

Annual Parish Meetings

**Monday 8th May 2017
at Cawley Hall, Eye from 7pm**

PRESENT: EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, AND COUNCILLORS I STEVENS (CHAIRMAN), P EDWARDS, K WOOD, S CHURCHWARD, J COATES (VICE CHAIRMAN), M MORGAN, G THOMPSON, C PEARSON AND R WOOLLEY.

IN ATTENDANCE: WARD COUNCILLOR S BOWEN; AND R HEWITT (CLERK).

The Annual Parish meetings commenced at 7pm with a welcome from Chairman, Ian Stevens.

Luston Parish

1. Minutes from Luston Parish Meeting 9th May 2016 - approved

2. Report from Cllr. C Pearson

Cllr. Pearson's report is available with the minutes.

Eyton Parish

3. Minutes from Eyton Parish Meeting 9th May 2016 - approved

4. Report from Cllr. M Morgan

Cllr. Morgan's report is available with the minutes.

Moreton, Ashton & Eye Parish

5. Minutes from Moreton, Ashton & Eye Parish Meeting 9th May 2016 - approved

6. Report from Cllr. R Woolley

Cllr. Woolley talked about potholes, footpaths and bridleways. While footpaths and bridleways are generally in reasonable condition, the condition of the roads needs to be improved.

7. Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr. Ian Stevens talked about the neighbourhood development plan which is at the examination stage, and highlighted cuts made by Herefordshire Council to the grants for parish councils to help maintain footpaths and the lengthsman scheme. The 490 bus service has been improved by extending the route to Hereford. Hopefully, with the support of parishes it will be maintained.

The group parish council has a new coat of arms designed by a student at the primary school. A significant investment has been made in speed indicator displays for the existing sockets at Luston. It is planned to deploy the SIDs elsewhere based on need such as at Nordan, however this will require new sockets and the support of the highways authority. The SIDs may be rented out as well to nearby parishes.

Cllr. Stevens thanked parish councillors for their work and commitment, and thanked Ward Cllr. Bowen for his support of the group parish council.

8. Ward Cllr. Sebastian Bowen's Report

Ward Cllr. Bowen said the financial support of the 490 bus service by parishes has made a difference, and that Ludlow Town Council is also supporting the service. Getting to examination stage for the neighbourhood development plan is a real achievement and means it will be given increasing weight by the planners. It is likely Herefordshire Council will review the core strategy in 2019 and may look at the status of so called 'main' villages like Lucton and Shirlheath.

The abandoned caravan on Eyton Common has now gone. There should be additional funding for roads because of a favourable legal decision in favour of the county. Enforcement have looked at the chipping business at The Broad, and a planning application will be required. Cabinet have taken the decision to sell the county's smallholdings despite a recommendation from scrutiny to keep them. It will be important that all tenants have an opportunity to purchase all or part of the land they rent.

Funding has been committed for the new university at Hereford, including £8 million by the local enterprise partnership and £15 million by the Department for Education. The travellers site is not in good condition, and Ward Cllr. Bowen said he is pressing for work to take place to improve the site for the residents. The lengthsman scheme will not be subsidised from April 2018. Herefordshire Council is likely to expect parish councils to do more in coming years. The proposed federation of the primary schools at Luston and Shobdon has received a very positive response.

Ward Cllr. Bowen said it has been a privilege and pleasure to serve the parishes of Luston Group.

9. Open Discussion

A member of the public asked that the roundabout at Leominster is 'prettified', and the county signs placed on the boundary of Herefordshire also need to be improved. A request was made for the bus service to stop where people want to get off rather than always at the designated bus stops. A suggestion was made for local roundabouts to be sponsored by local businesses.

A member of the public said that the culvert under the B4361 at Luston should be checked as a matter of urgency. Another member of the public asked the group parish council to take a stance on the sale of smallholdings by Herefordshire Council, which has not been handled well.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm.

Signed as a true record _____

Date _____