
Hollinswood and Randlay Parish Council

Chairman of the Council: Councillor Mrs Sheenagh Unwin

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday 17th April 2023** at Hollinswood Neighbourhood Centre. Attendance was also available via Zoom at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillors S Unwin (Chairman)
S Snell
C Turley
J Johnson (arrived F22/4043)
J Creed
S Vaughan-Hodkinson
T Wust

In Attendance: Cllr G Sinclair
Cllr H Unwin
G Johnson
Katrina Baker (Clerk)
PC Sian Evans (Guest Speaker)
5 Members of the public

F23/0001 WELCOME

Councillor S Unwin, Chairman, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. This is a meeting of the residents of the Parish, with representatives of the Parish Council. A warm welcome was extended to PC Sian Evans, our Guest Speaker.

F23/0002 APOLOGIES

Mrs K Osborne, Hollinswood Primary School
Councillor J Johnson will arrive late due to work commitments
Councillor L Ricketts work commitments

It was proposed by Councillor H Unwin, seconded by Councillor Turley, all were in favour and thus it was

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| RESOLVED that the apologies, as listed, be accepted. |
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F23/0003 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL 2022

The Minutes had appeared on the website following the meeting and had been confirmed at the May meeting of Full Council. It was proposed by Councillor Snell and seconded by Councillor Turley, all were in favour and thus it was

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| RESOLVED that the Minutes of the APM held on 25th April 2022, be signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting. |
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MATTERS ARISING

- The Neighbourhood Watch schemes are active and the signs are in place.
- The road surfaces, on private parts of the highway in the estates, is a real concern, as the uneven surfaces make their use for pedestrians dangerous.

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F23/0004

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman read her report. A copy had been distributed to all Councillors and it would be circulated to Members of Staff. It will also appear on the website.

F23/0004

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported that the year had started with a balance of £273,144 with income totaling £616,728 of which £47,856 was income from our three community buildings, £1819 for the Chairman's Charity and £25,344 in project grants. The expenditure had totaled £394,419 which included £158,211 on projects – which showed a positive picture in support of our communities.

A significant amount of the reserves has been earmarked for ongoing projects and are identified within the budget for 2023/24.

A copy of the balance sheet is available on request and will appear on the website.

F23/0005

BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023/24

The Clerk reported that Members of the Finance & Audit Committee were, throughout the process, mindful of the current situation for many residents, especially regarding the effects of the cost of living increases which everyone has been subject to.

Whilst keeping this in mind, Members had considered the need for additional support for our residents and identified, through the Parish Strategy, ways in which the Parish Council could offer support including the Opendoor Warm Spaces, groups and activities, supporting local organisations, holding events and promoting the many ways that Telford & Wrekin Council is offering additional help to those in need.

However, during the previous year, the Parish Council was informed of extensive work needed within Randlay Valley. This relates, in the main, to Ash Dieback and will result in additional tasks to deal with the affected trees, associated work and the planting of appropriate species that will enhance the Valley into the future.

Through the budget process, the Parish Council has included £10,000 additional funding for this work. However, many of you will have seen the enormous difference that recent work has made. This work has been undertaken in partnership with TWC and will have dealt with the initial Ash Dieback concerns. If this funding is not required during this financial year, it will create a fund which can be carried forward and used for the ongoing work that will be necessary over an extended period of time.

With effective use of balances, and significant savings in recent years, the budget has reduced this year to £444,280 (from £503,670 in 2022/23). The precept was set at £256,150 resulting in an increase of 82p per month for a Band D property.

F23/0006

GUEST SPEAKER – PC SIAN EVANS

The Chairman welcomed PC Evans to the meeting and thanked her for attending, especially as she had not been on duty today.

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Recent incidents have resulted in additional support being made available including a police dog and handler and additional night patrols. A number of operations are now in place and planned for the coming days – for obvious reasons details are not available.

The Team receives positive feedback at the surgeries in the Ward, but consideration is being given to holding an additional surgery, online – possibly in an evening? The Parish Council will invite the views of the public to this additional provision.

Councillor Johnson arrived

F23/0007 HOLLINSWOOD & RANDLAY PARISH YOUTH PROVISION PARTNERSHIP AND SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITY CENTRE

The Clerk presented a report regarding these two important projects, led by the Parish Council. A copy is available on the website.

F23/0008 PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORTS

The school reports will appear on the website. Unfortunately, to the timing of the meeting, in relation to the Easter Holiday period, a report in time for this meeting had not been possible.

