

REDLYNCH PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES



Minutes of the Redlynch Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 7.15pm in Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Village Hall.

Present: Parish Cllrs Baker-Beall, Bennett, Blocksidge, Budworth (Chair), Newton, Peacock, Ramsay, Simpson, Stride and Voss, Unitary Cllr Randall, 17 members of the public and Nicky Ashton (Parish Clerk).

1. Welcome and Introduction by Parish Council Chairman Kate Budworth:

Cllr Budworth welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies for absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

3. To receive presentations from the Police and South Wilts Committee Member Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association:

PCSO Matt Smith and Acting Inspector John Hutchings spoke about local issues and wider issues affecting the county. They stressed the importance of feeding through information to the police and taking an interest in what's going on around you. Generic posting of pictures on Facebook to alert others in the community of suspicious vehicles or suspicious behaviour is acceptable. The Police have a Community Messaging system and if they are given details of suspicious activity they will use this system to pass on the information. It is only through investigative work they catch offenders.

Due to police numbers and the area size they have to cover it's not possible to have a police presence in the rural villages (170 staff for 500 sq miles). There are serious issues with county lines drug dealing affecting vulnerable people in our communities due to "cuckooing" (drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing).

Parishioner Question: How do you work with Hampshire?

There is no joint working with Hampshire. The PCSO's for Hale and Fordingbridge liaise with us if there are any issues.

Parishioner Question: What checks are there on those selling lead?

The Waste Carrier licences are checked by trading standards. We only check Wiltshire scrap dealers. If vehicles stopped paperwork is checked. Scrap dealers have to retain documentation such as seller's bank details, names, DOB etc. Dealers have to protect themselves as well.

The people involved in lead theft travel long distances so not always sold in the same county. It is not individuals involved in this type of crime but dozens of individuals working together.

Parishioner stated that it is worrying crime is more organised and criminals are travelling further. A strategic approach is needed with the community and police force working together. Need to work in a co-ordinated fashion. The formation of consortium to discuss and agree best security equipment would be helpful such as which are best lights to use, cameras etc.

Cllr Blocksidge advised a new tasking group made up of police and members of the community was currently being set up. The group will meet to discuss local issues on a regular basis and feedback.

Acting Inspector Hutchings explained the police assist with funding of Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speed Watch schemes but volunteers are needed to step up and help.

Cllr Ramsay queried if police could advertise what happens with 101 calls so people aware reporting works. Acting Inspector Hutchings explained its very time consuming to do this.

Parishioner Question: It must be a worry that there are no local police stations and no local custody suite?

It's not a necessity to have stations nowadays as we work in a mobile environment due to a changing world. We now have mobile phones, laptops etc. It is annoying that the closest custody suite is now in Melksham but we have separate teams who deal with transportation.

Acting Inspector Hutchings advised parishioners to phone 999 if incident happening now, 101 for suspicious activity and email PC Matt Holland if a general query.

South Wilts Committee Member of the Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Association:

Mr Merv Quick gave a presentation on the Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The scheme is run by volunteers in partnership with Wiltshire police. Their Vision is that of a caring society that is focused on trust and respect in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life. Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live.

The current challenge is to reinvigorate the scheme across Wiltshire. Suggested ideas include a councillor charged with Community Safety, identifying a Neighbourhood Watch Champion and promoting community safety not solely crime prevention.

The benefits of the scheme include a possible 26% reduction in crime (College of Policing Report), a possible reduction in house insurance if you become a member and it ensures the vulnerable and lonely people are included.

You can join or create a scheme and sign up for crime "Alerts" via www.wiltshirenhw.org

4. General discussion on criminal activity within the Parish:

All discussions took place within the previous agenda item.

5. Chairman's Annual Report:

Good evening everyone, and thank you for turning out this evening. The Annual parish Meeting is traditionally organised by the Parish Council but is not a formal Parish Council Meeting. It is an opportunity for organisations and charities to report on what they have been up to during the year and for residents to raise any concerns or feedback on any issues affecting their Parish. We are aware that the recent criminal activity affecting small rural parishes in our area has been a major concern and therefore invited both the police and representation from the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to attend this meeting and thank them for their time and involvement this evening.

