

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011, AT  
7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM.**

Present: Cllrs Knott, Moore, Rollins (Chairman), Tunkle, Cllr Mrs Compton, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, the Clerk.

Mr J Kingston, Mrs M Murdoch, Ms N Highton, Mr B Melling, Mr C Smith, Mr P Champion, Mrs J Jackson.

**1. Apologies** were received from Cllrs Eldridge, Eassom, Coates, Harlow, Mr & Mrs G. Shenton.

**2. The minutes** of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010 were approved after the May 2010 meeting, and then published on the website.

a. Matters Arising.

- HQ Trees - this is still ongoing and awaiting legal agreements.
- Pavement parking and dog fouling - attempts have been made to resolve.

**3. CHAIRMANS REPORT 2010/11**

The past year has resulted in a number of matters that will affect the village both now and in the future.

Firstly the Parish Plan Steering Group has made significant advances, despite a serious reduction in their numbers making considerably more work for the few remaining stalwarts. Their initial findings have now been prepared and the next stage will cover how these should move forward. Our thanks go to the Chairman Brian Melling, and everyone involved for all their hard work.

Secondly, as you may be aware, Police Headquarters will totally change in both the short and long term. Within the next nine months virtually all staff will be relocated elsewhere. With the exception of the Communications Centre all remaining land will be sold.

At a meeting at the Town Hall on the 23rd March the Police presented their intentions, and they will now make an application for outline planning permission for two aspects.

1. A change of use from Police to 'RESIDENTIAL CARE'.
2. To obtain permission for the future development of a 'RESIDENTIAL CARE VILLAGE'. If granted they will sell the property to basically the highest bidder. The size of the development under the present plans is intended to be no greater than the floor space of the existing buildings. Final planning permission will be the responsibility of any subsequent owner of the land and properties. The woods and the field opposite Waller and Quarry Close may be sold as separate entities to the main development, but this has yet to be decided. The field is presently protected from residential development.

The Parish Council has dealt with a large number of improvements and repairs, to various areas of the village, the majority of them have been carried out by a number of Councillors in order to cut costs. Thank you to everyone for helping.

By the time of this meeting the footpath from the school towards the island should have been widened to its original width. The footpath towards Kenilworth still needs further work.

There have also been a number of planning issues to be resolved over the year.

May I pass on my sincere thanks to Eileen, our Clerk who has seen a considerable increase in her workload this year, something which needs to be addressed by the new Council over the coming months. Also to our representatives from the County and District Councils Josie Compton, and Susan Gallagher, for their invaluable assistance, and finally to all the Councillors I say thank you for your help and advice over the year.

May I remind all residents of the Parish that as Councillors, we are here for their benefit. If there are any matters you need help with, please contact us. We have a wide area of responsibility, but if we cannot help, we will find someone who can.

#### **4. Financial Report Annual Return 2009/10**

The annual return for April 2009– March 2010 was submitted to auditors Clement Keys for inspection in June 2010, and approved in July. The usual notices were displayed at that time and copies of the return are always available for scrutiny. The 2010/11 accounts and annual return will shortly be scrutinised by our internal auditor, and submitted for approval by auditors Clement Keys in July 2011.

For the year 2011/12 the Precept remains the same at £7262, and Concurrent income will be £2980, - income will be £10242.

A balance of £5477.06 was brought forward at 31<sup>st</sup> March 11, £588.75 of this is the remainder of a grant received from WDC towards the new Steering Committee's expenses whilst undergoing the Parish Plan project.

A large amount of our income is spent on safety and maintenance of the playground, play equipment, and other general maintenance to village areas, as well as annual grants to the Church, and Sports Club. Attempts have been made over the past year to keep costs to a minimum and this has been successful, with a great deal of general maintenance being completed by Councillors.

This year, there will be election charges to take into consideration - even though we will not have to have an election, WDC make a charge to all Parishes, probably for administration! Also the Parish Council has agreed to contribute £500 towards the Village Hall kitchen scheme. Efforts will again be made to keep expenses to a minimum in the current economic climate. The accounts are always available for inspection by appointment.