F23/0009 OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

- a) **Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley**
- b) **TW Bus User Group**
- c) **Shropshire Association of Local Council (Wrekin Area Committee)**

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their reports, which had been circulated and will appear on the website.

F23/0010 PARISH MATTERS

- a) **There had been no matters raised in writing, prior to the meeting.**

- b) **Other matters raised:**

- Crime in Deepdale, and other local estates – evident in the day, as well as after dark.
- Local asb issues around Hollinswood and at the Local Centre
- Need for activities for youths
- Replacement lamp-post needed in Deepdale.
- Wheely bins clutter the highway and making pedestrian routes difficult
- Trees at the rear of Deepdale – thanks for the work done, however more is needed.

- c) **Thank you**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for light refreshments.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm

SignedDate.....

Please note that these minutes will remain DRAFT until confirmed as a true record at the next Full Council meeting on Monday, 15th May 2023.

Chairman's Report for 2022/2023 to the Annual Parish Meeting – 17th April 2023

Here we are again, another year has passed so quickly and we are still seeing the effects of the Coronavirus 19 pandemic in a variety of ways across the Parish, the Borough and the Country. Throughout this year, we have also been affected by the Cost of Living Crisis.

We have been able to help and support local residents in a variety of ways, both directly with our Opendoor Warm Hubs and indirectly as a distributor for food parcels and school uniforms.

I would like to place on record my personal thanks, and the thanks of my fellow Councillors, to the staff of the Parish Council and to the many local residents who have worked together to continue to support members of our communities in many different ways.

The Parish Council, like many organisations, and businesses, had to adapt in order to continue to provide the services and facilities, and we have re-visited our budget throughout the year to ensure that we have been able to continue to act in the best interests of our residents and offer best value at all times.

Our two outdoor gyms, at Hollinswood & Randlay, are well used and have been appreciated by many local residents. We used the equipment at both venues for a charity fund-raising gymathon.

Other projects have included:

- The provision of an all-ability allotment plot – suitable for wheelchair users
- Recycled benches around the Parish
- Upgrading the heating and lighting in the community buildings

We have taken the opportunity to provide additional work with Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley and our Special Needs Activity Centre at The Pavilion in Hollinswood. May I take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who help with these projects, this is very much appreciated.

Have you visited Randlay Valley recently? It is worth a visit. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the work undertaken in Randlay Valley by Telford & Wrekin Council in order that we can (together) control the Ash Dieback that is prolific within the Valley and needed addressing as a matter of urgency. We are already seeing the benefits from this work, and the clearance of undergrowth, and feel sure that the wildlife, trees, shrubs and flowers will all benefit further during the coming months.

I am very proud and honoured to have represented all the residents of Hollinswood and Randlay Parish for another year. We continue to achieve so much more by working together with local groups and organisations and liaising closely with the residents.

Our Landscape Management Team (LMT) do a wonderful job, tidying up the Parish as well as helping our more vulnerable and older population with garden tasks. We do have some spaces, so if you know of someone who may appreciate a helping hand with the maintenance of their front garden, please do ask them to get in touch with us.

Our Full Council meetings take place on the third Monday of each month, the diary is available on the website. There is a public session at the start of each meeting and we really would like to see more people attend. Alternatively, we welcome your views and opinions on our projects and are always pleased to hear when you notice aspects of our parish that need attention. You are our eyes and ears and we are grateful when you let us know what needs doing. We also hold Meet Your Councillor events where you can meet with your councillors to discuss local issues. When possible, we are joined by members of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team – so pop along and share your thoughts with us.

Many of the issues you raise are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but we do pass on the information to relevant partner organisations and we work together wherever possible to improve where we live, work or visit.

Overall, I think we have a Parish to be proud of and we really hope that you do too. We will be looking to continue our work but also to bring about new projects in the coming months. If you have any ideas, please do let us know.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Ward Members and all the Parish Councillors for their help and support throughout the year. I would especially like to thank the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of our Committees who put in a lot of time considering ways in which we can enhance Hollinswood & Randlay for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks also go to all our staff, Katrina, Stuart, Glyn, Liam, Jackie & John - we wouldn't be able to achieve so much if we didn't have such a dedicated team. We also have a number of volunteers, too many to mention individually, but they are all very much appreciated.

