



Minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting of White Waltham Parish Council
held in the Community Hall, Woodlands Park Village Centre
on Tuesday 30th May 2017

Present: Mr Patrick McDonald, Chairman
Six Members of the Parish Council
The Clerk, PM McLoughlin was in attendance

1. Introduction

Mr McDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on May 2016 were approved and duly signed by the chairman.

3. Chairman's Report

Mr McDonald presented his report which highlighted the finances for 2016/2017 and the projects that the parish council have completed throughout the year. Mr McDonald thanked the parish councillors for their support and hard work and the staff for their efforts and talents. Full copy of the Chairman's report attached.

4. Questions from Electors

No electors present.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 7.20 pm and invited everyone to join members of council for refreshments.

Chairman's report – May 2017

What an exciting and productive year this has been. We have continued to build on the good work done in previous years and develop some new projects.

One of the biggest roles for the parish council is financial accountability. The budget set for 2016/2017 was a projected income of £193,275 and projected expenditure of £205,034 with the balance of £11,759 being funded from reserves. However with a careful eye on the expenses the budget has come in with a surplus.

Total budgeted income for 2017/2018 is £202,156, Total budgeted expenditure for 2017/2018 is £212,756. Precept is £110,165. Balance of £10,600 will be funded from reserves.

The parish council has always worked hard for and on behalf of their residents and this year is no different. In order to be more open and transparent we will show in the Summer edition of the "Whats On" magazine the main components that make up the parish council's budget and from there how we arrive at our precept. Sadly the precept was increased this year by 9.8%

The parish council has also increased their presence in the media so that you our residents can see the work of the parish council. Here is just a snapshot of the some of the activities the parish council has being involved in;

In November we welcomed Volunteers from Vodafone who spent the day decorating the inside of the centre and building a raised bed and sandpit for children who attend the centre so they can play and learn.

After requests from parents for play equipment in Grove Park, we applied to Awards for All for funding and were successful in receiving £10,000. We officially opened the play equipment in April and the feedback received from parents was encouraging. I am delighted that the parish council have been able to provide this play equipment for young families in the area and the parish council is always looking at ways to improve its facilities for the benefit of its residents.

The parish council applied to the British Heart Foundation for a Defibrillator and were successful in adopting the BT box in Paley Street to house it in.

As part of the planning permission for the housing development on the old Heroes site Hicks Development agreed to donate land on Cherry Garden Lane to the parish council. This is still going through the legal land transfer however in the meantime Lynn Penfold on behalf of the parish council has had trees & shrubs planted and the ground seeded.

In February Littlewick Green ward parish councillor and the parish clerk supported a working group of Littlewick Green residents to strengthen the green in the area around the trees which is traditionally known as the parking area.

As always planning has thrown a few curveballs. The parish council has a fine line to walk between balancing the housing needs of the community and preventing overdevelopment. During the year RBWM launched the Borough Local Plan in which one of the proposed sites is the land north of Breadcroft Lane and south of the railway line. The proposal is to build 100 residential units on what is the last area of green belt within Woodlands Park. After speaking to a number of local residents the parish council objected to the proposal.

This is my third term as Chair for the parish council. In my first term I worked with RBWM to have the Woodlands Park Village Centre built which has become such a hub of the community. It is perhaps fitting that I am chair again in what is now the 10 year anniversary of the Village Centre. It

has exceeded my dreams in what could be achieved and I hope that many of you will come along on the 27th August to help us celebrate.

However none of this would have been possible without the fantastic support and work of my fellow parish councillors and the talents and efforts of all the parish staff.

Patrick McDonald

Chairman