

WOLLASTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH HELD ON THURSDAY APRIL 20th 2017, 7.00PM AT THE OASIS, HIGH STREET, WOLLASTON

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Bailey, Messrs Alms, Alvis, Bailey (in the Chair), Fowler, Goldsmith, Hollowell, MacKenzie, Mitchell, Rooney, Savage, Simmons and Tyrrell. Mrs A Young (Clerk).

IN ATTENDANCE: One member of the public.

APOLOGIES: None.

MINUTES: RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish held on Thursday April 21st 2016 were read and signed as correct.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMANS REPORT:

Members had received an electronic copy of the Chairman's report; this was read out at the meeting and can be seen on page 1137.

REPORTS: Three reports were received, these being from Wollaston Heritage Society, Youth Group and Busybees Preschool Playgroup. The reports were electronically distributed to Councillors and read out at the meeting.

OPEN MEETING: One member of the public (living on London Road near the junction with the High Street) has requested yellow lines direct with Northamptonshire County Council and asked for the support of the Parish Council when the consultation comes through.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 7.21pm.

Chairman

Chairman's Report to Wollaston Parish Councils AGM on 20th April 2017

This is my second annual report to Wollaston Parish Council.

Our Neighbourhood plan was formally adopted on December 20th 2016. It is now a legal planning document and must be taken into account when considering planning issues in Wollaston. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is disbanded and responsibility for monitoring it has moved to the Planning Committee.

In last year's annual report I said that work with Wellingborough Council and Norse was ongoing to keep our recycling centre open. After managing to keep it open for a second six month period, to try to find a solution to its financial problems, no new funding could be found. At the time of writing it would appear that the centre will close at the end of the current financial year.

Superfast Broadband is now installed throughout the village. The work required to achieve this came as a by-product of work by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and responses by villagers to our questionnaires.

The Parish Council has created a new and improved web site with the help of a specialist company called White Star. Go and check it out!

Problems we were experiencing last year with the smooth running of the Planning Committee have now been resolved. With help from the clerk we have a regularly updated list of all outstanding planning applications in the parish, along with comments and their place in the passage through the planning system.

Matched funding has been arranged for footway repairs along London Road to the playing field. This along with new speed limit signs of 40 mph each side of the playing field entrance will, we hope reduce the risk of accident to children going and returning from the playing field.

In the last year the Post Office has moved from the Co-op to its new location at Whibley's newsagents in the High Street.

We continue to support local organisations with grants. These include; The Youth Club, Methodist Church, St. Mary's Church, Wollaston First Responders and the Village Hall. We also continue to upgrade and maintain all of the children's play areas throughout the village.

A lot of lobbying has taken place to try to get improvements to the road surface and kerbs along Hardwater Road. The highways authority is to carry out investigative work in the near future. This is a promising sign so watch this space.

I wish to thank, the clerk, Angela Young and all of the Councillors for their hard work and input over the last 12 months. It is a pleasure to work with such a good team.

Wollaston Heritage Society

Reg Charity No. 271530

12th April 2017

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Dear Wollaston Parish Council

Thank you for the invitation to send a report to the Annual Assembly of the Parish. We held our AGM on Thursday 6th April and I am taking various points from the Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's Report. Firstly, I am delighted to report that we DO have a Chairman as Mrs Susan Woodrow put herself forward and the offer was accepted with alacrity! Mrs Marie Shelton is thankfully continuing as Treasurer. We do not have a Vice Chairman or a permanent Secretary and we lost our member of the committee who was dealing with e-publicity. However, we do have a new member of the committee and we are hopeful he will have a good input.

Our new Chairman reported that the aim over the past year was to encourage younger members of the community to visit the museum, and we managed to do this. We had visits by Wollaston Primary children, Brownies, Guides and others. We also held two story/craft sessions in the Museum grounds during the school holiday, which we hope to repeat this year. Overall, we had 690 visitors, up on the previous year, and included visitors from Australia, America, Poland and south Wales.

It was also reported to members that the problem regarding illegal parking on our forecourt has been resolved. It did seem at one point that the only way forward would be the High Court but thanks to some diplomatic intervention, this has been settled.

Our programme of events, as you know, includes the Open Gardens Day and this year the driving force behind the arrangements is not able to help due to personal circumstances. We will of course still go ahead, and will follow her detailed instructions, but will appeal for helpers as we have decided to provide refreshments in the Museum grounds this year.

We continue to hold other events such as the evening to thank our helpers, and the annual quiz, which is always popular. At the AGM one of our members, Barry Robinson, gave an interesting presentation on old Wollaston, with the audience participating in naming people and places. It is so good to have resources of this kind. We find that presentations by Barry and others like Keith Lovell are more popular than other talks, which have not been so well attended.