We have a diary of community events planned for 2023, starting with a Coronation Party on the Village Green in Randlay on Sunday, 7th May from 12 noon. It is free to attend and everyone is welcome. Details of our other events will be on the website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Councillors who have not stood for re-election. Elisabeth Dalby, Vanessa Holt, Leigh Ricketts, Greg Sinclair and Tom Wust – your support and dedication has been appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank my husband for giving me the support and encouragement to represent the Parish Council as its Chairman and also my family and friends whom when they ask if I am free on a certain date, I have to check that I don't have any Parish meetings or events on before I reply.

Councillor Sheenagh Unwin.

Chairman 2022/23

Wrekin Area Committee Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

22-23

This is a brief report of the activities of Wrekin Area Committee

It gives me great pleasure to present this report to our Parish on behalf of the representatives on the Wrekin Area Committee.

The Wrekin Area Committee (WAC) represents the views of parishes within Telford and Wrekin (TW). It elects five representatives to SALC, our County Association, and helps provide relevant information and training on items pertinent to TW Parish and Town Councils.

During the period from May 2022 until today, Wrekin Area Committee has addressed and presented information on a number of local topics. A highlight is that we had an amazing response when we asked for information on planning and development matters from Telford and Wrekin.

- I will not pretend that the 10 sessions were the most interesting I have ever attended, I know far too much about rights of way now, but they were extremely illuminating and informative, I fully recommend that any councillors who were unable to attend obtain and study the resulting presentations, our Clerk will be able to share it with you. I must thank the officers profusely for taking their time to present to us.
- The Borough talked openly about the results of the CSE investigation in July and their plans for addressing the recommendations.
- SALC has presented an extensive training package for councillors.

Further issues we did address:

- Transport (again) but particularly the need for integrated transport across the whole county
- Climate Change (again) but the advance of the agenda as borough wide plans and the need for local champions at Parish and Town council level are required and to be encouraged.
- It is of course sad to record that we also discussed the London Bridge Protocol during the year, ensuring that we were prepared for the worst which came when Her Majesty sadly died last year

As Chairman of WAC, it must be reiterated that our Committee may not exist or be as useful as it is without the continued and outstanding support of Katrina Baker, who acts as Secretary for the Committee.

Councillor Harvey Unwin

17.4.23

Bus User Group Report 22/23

'My Drive' has been fitted into all vehicles. This monitors all journey experiences, such as idling and speed. It also tracks roadworks. It results in a driver score rating, green being good, amber moderate and red being the highest with risk elements. All this information feeds into the system and is used to enable accurate re-scheduling, address punctuality concerns or support time-tabling. It helps to identify alternative routes (because of roadworks) and the fuel reduction complements the environmental work undertaken by the company. These were operational from the 23th August.

The new ticket machines are also collecting data, this live analysis and will be used by the commercial team to continue the review of routes across Telford and the borders until September.

Recruitment, remains difficult with a further upsurge of drivers moving to HGV companies. The fact that a driver can give one weeks' notice, but a new employee has a 4 month training programme often means that there are periods of time when driver numbers are affected. In order to speed up this process, Arriva has opened a dedicated driving school at the Telford depot.

Information received from the Bus User Group over a period of time has identified that there needed to be some changes in provision, but also that the rural areas were in need of a regular service to address the isolation and need to access work and health provisions.

Details of the new Enhanced Partnership Plan which will see TWC working with all local bus operators and there will be a Forum (meeting approximately every two months) and will invite neighbouring authorities, NHS, TW Bus User Group, train operators etc. to attend and will look to work with colleagues on a wide range of associated topics, such as climate change and sustainability.

There is a programme of bus shelter maintenance for across the Borough. The Randlay bus shelter will be replaced within this financial year, and the maintenance required will be undertaken as soon as possible.

Promotion of the new timetables, routes and information is essential to increase patronage, and printed versions will be available whilst the web team continues to improve the website. Roadside publicity will continue. Future changes will have paper-based publicity.

Details of changes to new timetables have been circulated to all Parish & Town Council Clerks and members of the TW Bus User Group.

Arriva worked with TWC and supported the bid to BSIP and it was very disappointing that it was not successful even though it met all the criteria that was requested. DFT appear to have funded cities. However, there is a will and a commitment to continue to work together.

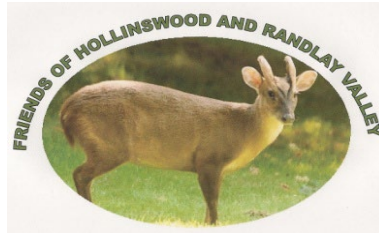
The £2 single fair cap will remain until the 30 June. The bus recovery grants have been extended across the country.

