

PARISH OF WROCKWARDINE
Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 at
Admaston House at 7.30p.m**

Present:

Cllr N Evans – Chair of the Parish Meeting
Ms J Hancox – Clerk to the Parish Meeting

In attendance: Cllr Mrs E. Ballantyne

Cllr Mr K Ballantyne
Cllr P. Bevis
Cllr Mrs J Savage
Cllr Mr S Rawlings
Member of the public - Mr. Barry Cartwright
Borough Cllr Mrs J Seymour
T&W Rights of Way Officer - Mr Andrew Careless

The Chair welcomed all to the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chair gave a brief outline of the purpose of and requirement (in law) for an Annual Parish meeting and reminded all present that this was not, as was sometimes mistakenly thought, a meeting of the Parish Council but a meeting of the Parish.

The Chair stated that questions would be taken after every agenda item.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Presentation by T&W Rights of Way Officer

Mr Andrew Careless gave details of the Borough's plan to invest an additional £100K over the next 2 years to improve the infrastructure of the rights of way network. Work will include replacing styles with kissing gates improving access for all, marking the network with easy furniture and generally improving the networks and surfaces. As a largely rural Parish, Mr Careless said that Wrockwardine would benefit from this investment.

Mr Careless advised the meeting that in order to support the deadline of having a definitive map in place by 2026, the Borough would be employing a part-time member of staff to support Mr Careless and, a solicitor working 50% of their time on rights of way applications. The Borough expect around five modification orders per year and two public enquiries.

Mr Careless highlighted the work done to improve the bridge at Allscott and the bridleway being put in to Isombridge which will improve the Shropshire Way and facilities for horse riders. Mr Careless pointed out that whilst Wrockwardine is a large Parish there are currently only two bridleways on the definitive map, these being the Leaton to Tiddicross route and the one from the bridge at Allscott to the Mill. This is a small number for the size and, it is likely that the British Horse Society will submit claims for more in the area.

Questions

Cllr Bevis enquired as to whether the Silkin Way was a bridleway. Mr Careless confirmed that the Bratton to Wrekin Link path had previously seen a request to allow horses and, this had now been made into an official claim. Mr Careless commented that there was no consistency along the Silken Way as the route was originally developed by TDC and parts of it were all adopted differently. Mr Careless believed that the route should be available to all. Cllr Mr Ballantyne commented that this was, and remains, a contentious issue and asked whether it was an informal or formal claim, as pedestrians should have right of way. Mr Careless confirmed it was a formal claim now and had been agreed previously because it was council owned land. Cllr Mr Ballantyne suggested it may encourage conflict. Cllr Mrs Seymour confirmed that the route in front of her house is used regularly by all and that there was no conflict. It was suggested that cyclists could be more of a problem.

Cllr Mrs Savage enquired about horse rider's access to a right of way and whether it gave them the right to use the smaller paths leading up to the routes. Mr Careless at this point advised that horses were originally allowed access to the part of the Silkin Way in question because riders needed a safe route to access a regular horse event that was previously held at Bratton. Cllr Mrs Savage suggested that riders could come off at a non-route and then cause a nuisance. Mr Careless said that staggered barriers could prevent this but then they might also prevent pushchairs and wheelchairs. Cllr Mrs Savage asked whether there had been any reported problems and Mr Careless confirmed only a handful in the last few years.

Cllr Rawlings asked if there were any more claims from the British Horse Society and Mr Careless confirmed they were likely to submit more in the Parish due to fear that 2026 would end rights of way on undesignated routes. Mr Careless advised that in the neighbouring Parish of Little Wenlock, all the routes have been claimed.

The Chair asked when work would start on the Parish's submitted requests for repairs on some rights of way in the Parish and, Mr Careless confirmed the Borough would be completing some larger projects and would then address these issues. Mr Careless finished by saying that rights of way are important to communities and, the more people that can use them the better.

The Chair commented that she liked Mr Careless' ethos and thanked him for giving up his time to come and present at the meeting.

Mr Careless left at 7.54p.m

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2018 be accepted as a true record.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report of the Parish Council

Due to the forthcoming election and the Parish Council being in a state of Purdah, the clerk read out the Chair's written report

5. Borough Councillor's Report

Due to the forthcoming election and the state of Purdah there was no Borough Councillors report. Borough Cllr Mrs Seymour was available for questions, but none were asked.

6. Resolutions

Cllr Mr Ballantyne commented that the turnout to the meeting was disappointing and discussion took place on how attract attendees in the future. Suggestions included offering refreshments, better communication and improved forward planning.

There were no further resolutions.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all for their attendance and thanked the Parish Councillors for a really good year. The meeting was brought to a formal close at 8:21 p.m.

Signed.....*P Cooper*.....
Chair of the Meeting

Date.....*20th May 2024*.....