

NEWBOLD ASTBURY CUM MORETON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at Astbury Village Hall @ 7.00 pm.

Present: Councillor J Carter, who chaired the meeting, Councillor S A Banks , Councillor N Plant, Councillor N Barton, Councillor J Critchlow, Councillor P Critchlow, Councillor P Cliff, Councillor R Sutton, Councillor C Kennerly, Councillor N Sharman, Councillor R Lomas, Councillor P Stanway, Councillor R Bailey Cheshire East and the Clerk.

10 members of the public attended.

Apologies: Councillor A Banks.

The draft minutes from 9th May 2018 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record by the Parish.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman summarised the last twelve months of the Parish Council's activities. It was the election year and the votes were being cast on the 2nd May. It seemed that there was 13 Councillors for 13 seats so it would be uncontested.

Over the past year there has been 32 planning applications submitted for consultation and it seemed quite prevalent that the Neighbourhood Plan was being referred to in nearly every case. This was so pleasing that the document was proving to be an important statutory document. The Congleton Link Road had now commenced construction although the only section in our Parish was the roundabout on Sandbach Road, the closure of Sandy Lane will also cause a significant impact. The Clerk was having monthly liaison meetings and any comments wished to be raised and the contact details were on the website. There had also been £1m allocated to the mitigation of Wallhill Lane, a road in Eaton and Padbury Lane because of the construction of the CLR. The Parish Council had met with highways in March and now there was a liaison between all the residents on Wall hill Lane and highways to reach the best result. There had been a meeting before the last PC meeting and 15 one to ones conducted on 4th April.

The issue of fly tipping was referred to and the first prosecution due to a local farmer managing to catch the offender on his land. There was a fine imposed of £2,000. This was a good result and hopefully will set a precedent in the future. CE will collect fly tipping but not on private land. Sibelco were due to submit a new planning application to allow the quarrying on the other side of Wallhill Lane.

The Chairman went on to thank Cllr Peter Stanway as he was stepping down from the Parish Council. The communication had been improved vastly and he thanked Cllr N Sharman for the website and Cllr P & J Critchlow for the newsletter.

He paid tribute to Cllr R Bailey as she was retiring from being a Ward Councillor, she had been such a great asset to the community and would be greatly missed.

Cllr R Sutton and his team were thanked for illuminating the oak tree on the Village Green at Christmas.

He also welcomed Mrs B Jelf to the team as we had an uncontested election.

Cllr P Cliff – Wallhill Lane

Update to the residents on the mitigation measures to date with Wallhill Lane. Cllr PC made the residents aware of the report from highways as they had been unable to attend tonight;

- Sean Halewood has met with 15 residents on a one to one basis to hear their views on traffic management measures for the Wallhill Lane / Brownlow Heath roads.
- Cheshire East Highways have been given the green light to further investigate a possible road closure. An evidence gathering exercise will now take place in relation to this.
- SH will contact contractors and the emergency services, who would be directly impacted by a road closure, to understand their views.
- An update has been sent to Residents, who requested it, following the Project Board meeting on 8/4/19.

Cllr R Sutton- CCTV

Cllr RS updated the residents on the recent proposal of installing CCTV on the Village Green to monitor the traffic movements. Cllr A Banks had completed some research on the proposal of installing CCTV to cover the traffic movements around the village green. He had contacted a specialist company and they thought the best location was for it to be placed on a house to the south of the green as opposed to the church. One residential house had agreed to this action.

There would be two cameras installed and they would be able to monitor the volume of traffic 24 hours a day and highlight the car registrations, this would then give the residents and the Parish Council the opportunity to see the accidents and the offending vehicles. There was the option of blacking out the houses so just the road was filmed. A letter had been sent to 18 houses around the green and there had been positive feedback so far.

The PC would like to hear everybody's views.

Presentation from The Cheshire Villages – Great War Society by Mr M Clarke and Mr H Carlisle (past serving soldier).

There were 13 names on the local war memorial to commemorate the lives of soldiers from Astbury who had lost their lives in the Great War. This village was a farming community and most of the soldiers had worked on the land. There had been a bank clerk from Congleton, a farrier from Brownlow, a policeman and a man who had emigrated to Canada. The first soldier killed had been on 29.4.16 called Arthur Cliff. The average age was 24 years and 6 months, but this only included 12 names as one man's age was unknown. The youngest man was Arthur Hall at 19 years. Throughout the British Empire only 53% have been buried in a named grave and 47% had no known grave. From this 47%, 36% were buried with no name and 64% had no trace. The youngest man from Astbury was from the Edgerton Arms. In 1916 everybody was called up by the King to fight.

The lives lost was vast and so unbelievable to understand. Since the war was over Great Britain has lost 908,000 in conflict e.g. Falklands and Afghanistan. In the Great War 9.7 million military men died and 21.2 million were wounded. 2m died from Germany and there were 7.5million Prisons of War.

The men from Astbury 7 were named on memorials to the missing buried as follows – Theipval France 2, Tynecot, Belgium 2, Meningate, Belgium 1, Arras, France 1 and Poziers France 1. The 6 buried with a named grave were as follows France – 3, Astbury 2 and Belgium 1.

They had carried out vast research over the years and Harry had written five books with two rewrites due to more information being retrieved later. He asked the audience if they have any information, they wished to share with him. Since 2013 they had held 24 commemorative exhibitions. The dates of the war that sometimes were confusing was due to the Great war ending in 1918 but the Armistead only being signed in 1919.

The Chairman thanked everybody for the presentation and how well received it had been.

Meting closed at 8.45pm