#### **5. Reports from Village Organisations**

Reports were received from the following local groups, which will also be published on the website:

- The Local History Group - see appendix A
- 1<sup>st</sup> Leek Wootton Brownies – see appendix B
- Mothers' Union - see appendix C
- Women's Institute - see appendix D
- Horticultural Society - see appendix E

## 6. Reports from County and District Councillors

### **C/Cllr Mrs J Compton.**

Cllr Mrs Compton commented that the reality of the spending cuts are now happening, and that WCC accounts for approx 90% of the Council tax and is therefore the largest spender, the reduction in overall departmental budgets will be substantial with £60 million in savings to be made over three years.

Every section has had to take its share, with savings being made in Adult Services, and selling off the remaining Council owned care homes. School Transport grants will be reduced with post 16 education transport cut. County Music Service will have to be self financing. Youth Service budget has been reduced by two thirds, as well as bus services which are not commercially viable which includes many rural areas. 16 libraries across the County are under threat to closure although the mobile service is safe with joint working with Solihull. Street lights in certain roads will be switched off during the hours of darkness, non regulatory carriage markings not being replaced etc. All these proposed alterations to the services are subject to consultation and all budget reductions can be found on the WCC website under the "Facing the Challenge" heading.

The long awaited result of the Atherstone on Stour Fire Enquiry resulted in three senior fire officers being charged with corporate manslaughter and WCC itself charged under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Warwick Rural West Community Forum, has met regularly with Leek Wootton always being well represented and indeed awarded a grant for a First Responder from their funds during the year.

Cllr Compton summarised by commenting that the last year has been somewhat different as she has had the privilege of being Chairman of the County Council, which has meant that her time has been taken with representing the County both within its borders and also in neighbouring counties. Many functions have been attended with the highlight being the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to open the new Justice Centre in Leamington – locally the Princess Royal visited Lowlands Farm at Shrewley as President of Riding for the Disabled. Her primary function has been of course to chair meetings of the full Council with 61 Councillors names to remember! and she recorded her thanks to the Chairman, Councillors and Clerk for their help and cooperation. Full copy attached.

### **D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher.**

Cllr Mrs Gallagher reported on the 4 years since she became a local Councillor, outlining the various problems she was able to deal with including reinstating travel tokens.

WDC now has one of the best recycling services in the country.

Cllr Gallagher was appointed to the Executive last May and given the portfolio of culture and leisure, responsible for parks and gardens, leisure centres, the spa centre, the town hall, open spaces, museums - a very varied and busy portfolio. A new manager at the Spa Centre has resulted in a superb programme with customers flocking back, and new seating in the stalls is to be installed.

In May last year, travellers moved on to a site in Kites nest Lane, which has caused a great deal of problems, however, after two years this is now at the appeal stage, and with the help of WDC and FROG a satisfactory conclusion may be imminent.

Good news – money to restore the Linden Arches on the Pump Room Gardens has been raised by the public and local businesses, to be completed for the Queens diamond Jubilee in 2012.

After four very busy and rewarding years, Cllr Gallagher thanked everyone for their help, and is always available to help solve any problems that might occur.

Full copy attached.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Compton and Cllr Mrs Gallagher for the reports and for all their hard work on our behalf over the year.

7. Issues of particular local importance.

PARISH PLAN PROGRESS.

The Chairman Brian Melling and Jonathan Kingston, of the Parish Plan Steering Group reported on progress since the Steering Group was formed in 2009. They will shortly be taking advice from Mr Patalong of WRCC on how to go forward to the next stage of an Action Plan. Some of the main concerns were discussed, as well as details of questionnaire results, which have been published in past issues of the Link. It is felt that more analysis is needed before further progress can be made.

A lack of support from original group members was proving disappointing, adding to the workload of the small Steering Group Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Melling and Mr Kingston for attending and reporting to the PC on progress, and wished them well in the future.

Other questions :

- Q - conflicting information from village organisations arise from time to time. It was suggested that efforts could be made to liaise with other organisations. More communication is also needed for non website users.
- Q – is the field adjacent to Police HQ secure? The PC has been assured that it will be.
- Mrs Murdoch expressed thanks for the speedy repair to the footpath steps.

8. There were no other matters raised, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.  
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Signed.....Date.....

Appendix A  
Leek Wootton History Group

The past year has seen the History Group continuing to be active although not perhaps as publicly as in 2009.

The Wise and Waller Map was published by Warwickshire County Record Office (WCRO) and a copy was distributed to every household in the Parish.

The Group held its first formal AGM in May 2010 and a number of potential project subjects were discussed.

A trip to the Imperial War Museum was organised in November and sixteen people enjoyed a very interesting visit to this extensive museum.

