

**Minutes of the annual parish meeting of Brimfield held on
Wednesday 9th May, 2019 at Brimfield Village Hall, 7.30pm.**

There were 9 electors present. Mr M Painter chaired the meeting.

Apologies – P Clements.

Flood group – progress update

Chairman Peter Clements had forwarded a report. There had been no flooding within the Brimfield Brook catchment area this year due we assume to weather patterns and the minor clearance works undertaken by the group.

Funding is now secured for the Natural Flood Management(NFM) project, being led by Herefordshire Council with support from the Severn Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency. DEFRA has allocated £15m for 26 NFM projects in England, secured until 2021.

During the last 12 months, a number of meetings and public sessions have been held with Officers leading the project, these have been well attended by parishioners both from Brimfield and Orleton.

The Herefordshire project has been divided into seven catchment areas, ours being Brimfield Brook which encompasses over 3000 hectares of land from Mortimer Forest through Richards Castle, Orleton and Brimfield. Project staff have been appointed. Key posts include Bethany Lewis, Project Officer. Hannah Weatherall, SRT Catchment advisor Andrew Osbaldiston, NFM Coordinator, EA.

It is understood that currently the project team are actively involved in data collection and project planning. A number of monitoring stations are being set up in order to gauge flow reaction to weather events.

At a recent catchment meeting with the Project Group we have put on record our concerns over the apparent slow progress ‘on the ground’ coupled with the bureaucracy inherent within the project. Hopefully by my 2020 report I will be in a position to detail actual examples of NFM installations within our catchment area.

Minutes of the last meeting The minutes of the last annual parish meeting were read out, agreed and signed as a true record.

Matter Arising: there were no matters arising.

Any other business.

It was noted that the Speed Indicator Device(SID) was in place, deployment of the SID is due next month. Concerns were raised about dogs in the village, relating to dog fouling, footpaths and being kept on leads. Dog fouling is common around the village and poo bags are being left in the hedges. Dogs are not being kept on a lead when using footpaths.

The Clerk advised that we may be able to get some more signs and will look into this. It was voiced that no notice is taken of these signs. The Clerk further advised that the dog warden will look into these issues but those responsible need to be reported or caught in the act for the dog warden to enforce.

There is particular concern regarding dogs and stiles in the parish at present, the Clerk will find out the legal standing on dogs on leads and footpaths including stiles and fouling. This will be taken to the next Parish Council meeting. Advice will also be sought from Balfour Beatty regarding litter bins and dog waste.

Cllr Stone expressed his thanks to the Clerk and to Parish Councillors in their voluntary role. Thanks also to Mark Painter as Chairman, to Ken Platford our previous Chairman, to whom we send our best wishes and to Boris Pearson our Lengthsman.

Cllr Stone was re-elected in the recent ward elections but Herefordshire Council is now hung, the Conservatives have lost overall control. A new administration needs to be in place by 24th May.

Brimfield Post Office was recently broken into. Josie although shaken was unharmed. Anyone with any information should call the police on 101. We await to see if it re-opens. Tenbury’s Post Office has also closed. There are now 4 buses a week going to Leominster and Ludlow, 2 to each town.

Thanks were given to Peter Clements, Chair of the Flood Group and we now await the outcome of the project. There has been 4 separate fly tipping incidents at Woodstock Lane, which have been reported. A copy of the Brimfield Hall accounts will be passed to the Clerk.

The importance of Facebook, the village website and spreading important information was pointed out in relation to the robbery at the Post Office. It was also noted that there had been a break-in at a house in Little Hereford.

Overhanging and dangerous trees are still causing concern in Wyson Lane. This is due to be looked at during the next parish tour with our Locality Steward later in the year. Trees and hedges cannot be disturbed until later on due to nesting birds.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Signed Date
Chairman