



Leckhampton with Warden Hill Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Brizen Centre, Up Hatherley Way on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7pm

Attendees

Forty one people attended the meeting, which included ten Parish Councillors and four community speakers, see the agenda below:

Cllr Phillip Bennett, Chair of the Parish Council, facilitated the meeting and the minutes were taken by Arlene Deane, the Clerk to the Council.

The Annual Parish Meeting/Community Open meeting is an opportunity for local residents and others interested to learn more about the Parish Council's activities, to ask questions, propose ideas and get more involved in our work.

Only the Chair of the Parish Council is able to act as a Parish Councillor at this meeting. If any matters require a vote to be taken then only those currently on the Electoral Roll of the Parish may vote.

APM1/23/24 Welcome from the Chair of the Parish Council and the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2023/24

The Chair, Cllr Phil Bennett welcomed the attendees and thanked them for taking the time to come along. He explained that the meeting was a residents meeting and not a Parish Council (PC) meeting and that is a vote was proposed only those on the electoral role would be able to vote. The Clerk confirmed she had the latest electoral role to check if needed.

Cllr Bennett read through his report, which had already been posted on the PC website.

In additional to his report Cllr Bennett highlighted:

- The informal training session on the PC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) policy.
- The official opening of the Weavers Field community Orchard on 5th May at 2pm
- The Moorend Park Road junction issues. He gave an update and confirmed that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways are taking a holistic approach to the traffic issues, so will include Church Road, Kidnappers Lane and Farm Lane in their planning assessment. He also confirmed that the draft letter from the PC, to Cllr Morris, the cabinet member of GCC for Highways, would be sent this week. It will also be copied to the Chief Exec of GCC, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council, as well as the MPs for Cheltenham and Tewksbury
- Thanks were given to GCC Highways personnel for continuing to work with the PC over the last twelve months

APM2/23/24 To agree minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 12th 2023

Approved

APM3/23/24 To consider any matters arising from the above minutes.

None

APM4/23/24 Open public session – To consider any matter relating to the Parish which anyone on the Parish Electoral Roll may wish to raise

Cllr Bennett opened the meeting to the attendees

2 residents spoke about the land at Southcourt Green that was up for sale.

Background

Late 2023 it was learnt that the small plot of amenity land known as Southcourt Green was up for sale. The PC approved the application to Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) to make this land an Asset of Community Value (AVC), which was granted. Despite this designation the auction of the land went ahead and the land was bought.

On 12th October at an extraordinary meeting of the PC it was agreed that the PC should submit an 'expression of interest' application, when the time comes. It was also agreed that Southcourt Close community group are made aware that they should constitute themselves to enable them to bid for the land within the intervening four and a half months.

In February 2024 it was learnt that the new owners of the Southcourt Green land have accepted they will not be able to develop the land so wish to resell

The two residents who spoke on behalf of the Southcourt area talked about the importance of keeping the green as a green space for residents to enjoy and would like to work with the PC to ensure its future. It is used for community events, is a habitat of wildlife, having lots of trees and shrubs, the land includes a footpath, well used by residents.

The Chair thanked the speakers and asked that the community group continue to work with the PC

APM5/23/24 Guest speakers

- **Lyam Rookemathews-Galpin from the Springbank Community Group CIC** to talk about the Summer Youth and Outreach work they do in Warden Hill
- **Oliver Pointer from the Cotswold Volunteer Wardens**, will give an update on what has been happening in and around the Parish

- **Eric Miller from the Leckhampton History Society** will give a talk on the history of St Peter's Church Leckhampton
- **Heather Moore from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust** will talk about the use of Suds Rain Gardens to help prevent flooding

APM6/23/24 Final comments from the Chair followed by refreshments.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to what was a very interesting and well attended meeting.