

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BARTESTREE PARISH MEETING
HELD AT 7.00pm ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2019
IN BARTESTREE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Mrs Wendy Soilleux – Chair as Chair of the Parish Council

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Parish Clerk
PCSO Skye Jenkins

Parishioners: 9

1. **To Accept Apologies for Absence**
None
2. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**
None
3. **To Adopt the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 8 May 2018**
The minutes were AGREED and duly signed by the Chair
4. **To Receive the Chairman's Report**
See appendix 1
5. **To Receive a Report from the Diana Caroline Hopton Charity**
See appendix 2
6. **To Receive Questions from the General Public**
None

The meeting closed at 7.15.

Signed: _____

Dated: 09-07-19

Appendix 1

Chair's Report 2018/19

A sure sign of ageing is that the years seem to pass more quickly than they used to and this year is no exception!

Community field

We took over ownership of the Community Field early in 2019 and have had a major power cable buried underground by Western Power. A special thank you to Jonathan Jackson for playing such a pivotal role in achieving this. The next phase is to have a feasibility study carried out to give us more idea of the work that will be required to make it into a sports field, suitable for cricket, football and many other activities. It has been agreed to lease the field to the local Playing Fields Association to manage the sporting activities on the field and our solicitor is currently preparing the relevant documentation. In the meantime, the field has been leased for grazing on a short-term basis. All those young, dynamic volunteers, who would like to help move this project along, please come forward!

Play Areas

We have a sizeable sum of money, dedicated as part of the permission for the Malvern View development, to replace the play area at Frome Park and improve the one at the Village Hall. The Frome Park site has been cleared of large trees and shrubs and the cider apple trees have been pruned. The next phase is to have the stumps ground out and the barren areas of ground reseeded. In the meantime, we have consulted local residents and set up a small working party to plan the new play area and green open space for use by the local community. The Parish Council has elected to take over ownership of the Frome Park open space from Herefordshire Council and the transfer is nearing completion. A special thank you to those who have given time to work on the plans and meet potential play equipment providers.

Road Safety Measures

As a result of a minor road traffic incident involving a pupil, traffic-calming measures have been introduced outside St. Mary's School. These include new, more visible 'School' signs, yellow 'no parking' markings on the A438 and flashing lights at peak times. I suggest that we should ask for similar signs to be installed on the A438 near to the crossing from public right of way LU5 from Lugwardine Primary Academy to the Village Hall entrance.

Housing Development:

The three major housing developments are taking shape and making a considerable visual impact on the group parish.

Malvern View in Bartestree is a development of fifty houses, a third of which are affordable housing, being managed by Herefordshire Housing Association. All the houses have now been built with a small number still to be finished. All but two of the open market houses have been sold. There would appear to be a good mix of ages, families and couples, who are already mixing socially. The internal site roads will be made up and the site should be completed by end of July this year. The on-site roads will be private and operated by a management company, which will negotiate with Herefordshire Council regarding arrangements for such matters as refuse collection.

Bartestree Grange is a development of forty houses, of which eleven are affordable, either shared ownership or rental, and managed by West Mercia Housing Association. In addition there are three discounted open market value homes, which will always be sold at 20% below market value to eligible people. Five houses are ready for sale, of which two are sold and will be occupied by end of May. The internal roads are to be adopted by Herefordshire Council. The whole site should be completed by April 2020.

Quarry Field development consists of thirty dwellings, twenty-nine houses and one bungalow, which is to be built last of all on what is currently the car park of the sales office. West Mercia Housing Association is also managing the ten affordable homes on this site. Six open market homes are already occupied and four of the affordable ones will be by the end of May. Contrary to popular rumour, they do have a mains electricity supply! In fact there are only six open market homes that remain to be sold. My conclusion is that these three main sites will be completed and occupied by the early part of next year, with no shortage of buyers.

Willow Lea is the smaller development, off Traherne Close, Lugwardine of four dormer and three single storey bungalows. Of these, three are nearing completion and again there appears to be no shortage of buyers.

Change in Personnel

Parish Councillor Paul Wargent has decided to stand down. Paul joined the Council in September 2004 and has served for more than fourteen years. He was also a member of the planning committee, during which time he rarely missed a meeting. We will remember him for his reliable attendance, forthright opinions and for helping us to get new metal notice boards outside the Village Hall and at Bartestree Crossroads. Thank you, Paul, for the time you have given over the years.

Ward Councillor, Dave Greenow, lost his seat in the recent local ward elections. Over the twelve years he held office, Dave worked tirelessly on our behalf to achieve many good things: he spoke at the Gladman Public Inquiry, helped when the Olympic Torch came through, speeded up recent road resurfacing, supported us in stopping the unreasonable noise at the Crown & Anchor and has kept us up to date with news from Herefordshire Council to mention but a few. Thank you very much for your hard work and persistence in getting things done. You will be a hard act to follow and we will miss you.

Continuing Personnel

Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Emma Thomas, has worked extremely hard and with great efficiency and has succeeded in getting the affairs of the Parish Council in great shape. In particular, she has our finances set out in a spreadsheet that we can understand and accounts that pass through the external audit with flying colours. Thank you, Emma, very much for your diligence and hard work. It is great having you as our Parish Clerk.

Lengthsman: We are also pleased to have Andy Thomas as our new Lengthsman this year. He has transformed the public rights of way and road verges in our parishes and also deserves our thanks.

Parish Councillors, thank you for your hard work and continuing support. Please keep going because the coming year is going to be another interesting but very busy one!

Appendix 2

Diana Caroline Hopton Charity Report for Bartestree Annual Parish Meeting 2019

The Diana Caroline Hopton Charity owns two almshouses, which continue to provide accommodation for two sets of tenants who have been in occupation for some years.

The Charity's reserves remain high and the financial base is sound.

The Trustees are: Dr. Richard Henderson – Chairman; Mr. J F Baldwin – Treasurer; Mrs. S W Soilleux - Secretary and Dr. G Barnes