellent work this year.

3. Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Bell officially accepted office as Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The new Chairman Councillor Bell hosted the remainder of the meeting.

4. Parish Councillors signature of Declaration of Acceptance of Office (in election year only)

Not required.

Chairman..... Date.....

5. Parish Councillors Register of Interests

There were no changes and this is to be removed from further Annual Parish Council meeting agendas as this is now a monthly item.

6. Minutes of last Annual Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were **APPROVED** and signed.

7. Election of Vice Chairman and Acceptance of Office

The Parish Councillors called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Councillor Marsden was proposed by Councillor Newall but it was felt that usual protocol (of Vice becoming Chairman the following year) should be complied with, so Councillor Briscoe proposed Councillor B Higham as Vice Chair. Councillor P Higham seconded this and all agreed with the appointment.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman were welcomed.

8. Election of Committees

The following members of sub-committees were approved:-

Planning & Environment	B Higham, C Briscoe, P Higham, W McDonald
Grants	S Fogarty, W Yates, D Marsden
Finance	S Fogarty, G Candlish, D Marsden, T Newall
Staffing	E Bell, C Newall, B Higham, N Partington
Flooding	N Partington, G Candlish, E Bell.
Projects Committee (New)	This Committee is to cover Youth, CIL, Projects etc T Newall, D Marsden, G Candlish, and K Cornwell (if agreed at later meeting, once co-opted).

Some committees have been disbanded this year. Regarding the finance committee, it was set up on the prompting of NALC and their recommendations were that it should change members yearly. Councillor Marsden suggested that the Chair of the Finance Committee rotates and that the committee lose and gain one member per year. This was agreed.

The Chairman (Councillor Bell) and Vice Chairman (Councillor B Higham) are ex officio members of the above committees.

9. Representatives on Outside Bodies

The following representatives on outside bodies were approved:-

War Memorial	E Bell, B Higham, W Yates
Community Hall Trust	P Higham
Charity Trustees	B Higham (2019), W Yates (2019), W McDonald (2021)
BC Liaison Committee	G Candlish (with S Fogarty as back up)
Neighbourhood Area Meeting	T Newall

10. Annual Subscriptions

It was **RESOLVED** to subscribe to the following: -

Society of Local Council Clerks and Friends of Cuerden Valley.

11. Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk was appointed as the Responsible Financial Officer.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm.

Chairman..... Date.....