Our Chairman acted as volunteer co-ordinator of a Leamington History Group (LHG) project to transcribe the letters of Edward Willes, and some members of LWHG assisted with transcribing and checking. This project was undertaken by LHG with the assistance of WCRO.

The Group has recently published a booklet entitled *A History of Woodcote*, which is available to buy, and twenty copies have been given to All Saints' School.

Much time has been given to making an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to finance a project planned around the Diary of Doreen Wright, which she wrote from May 1940, when her husband Gilbert went missing over France, until December 1942. In March we learned that we had been awarded a grant of nearly £37,000 and are about to start on the project in earnest.

We will be looking for volunteers to undertake various elements of the project. Anyone interested in being involved will be very welcome to our AGM at 7:30 pm on 5 May at All Saints' School, at which there will be a presentation on the project.

2011/2012 is therefore going to be a much more active year for the History Group. We also have a plan to try to organise a joint visit with the Horticultural Society to Hill Close Gardens in Warwick; more details in due course.

Lesley Eldridge Secretary/Treasurer

**Appendix B**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Leek Wootton Brownies**

By February 2010 the Guiding movement was well into their centenary year celebrations. Our unit had started the Adventure 100 challenge, which involved us completing 10 adventures and gaining 10 points for each adventure. These included having a 'chill out' evening, visiting St Johns museum for our Flashback challenge, designing a Brownie uniform for the Future section and visiting the Holiday Inn for our 'Room with a view' adventure. For this we were able to go up to the balcony in the premier suite and sketch the outside view that we saw. We finished the evening off with a chip shop hike!

The Brownies celebrated St George's day at Kenilworth Castle with the rest of the district. We were asked to dress up as St George and the dragon. Each Brownies decorated a panel of the dragon's body on cardboard and a box for his head. The outcome was very effective. We have also visited Crazy Kiln in Kenilworth to make Father's day presents and invited parents to attend a hostess night, where the Brownies entertained and served refreshments, to gain their Hostess badges. After the summer break, many of the Brownies gained their Healthy Heart badge and we visited The Warwickshire for a 'golf taster' session.

On 20.10.2010 at 20:10 we finished our Centenary celebrations with a roller disco in Warwick. During a live link with HQ and the rest of the UK, we all renewed our promises.

As always, we enjoy taking part in the various Church services and have had to draw up a rota for flag bearers, as it is proving very popular.

We are very grateful for the help of Zoe Jones and Heather Marshall who are now enlisted as our Young Leaders. Emily Cannings came as a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer and has also stayed on to help us out. They regularly run a session, to give us some time for paperwork. We currently have a full pack of 16 Brownies and a long waiting list.

Steph Jones  
(Brown Owl)

Sharon Renshaw  
(Tawny Owl)

## Appendix C



### LW Mothers Union

The Mothers' Union Vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

The Aim and Purpose is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

We are led by a committee, which meets regularly to plan for our programme and how best to support our church and community, and to oversee smALL SAINTS and Leek Wootton Stay & Play

We fundraised for the 'Continuing Famine in East Africa' during 2010.

Members pray for families worldwide and for our village school, children's organisations and community.

Eighteen families receive The Christian lifestyle magazine 'Families First'.

Meetings included eating out, fun with friends, worship, bible reading, prayer and speakers which included Mary Lodge sharing her ordination story since her training in Leek Wootton, Jill Corbishley helping us understand more about The Leamington Mission, Helen Cornwall Jones reflecting on prayer and our Provincial President Felicity Hawke shared her experiences of Zambia which is linked to our diocese.

Working with the committee that runs Leek Wootton Stay & Play enables our church community to support this vital resource for our village. Preschoolers, toddlers, babies and carers meet at the village hall each Thursday term time 10 – 11.30



Preschoolers, toddlers, babies and carers also come along to smALL SAINTS Coffee, Cakes & Messy Play on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month term time. We meet In Church after school drop off time from 9-10am. We have play, music and stories to explore the Bible and Christian faith.

Janet Jackson (Leek Wootton MU Branch correspondent)

**Appendix D**  
**Leek Wootton Women's Institute**  
**Annual Report, Hazel Shenton, President**

This year sees the tenth anniversary of the reformation of Leek Wootton Women's Institute and we intend to mark the occasion at our Annual General Meeting in October. The past ten years has seen the group go from strength to strength, reflecting the Women's Institute motto of 'Inspiring Women' whichever way you take it!!!!