Unfortunately, there will be no new vehicles in Shropshire this year.
Arriva had donated three buses for support to Ukraine.

Six new services have been introduced, the 100 / 101 and then the 102.103.104.105. These are primarily for the rural areas and started on the 27th February – these are being carefully monitored and it is intended to make some changes, based on customer feedback. They have seen good patronage so far – they need to be sustainable going forward.

Councillor S Unwin
Representative for Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council

FoH&RV Report for APM April 2023



Chairman's Report

Our monthly volunteering day continued during the last year on the first Tuesday of the month. In addition Fujitsu spent two days in the valley during 2022. Various visits were undertaken in the valley with Officers from Telford and Wrekin Council. The main visit was to establish the amount of Ash Die Back in the valley which turned out to be extensive which resulted in funding being sourced along with approved contractor to undertake the work. This resulted in clearance of various areas and improvements to paths and walkways within the valley. The areas cleared are already showing signs of regeneration of flora and fauna. Also, during 2022 improvements were undertaken to the Dew Pond to create a habitat for Great Crested Newts.

Work has been ongoing at the Woodland School and along the 'mineral line'. The Woodland School has been used by various organisations and sadly other activities have been evident. It was also good to witness the local school using the Dingy Skipper meadow which is abundant with various wildflowers.

Events have taken place within the valley during the year, and we now host a 'Ramblers Wellbeing' walk on the last Wednesday of the month. To accommodate a new path has been opened up and crosses the upper level of the Dingy Skipper meadow where a 'picnic bench' has been installed 'To Commemorate The Accession Of His Majesty King Charles III'.

Sadly, off road activities are evident in some parts of the valley and also the 'Bridleway' needs some TLC.

Information and pictures taken within the valley over a number of years can be found on 'New Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley' Facebook blog. It is highly recommended, especially if you have never been to the valley, to pay the valley a visit an area of 43.4 hectares.

Finally, on the 8th March 2023, Randlay Valley was declared as a Local Nature Reserve.

Chris Turley

Chairman

Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council – report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Youth Provision Partnership

Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Councillors identified, within the Parish Strategy, that they wanted to work with Partners to provide services and facilities for the young people of Hollinswood & Randlay and to support them, wherever possible, with life skills, educational support and the transition into the training and employment.

Resources were identified within the Budget for 2022/23 to continue our work in this area and of offer activities and to provide support for all ages and abilities whilst working with the local residents to understand needs and to identify aims and objectives that will offer skills to support young people and to give them opportunities to try new activities and to experience different challenges.

The Parish Council is committed to working with the young people and to enable us to offer full support we will be working with partners such as The Police, Telford & Wrekin Council, University of Wolverhampton, TCAT and other providers such as Landau, My Options and Shropshire Youth.

Special Needs Activity Centre

With the support of Telford & Wrekin Council and by working with parents, carers and young people, the Parish Special Needs Activity Centre (SNAC@HARP) has been offering a wide range of activities for all young people who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

Based at Hollinswood Pavilion, we work with established providers to ensure that a full range of support, information and activities are available for local families, carers and friends. Part of our role will be to signpost to other service providers and to work with the young people and their families to identify gaps in provision within the local area.

We are already grateful to Telford & Wrekin Council for assistance with funding and we appreciate the support we are receiving from local businesses and Telford Rotary.

We will work to provide art and craft activities, music, play, outdoor events, equipment and activities, a sensory room and much more – using the outdoor space at Hollinswood Pavilion and making good use of the nearby Pavilion Field, Randlay Valley and The Muddy areas for enjoyable outdoor walks and activities.

By working together, we have employed a part time Support Worker, dedicated to SNAC and we welcome the opportunity to work with young people, parents and carers so that we can assist and support the young people of our Parish regardless of their age, ethnicity or ability.

Working with Partners

We are very proud of our strong partnership with Hollinswood & Randlay Primary Schools and TCAT – together we offer enhanced facilities and opportunities for the young people of our Parish. We are very grateful to the staff and pupils for their support and commitment to our work.

The strength gained from these partnerships and our close working relationship with external organisations such as the police and Telford & Wrekin Council enables the Parish Council to access external funding which assists us to provide additional services and support and enables us to provide activities and events for the young people, members of SNAC and families from across the Parish.

Katrina Baker

Clerk and SNAC Co-Ordinator

17th April 2023