

WELLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Parish Council contacts

Chair: Billy Wright, Wellow Farm, The Square, Wellow, Bath BA2 8QE 01225 833556 billy.wright@me.com

Clerk: Kirsten Griffiths, 2 Lodge Close, Yatton, Bristol BS49 4DX 01934 876559 clerk@wellowparish.info

MINUTES

- 1. Chair's Welcome** - The Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting meeting took place on Monday 20th May and was opened by the outgoing Chair, Cllr Billy Wright.

The Chair welcomed all, and clarified the purpose of the APM as being an opportunity for parishioners to come and ask questions. 12 members of the public attended

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting to be Approved – The minutes of the 2018 APM were formally approved.

- 2. Parish council Chair's summary of the year** - A summary of the past year was provided, in particular:

- Approximately 30 planning applications were attended on site by Wellow parish councillors. Planning councillors have built a good record of making recommendations to BANES
- The parish council objected to some key applications such as Sullis Down and Bublers Dytych, the latter concerning a rejection by BANES for a more sympathetic development with smaller houses
- An application brought by Cllr Chivers herself was ultimately approved.

There are now two fibre - enabled cabinets in the village to support the availability of broadband. Truspeed have attended PC meetings on a few occasions throughout the year and addressed the council.

Cllr Handel has produced a very good Welcome to Wellow pack which is available on the website.

Cllr Caudle read a report prepared by Cllr Betts regarding the village hall, which continues to receive 'good' steady bookings. The hall committee are now in a position to install a new heating system over the summer holidays.

- 3. Reports from Community groups** - Wellow Recreation reported they were in a strong financial position and were currently working alongside Wellow Valley Tennis. Use of the pavilion is encouraged.

The Chair reported that the key priority for the new council would be the maintenance of the children's play park.

The Community Bus reported that it has gone from strength to strength with BANES offering the opportunity to tender for the Wednesday 757 service. Thanks were given to everyone for their support, including the PC for providing a grant for the service.

The parlour shop is now in its 20th year of running. Financially, the position is not so positive, with £7,400 being lost last year. This is disappointing given that the shop was up by £4,000 the previous year. Fortunately fund raising efforts have kept things stable but retail trading conditions are challenging. More footfall to the shop is encouraged.

Attendees and councillors were addressed on the issue of climate change, with Hugh Prentice explaining that he wanted the PC to declare a climate emergency in alignment with BANES. Ways in which individuals can reduce their carbon footprint were discussed, with suggestions such as the establishment of food groups and energy groups put forward. Some debate took place with the public, with a suggestion of 'small steps first' being put forward. Ideas such as creating a 'Wellow Wood' and planting new trees was met positively.

Awareness was raised concerning smart technology which, it was claimed, would allow individuals to use solar energy to power households.

The Chair explained that there were grants available in the South West from bodies which give to parish councils who make a difference. The use of photo voltaic cells in planning applications were being seen more often.

It was suggested that advice be given to people on what climate change might look like and mean to people at a local level. It may be useful if people can understand that the impact of climate change may not be reversible but could be mitigated.

Cllr Clarkson reported that she had included a sustainability assessment in one of the latest planning applications.

The car park adjacent to the playing field was discussed, with concern expressed over pedestrian safety (particularly that of children) given there is no clear walkway. Perhaps white lines are needed but measures need to be taken sooner rather than later.

The Chair concluded by saying Wellow does a lot for a small village, but funding has been squeezed (parish sweeper scheme) and in 18 months' time no money will be received from BANES to support the sweeper. The precept will need to increase if the PC is to continue making grants.

Thanks were given to Cllr Wright, and to the councillors of Wellow PC.

4. Meeting closed at 8.15pm