We regularly welcome visitors to our varied programme of events and now have more than fifty members. The year began with an insight into buying and selling at auction, a talk on the perils and rewards of selling the family heirlooms. In the spring Tamsin Rosewell brought the new Elizabethan Gardens at Kenilworth Castle to life for us, describing the sights, smells and sounds and telling the secrets behind the symbolism in the flowers and carvings. Later in the year we learnt how to make hats from some banana fibre, some spray glue, a corset stay and a length of Clingfilm. On a more serious note we learnt of the good work done by a local women's refuge and debated the national resolutions on mandatory labelling of country of origin on all meat, poultry and fish products sold in this country. We joined with other WI groups in the Warwickshire Federation Quiz, which we won, and in a display of Irish dancing – deafening!

The gardening and walking groups were hampered by the poor weather although the walkers managed an evening walk by the canal and the gardeners made the garden pretty and welcoming. We had eight trips to the theatre to see shows as diverse as West Side Story at Warwick Arts Centre and the ballet Cinderella at Birmingham Hippodrome. The reading group read and discussed seven books with varying levels of interest. We also managed five meals out at venues as varied as a Chinese restaurant and Coventry Guildhall.

This year's programme offers different topics and different outings but the same welcome and degree of interest and friendship to all members.

2010 was another good year for the Society and we continue to enjoy splendid support from the local community.

Tom and Margaret Powell, ably assisted by Renee Perkins, organized another successful outing on Sunday 20th June to Arley House and Gardens in Cheshire. Margaret and Tom Powell pay particular attention in their preparation for the outing seeking a venue of interest to those joining the coach along with coffee stops and available restaurant facilities at the venue. They do feel that this trip was a little on the long side and service in the restaurant left a little to be desired. In their inimitable fashion these factors will have a bearing on the next outing.

The Show, on 21st August, attracted fewer exhibitors than 2009 and this was put down largely to adverse weather conditions. Income was however only slightly down with the cake stall and raffle making significant contributions. Exhibits at a level that we have come to expect and these are undoubtedly a major attraction to the show visitors. Support continues from local businesses in the form of prizes for the raffle and we are grateful for that support. Our relatively strong financial position enabled us to make donations of support to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, LINK Magazine and the Social Club Tractor. Keven Meredith, who passed away last year provided the Annual T K Meredith Award for the best exhibit in the Floral Section, the Committee has agreed to continue the Award as the T K Meredith Memorial Award. However the Trustees of Mr. Meredith's estate agreed to provide continuing support for the Award for the next 20 years and have provided those funds in one payment, which now rests in our accounts. A letter of thanks was sent to the Trustees.

The Christmas buffet on 11<sup>th</sup> December, held in the Village Hall, again enabled the Committee members to demonstrate their appreciation to those who had supported the Society over the year. Food and drink was supplied by Committee Members and all attendees enjoyed a pleasant social evening. That support manifests itself in a number of ways through donations, prizes and assistance, particularly at the show.

Looking forward with notes for your diary in 2011

The Outing will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June and we will be the guests of the owners of The Burrows Garden and Snelston Hall both of which are near Ashbourne in Derbyshire. The journey will not be as long as last year and lunch can be preordered which means service should be at the standard required. Renee Perkins is taking bookings, costs being £20 for the outing and £8 for the lunch, if required.

The Annual Show will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August and we may see some interesting additions to the Schedule. Photographic categories will be 'A favourite plant' and 'A friend in the garden'. Angela Guest will be orchestrating the event, as she has successfully achieved over many years.

My thanks to all who have supported the Society over the past 12 months especially the members of the Committee who have given unstinting support. Special thanks are due to our Secretary Mary Murdoch for her boundless energy and support, as she is kept busy running the Society and in keeping me on the straight and narrow. Christine Hurcomb is ideal as Treasurer, as being a Scot she keeps tight hold on the purse strings and keeping our accounts in order,

I have to again conclude with my annual appeal. Our constitution provides for a committee of 16 members, including the Officers, and we are currently at 14 members. An example of the commitment shown by current members is demonstrated by Margaret Powell who has served on the Committee for 42 years. If we are to continue with the successes enjoyed by our Society we must recruit new members, particularly younger members who will be able to safeguard succession within the Committee. Anyone interested in the work we do should contact Mary Murdoch or me and we will be pleased to talk them.

Brian Melling, Chairman.