This is my 4th annual report which finds me once again marvelling at how quickly time flies by. As Councillors we are all volunteers and like many of you, take a particular interest in our villages, services and amenities. This last year we have welcomed Councillor Simon Voss and now have a full complement of members who work hard to address issues raised and champion our parish to be the best that it can be. In the last year we have continued to support our assets through our Asset Grant Scheme honouring applications from Redlynch village hall, Lover Green Association and Redlynch playing fields. We have recently adjusted the criteria to these applications to further support these groups so that the grants can be used for asset equipment repairs (although not for general running costs).

Our playground equipment project at Redlynch playing fields saw the replacement of the large multi play piece of equipment and we successfully secured a grant from the Big Lottery Fund which meant that we could also replace the seesaw and install 2 new pieces of equipment, a basket swing and sunken mini trampoline. We have also replaced a broken spring and the seats on the children's rockers. From the number of children visiting the play area these improvements appear to have been successful!

This last year we have also completed works to the verge at Church Hill, Lover, clearance works to Kiln Lane footpath, Mary's Walk footpath and the lease for Lover Green. We have also scraped and cleaned the surface of the footpath from Downton Hill to Paccombe. We have replaced the missing and broken panes in the Wiltshire Council bus shelters throughout the Parish and replaced missing road signs. We have continued to liaise with the Parish Steward to have drains cleared, pot holes filled, overgrown vegetation removed and any other identified issues on a regular basis. We have continued to have the speed indicator device (SID) installed at regular intervals and have agreed the joint purchase of one with Downton to further address Parishoner's concerns over speeding. Funding towards this project was awarded from the Southern Wiltshire Area Board and sufficient volunteers have also come forward to reinstate a Community Speed Watch Scheme.

This year we worked with the local branch of the Royal British Legion regarding the special commemoration and remembrance Sunday parade and helped purchase a second WW1 Commemorative bench. Although unsuccessful in securing an alternative site, we represented Parishoners views to both WCC and Vodafone about the siting of the telephone mast and will continue to represent views on future matters.

Councillors have represented the Parish by attending the Southern Wiltshire Area Board meetings, Southern Area Transport Group meetings, North West Quadrant meetings of the New Forest National Park Authority, New Forest Consultative Panel meetings, Stockman and Woodland Trust meetings and the Downton Link. Councillors have attended new Councillor training along with neighbouring Parishes and have continued with normal activities including reviewing planning applications, running the cemetery at Grove Lane, the allotments at Vale Road, the book exchanges in the telephone boxes at Lover and Woodfalls and various grass cutting throughout the Parish.

My thanks go to all the Councillors who put in a considerable amount of time and effort on behalf of our community and to those Parishoners who run the various clubs, societies and committees and give up their time willingly to contribute to the rich fabric of village life. All our meetings welcome public attendance should you wish to hear more about what is going on or contribute in any way. My thanks also go to Councillor John Blocksidge as Vice Chairman for his support, time and effort, David Huckfield for his continued support and work with the website and Lockerley stone for the cleaning of the Bowers Hill war memorial. Our thanks also go to our Unitary County Councillor Leo Randall who regularly attends our Parish Council meetings and is more than happy to advise and assist where possible and regularly supports local events. Once again my thanks also go to Nicky, our Parish clerk, who continues to steer this ship over both calm and choppy waters, as required, with both good humour and professionalism. Thank you for your attendance and we look forward to another successful year.

6. To receive presentations from Community Groups:

The Chairman of Redlynch Playing Fields Association thanked the Council for their Asset Grant and for amending this year's Asset Grant to allow for maintenance of existing equipment. The committee are wishing to resurface the tennis court and install ladies changing facilities.

7. Any general questions to Parish Councillors from residents who are on the electoral roll for Redlynch Parish:

There were no general questions.

8. With no further questions Cllr Budworth thanked those present for attending and the meeting was closed at 8.44pm.

*Representing the communities of
Lover, Morgan's Vale, Redlynch and Woodfalls*

DRAFT