

BUILDWAS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Monday 4th March 2019 7pm at Buildwas Village Hall

Present: Cllrs J Grainger, S Heath, V Morgan, R Wilcox, S Ratcliffe

In attendance: Mrs S Morris (Clerk), Cllr C Wild (Shropshire Council), 3 members of the public.

1) Chairman's welcome

2) Present and apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr J Heath.

3) Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th March 2018

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes and they were duly signed by the chairman.

4) Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

5) Chairman's report

The Chairman gave a verbal report of the Parish Council activity during 2018/19, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

6) Finance Report

The clerk reported that year end balances would be around £6800, with £2892 in ring-fenced reserves. A precept of £7,000 had been set for 2019/20.

7) Shropshire Councillor's report

Cllr Wild circulated a report on recent meetings regarding the Ironbridge power station site development, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. In addition, Cllr Wild reported back from a meeting held on 4th March with Shropshire Council planning officers. The key points arising from this meeting were further emphasis that the development would be a lengthy project and development would be phased; indications that the railway would be reinstated fairly quickly to be used for removal of waste from the site; the consultation period for responses to the outline planning application would be a bespoke period longer than the usual consultation period; Shropshire Council was working with the developers and Telford & Wrekin Council to consider the wider impact of the site, including school places and highways needs.

8) Ironbridge Power Station development update

This had been covered in Cllr Wild's report as part of the previous item.

9) Public opportunity to speak

- (i) Under the Wrekin. Mr C Taylor informed the meeting of the difficulties that the production of the community magazine had faced in the last year. There were now just two people responsible for production and the workload was proving too much. Mr Taylor was seeking two more

volunteers from the parishes which the magazine serves. The Parish Council expressed support for the magazine but individual Councillors were unable to volunteer due to other commitments. It was agreed that:-

- Cllr Heath would provide a list of contacts who may be able to support the advertising and marketing aspect of the magazine;
- Cllr Grainger would speak to the editor regarding the potential to set up a meeting to discuss how to distribute the magazine;
- Councillors would consider any local contacts who might be able to volunteer.

- (ii) Neighbourhood Plans. Mr J Healey spoke regarding the potential to develop a Neighbourhood Plan, which would give the Parish Council more power to control development and access to an increased amount of Community Infrastructure Levy from the powerstation site development (25% rather than 15% without a Neighbourhood Plan). Mr Healey gave examples of some Parish/Town Councils which had developed Neighbourhood Plans. Mr Healey suggested that it cost around £10,000 to develop a Neighbourhood Plan but explained that grants were available to cover some of this cost.

10) Date and time of next meeting

2nd March 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

APPENDIX 1

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19

Welcome to the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting. We have a number of short reports to present and there will then be an opportunity for members of the public to speak towards the end of the meeting. We will be holding our Council meeting immediately after this, and you are welcome to stay for this if you wish.

In the last year we have welcomed Councillor Simon Heath onto the Parish Council following the resignation of long-standing member Chris Meads, and we have also welcomed a new Parish Clerk.

The key issue for the Parish in the last year, and particularly in the last month or so, has been the development of the power station site. I will not cover this here as we have a more detailed report on that later on the agenda.

Planning status and planning applications

The Parish Council has been frustrated over the planning applications which have been approved within the parish which are over the number agreed in the Local Plan. We have expressed these frustrations in response to individual planning applications and in our response to the Shropshire Council Local Plan consultation. We recognise that, with the development of the power station site, the character of the parish will change, but we continue to seek to protect the character of Buildwas, whilst also seeking to ensure that our community remains vibrant and sustainable. We have discussed, on a number of occasions, whether to remain as a Community Cluster or to change to Open Countryside. We have not reached a unanimous conclusion, as Councillors see benefits to both designations. We have, however, voted to remain as a Community Cluster for the present time.

Park

The park equipment has undergone its annual inspection with no significant concerns noted. A resident approached us during the year to request, on behalf of a group of children within the parish, that a football goal be installed at the park. We are pleased to report that this has been included in the budget for 2019/20.

Highways issues

We continue to report relevant issues to the Shropshire Council Highways Team as necessary. We are chasing the reinstatement of the speed sign following the accident in which the sign was knocked down.

We have also discussed safety concerns on the road past the school, and the speed of vehicles through the village. The options to reduce the speed of traffic along this stretch are limited. We have written to the school to urge them to encourage parents to use the parking available at the Church and Village Hall, and to utilise the rear entrance of the school to reduce the number of children on the paths by the road.

Highways issues will be one of the key points in our discussions with Harworth, as the scale of the development at the power station will significantly increase the amount of traffic through the parish.

Other issues

The Parish Council has contributed towards the cutting back of the yew trees in the church yard. We have also agreed a contribution towards the Under the Wrekin magazine.

APPENDIX 2

REPORT FROM CLLR C WILD

Members of Buildwas PC and I meet with Claire Biddle (planner from Harworth) and David Cockcroft (Director of Harworth and lead on this development) to discuss Progress and the proposals

Harworth reiterated that they are looking at around at 1000 homes across the site together with leisure and commercial uses, and a village centre.

Key to these proposals is the railway line, which could be used for both leisure and commuting purposes. Harworth have been busy behind the scenes talking to various rail groups and Network Rail (who own the railway line beyond the site) about how this might be achieved.

There are some maintenance aspects that need to be addressed on the line and the Albert Edward Bridge but Harworth would like to use the railway line to remove demolition arisings, the pulverised fuel ash (PFA) and possibly sand and gravel (from the safeguarded area under the green field land).

Newt ponds

The PC and I visited the 20 newt mitigation ponds which have been constructed in an 9 hectare plot (approximately 20 acres) which sits to the very south of the green field part of the site. This area sits under the wood and I took several pictures which hopefully will be put on the website.

The area is due to be planted up with appropriate vegetation to ensure a suitable habitat for the newts when they are relocated from the power station. The newts will be relocated in accordance with a licence granted to Harworth by Natural England and they will be settled in before Harworth start demolition in any areas that might affect them.

The newt mitigation area will not be included as part of any future developable area.

Demolition

Harworth are still working on appointing a demolition contractor but hope to have this agreed by early March. David told us that the contract for demolition will go to the next board meeting on the 26th February.

Once the contractor is in place, demolition work should start within a couple of months. At this stage Harworth think the towers will come down early next year but that is to be confirmed. The contractors will be required to follow strict rules about HGV routing (i.e. avoiding Buildwas and Much Wenlock) they will be required to use only the bypass and Harworth will have a record of all HGVs leaving the site with loads relating to the demolition works. Harworth will pass on contact details of the demolition site manager to the PC and Town Council once they are appointed. This information will also be on their website.

Consultation and planning process

Given the timing of Easter and school holidays this year, Harworth will most likely run the next public exhibition towards the end of May. When Harworth have more details of this, Harworth will publicise the date to the Parish Councils and stakeholders as well as local residents. Harworth are intending to submit the outline planning application in the late summer. We should have more detail on this by the next public exhibition.

Harworth have asked to meet with myself and Buildwas PC again before the public exhibition and then also prior to planning being submitted.