Sue Woodrow reported that the grounds are looking very good at present and we have two very enthusiastic helpers. As Beacon Hill is protected by English Heritage we have had to call in Heritage Arboriculturalists on two occasions, plus Scott Bader volunteers have helped, and we also secured a grant of £500 from Wellingborough Council for work on the grounds. There is always maintenance to be carried out and paid for in the buildings, such as re-pointing, clearing up a damp area and we will have to have this re-decorated.

This brings me to our financial situation which is quite healthy. This is partly thanks to the generous grants provided by the Wollaston Parish Council in the past when we most needed them. We understand that there is a contingency available should we need it for any particular project, and we are most grateful for this.

We have also received other generous donations and we are grateful to Geoff Simmons for administering the Gift Aid scheme for us.

The Museum re-opened on 2nd April and had a good number of visitors. Hopefully this will continue. As our new Chairman said: “The Museum is a unique asset for the village.” And “we can aim to make Wollaston residents aware and proud of the village’s history and heritage”.

Yours sincerely,
Angela Scheidegger, Wollaston Heritage Society

APPROVED

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF WOLLASTON PARISH
20 APRIL 2017
BUSY BEES REPORT

General

This has been another successful year for this Ofsted 'Outstanding' graded Pre School. Current attendance is 38 Children (some part attendance) out of a maximum of 32: we are currently well recruited.

The Future

From September 2017, The Government are bringing in a new funding scheme allowing working parents (or single parents) 30 hrs free childcare. To allow Busy Bees to offer extra hours the Bowls Club have very kindly agreed to move their one morning session to the afternoon: this is much appreciated.

Events

During the year we have a Xmas Fair, A 'Toddle Waddle,' an Easter Raffle, and other sponsored events. Educational visits took place including to Wollaston library, St Mary's, The Baptist Church, the village post office to post Xmas Cards and Morris Leslie Plant Hire. Various entertainers visited us including musicians. During 'Beep-Beep' week, our children enjoyed seeing a police car and fire engine.

Improvement

Woods of Wollaston have (almost) finished work at the back of the village hall. This included provision of a 'super natural' playing surface, move of the existing shed and new fencing and steps. We gratefully acknowledge financial support from The Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, The Youth Club, The Co-op, Tesco, The Oddities, Tilley's and several individuals. Fundraising proved successful enough for us to be able to plan to replace some tired and purchase some new equipment.

And Finally.....

We would encourage the parents of all new starters to 'stay and play' for the first hour of sessions. Only a few parents have joined us so far, do not forget grandparents etc are also welcome.

Jim MacKenzie
Chair

Annual Report for Wollaston PC ForumWollaston Youth Group

I am pleased to report to the PC that Wollaston Youth Group has successfully just completed its second year. Our membership has grown to over 30, we are financially solvent, and we have enjoyed a wide range of activities in the last 12 months.

As Councillors will know, when I was first elected as a Parish Councillor in 2010, I opted to join the Youth Group working party. As then, I still believe that our young people need a place to go outside of school where they can socialise and do activities which they may not be able to do at home. Councillors will also know that we had several attempts at resurrecting the Youth Group, before setting up the current organisation. My goal from the beginning was to set up a group which was run by volunteers for the benefit of the village youngsters. In modern times, this is a difficult thing with people leading such busy lives, but I am pleased to say that we have 5 parents who willingly give their time to help run our flourishing club. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their time, their resourcefulness, resilience and patience in running our village youth group.

In the last 12 months, we have undertaken a wide range of activities. We would like to do more, but generally we are limited by our financial resources, as well as transport vehicles, but we can achieve quite a lot with what we've got! For example, we took part in a Mud Run, which was greatly enjoyed by all who took part. We have organised cooking classes, a Taekwondo demonstration, Christmas cake baking, arts and crafts sessions and even had a Burns Night supper with Scottish dancing. To see our 15 year old boys dancing Scottish Reels, you could have knocked me down with a feather! This was before they went outside for a fag! We cycled round Pitsford reservoir, helped with a village litter pick and have our first youngsters coming through as Young Leaders, which is excellent.

To conclude, I believe that the Youth Group has established itself as popular club in the village and has a sound future. We very much appreciate the financial support we have received from the PC, Wollaston Working Men's Club, Wellingborough Council and Wollaston Rotary Club, all of which enables us to do activities for the youngsters, not otherwise possible. On behalf of the Youth Group, I would particularly like to thank the PC for their ongoing support and look forward to our third year of operation in 2017.

JJ Alms