

<p style="text-align: center;">RODINGTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2008</p>

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 at 6.30 pm in Rodington Village Hall.

In attendance:

14 members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair of Rodington Parish Council, Ms Janet French, chaired the meeting.

1. Presentation by Ms Hilary Betts:

The Chair introduced Ms Hilary Betts to the meeting and asked her to give a presentation on Climate Change and measures that a rural Parish Council could introduce to help combat the harmful effects of global warming.

Ms Betts, who works for the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre, began her presentation by stating that taking steps to help protect the planet also saved the individual money. Climate change is likely to produce more floods in the West Midlands and dryer summers although the precise effects are not known or agreed. The CO₂ already in the atmosphere will last for 100 years – it is here to stay and each year the average household produces 6.5 tonnes of additional CO₂ with households in rural areas likely to produce more than the average. This average conceals large differences between households but the energy costs for each family are about £1000.00 and rising.

The agreed government targets for 2050 are much lower than most of the best households are currently achieving but families can take steps to reduce their energy consumption by adopting a number of measures. These include filling cavity walls, ensuring the loft insulation is of the correct depth and replacing old boilers with new condensing boilers. House thermostats should be set between 17 – 21 degrees and thermostatic valves on radiators, particularly those upstairs, can make considerable gains. The hot water tank should be set to 60 degrees and suitably insulated. Low energy light bulbs now come in a variety of shapes and sizes and all of them use 80% less electricity and last for 12,000 about hours. White goods should only be purchased with an A or A* rating, washing machines should be used with a 30 degrees setting and electrical appliances should not be left on standby.

In order to initiate these and other measures in a community Ms Betts recommended taking the following steps:

- Form a group of energy champions;
- Get local centres such as the pub, the church and the village hall involved;
- Establish each carbon footprint;
- Provide free home energy reports;
- Keep people informed by articles in the local newsletter;

- Encourage families to monitor their fuel use to see what savings are being made.

A programme in Little Wenlock modelled on the points listed above produced 21 homes that collectively saved over 60 tonnes of CO₂, 3 of which saved nearly 7 tonnes each. Ms Betts suggested that the best way of approaching people to become engaged in a project of this kind was to stress that as well as helping to save the world participants were helping to save themselves money.

Questions regarding renewable sources of energy were beyond the scope of Ms Betts organisation but she stressed that a number of web sites give valuable advice on the subject. Anyone wanting further advice on any of the items raised in her presentation was asked to ring 0800 512 012

Ms Betts' presentation was warmly received and the Chair thanked her for finding the time to attend the meeting in a very busy schedule.

2. Apologies:

Mr and Mrs Broderick had to leave the meeting at this point and made their apologies for the rest of the agenda.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting:

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting of 2007 were signed as a true record with the amendment that the Ward Councillors' report was held back because of impending elections.

4. To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman:

Cllr French said she would be making a brief report. She commented on the appointment of a new Parish Clerk in June 2007 who was now unfortunately considering an offer from a larger parish allied to Bridgnorth District Council. She reported that the Council's finances had gone well with substantial grants being made to both village halls, spring bulbs planted in both villages, a new bench purchased and located in Rodington Cemetery and work on improving road safety which was ongoing. The state of rural roads and potholes provided a constant challenge and there was concern that planning advice issued by the Parish Council was sometimes ignored by the planning authority at Telford & Wrekin Borough Council. The unaudited accounts for the year were distributed to the meeting which highlighted an increased precept demand and a salary increase for the Parish Clerk in line with the new national agreement.

There were no questions to the Chair at the conclusion of her report.

5. To receive a report from the Ward Councillors:

Councillor Seymour reported that a new Conservative administration had taken control in Telford and Wrekin in 2007, the first time the authority had been run by the Conservative group. There had been major changes for all members of the Borough

Council and Cllr Seymour had been appointed as a cabinet member with a brief relating to Adult and Social Care. The portfolio included care for the elderly, adults with learning disabilities, strategic housing, licensing and care of the homeless. She was made Deputy Leader of the Council last July. A key target for the new administration was a fairer distribution of resources across the borough with a particular emphasis on the rural areas and as part of this strategy a new rural affairs officer, Caroline Oakes, had been appointed. Plans were being developed to help pump prime the borough's towns and the town centre. Telford had been set a target of building 26,500 additional houses which would cause great pressure on local services and need considerable inward investment to make such a target a reality.

Issues in the Wrockwardine Ward include:

- The development of the Allscott sugar beet factory;
- Unadopted roads;
- Potholes;
- The proposed open cast coal mining in an area of outstanding natural beauty with a threat of housing development once the coal mining was finished.

Councillor Seymour introduced Councillor Derek Kiernan who had been elected as the Conservative Councillor in the Wrockwardine Ward in the recent election following the move out of the area of Councillor David Blackwell.

Councillor Seymour was asked what percentage of the total housing stock 26,500 new houses represented and she estimated that it was approximately 30%. She pointed out that Telford and Wrekin is a designated growth point and she welcomed the proposed development providing sufficient funding was made available to support the growth. She also reminded members that the new Parish Charter seeks ways to improve links with the local parishes which she claimed had been sadly neglected in the past.

Cllr Seymour was thanked by the Chair for her report and members of the Parish Council thanked her for her continued support over the previous year.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the floor and Mr Brian Richards thanked the Parish Council for their generous support of Rodington Village Hall. He informed the meeting that the committee had succeeded in securing a £20,000.00 grant from SITA and work would proceed in the near future in developing and improving the facilities. A similar vote of thanks on behalf of the Longdon upon Tern village hall committee was given by the Chair. The upgrading of the electrical system would greatly improve the facility and offer an improved service to the community.

The business of the meeting being concluded the Chair closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman

