

**Parish Clerk:**

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**Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday, 19th May 2016
at Bosbury Parish Hall at 7.30pm**

Present

Councillors Sven Bosley (Chairman), Juilia Boyle, Matt Hosking, Liz Cooke, Julie Baker, Tim Newsholme, Gian Paganuzzi, Patrick Whitehead, Jo Hayes, Charlie Ferrier

In attendance

Leanne Rex – Parish Clerk

Public: 6

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
1.0	To Accept Apologies for Absence and Note the Reason Mark Andrews (work), John Joyce-Townsend (holiday), Rachel Lovering (work)	
2.0	Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Sven Bosley SB welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
3.0	Approval of minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting The minutes from the last annual parish meeting on 21.5.15 were approved and signed.	
4.0	Browsing Around Bosbury – Barry Sharples Barry Sharples gave an interesting and very informative presentation on the various groups gathering history about Bosbury and Coddington and the wealth of information that is now available on www.bosburyhistoryresource.org.uk This website was started by Barry in 2008 and has since then been populated with information gleaned from working parties and groups looking at information from census, wills research, parish registers, grave mapping. Members of the VCH Volunteer Wills Group have transcribing pre-1700 probate documents for the parish. Exciting news hot off the press is that VCH (Victoria County History) have just finished the History of Bosbury book which is due for publication later in 2016. Liz Cooke commented that the www.bosburyhistoryresource.org.uk website was a valuable resource in the primary school and most weeks she saw it in use. SB thanked Barry for his presentation.	
5.0	Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report The Chairman opened by saying that this has been a year of unwanted surprises, and some of them have come like London buses, in pairs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Plan, the idea of which is to give the community a say in its future, has been driven forward by a committed team, with Matt Hosking and Patrick Whitehead at the helm. The plan was within sight of the finishing line when Herefordshire Council changed a couple of words in their Core Strategy. This effectively scuppered a huge amount of work already carried out and these couple of words effectively mean that all settlements and villages would and are open to speculative development without much redress. Matt will update the meeting on the latest status in item 7. • Bosbury has had two separate major planning applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forge Bank for 46 houses, which was eventually rejected, and the Chairman highlighted that the amount of work that went into backing up the Parish Council's rejection was not to be underestimated. Patrick (the Planning Committee Chairman) and Matt, with technical knowledge and support from Rob Eaton, gave empowering speeches at the Council planning meeting and subsequent appeal meetings. The Chairman thanked everybody who sent letters of objection and those who attended the meetings, without this combined effort who knows what the outcome would have been. ○ The second application is for houses on land east of Brook Lane, known as the Bean Field. This was initially refused, but the developer has subsequently resubmitted with an application for fewer houses. More information from Patrick in item 6. The Chairman thanked those involved and those who sent correspondence objecting to the proposal. • Hfds Council have now adopted their Core Strategy which supersedes the old Unitary Development Plan, basically the Core Strategy Plan lays out a development plan for Herefordshire for the next 14 years. • On a lighter note, the Chairman hoped everybody had noticed the new entrance gates and signage on the eastern approach to Bosbury. The Chairman noted that, John Joyce Townsend had worked tirelessly to 	

	<p>achieve this, at both ends of the village and they give the village a cared for look and hopefully helping to reduce the speed of vehicles. Bosbury was the pilot for trying this method of speed reduction, and thanks must also go to Simon Hobbs and his team who have helped Bosbury with this project.</p> <p>John has subsequently had enquires from other Parish Councils wanting advice on how and where to get the gates and the procedures required to achieve this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been drainage work carried out, which has been paid for under the lengersman scheme. The heavy work was carried out by George Day and his team, the mowing and lighter work has been carried out by Ed Seabright. Many thanks to all involved. • Sadly Janet Chester resigned as clerk after 4 years. We thank Janet for all her work and wish her well for the future. Before Janet left she helped advertise for a replacement clerk and the Chairman officially welcomed Leanne Rex as the new clerk. The Chairman thanked Leanne for her work in picking up the reins quickly. • On a positive note the Parish Council now has a full complement of councillors and the Chairman believes it is an excellent working team with a broad skill range. • Julie Baker, has taken over the Defibrillator challenge and has succeeded in getting a defib unit in Bosbury which will be positioned on the corner of the Parish Hall. There was a lot of paperwork and telephone calls involved, and thanks go to Julie. It is now up to us, the residents, to take up the offer of basic first aid training on the 16th of June, 2016 and there will be flyers on the notice boards for more information. • Rob Hooper, who has been our neighbourhood watch coordinator is looking to hand over the reins so if you or you know anyone who may be interested please contact the Chairman and we will put you in touch, Rob has said it's not onerous and he will give details of what is involved. 	
6.0	<p>Updates on Proposed Developments in Bosbury – Patrick Whitehead</p> <p>Patrick Whitehead was introduced as the Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee and presented the following review of planning over the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Committee has reviewed over 30 applications in the last 12 months • The 1st major application, 141550, for 46 houses off Forge Bank was first published in 2014 on behalf of the church commissioners. It was a very sophisticated application and the Parish Council made a decision to resist this type of major, speculative application. The application went to Herefordshire Council planning committee where it was unanimously defeated. The developers appealed and therefore the application went to a planning inspector led inquiry, where it was rejected on the basis of the development's setting did not fit alongside Grade 2 buildings, the Church, Bell Tower, Temple Court. • The 2nd application, 143370, followed very swiftly for 37 houses on the land to the east of Brook Lane "Beanfields". This was presented by Braemar Development who had 12 other planning applications in place across Herefordshire. This application was refused unanimously by Herefordshire Council planning committee. The developers appealed, and the appeal process was written submissions to a planning inspector in Bristol. Again the application was refused. Patrick commented that the parish council were hopeful at this time that would be the end of major speculative planning applications for Bosbury ! • However, a revised application for Beanfields, 160450, was received for 21 houses, with a village green fronting a busy main road. Braemar developments claimed they had carried out a major communication exercise in Bosbury, but this was not able to be justified. This application was refused by Herefordshire Council 2 weeks ago and no information of any appeal is known at the moment. • Patrick noted that these achievements would not have been possible without the resident's support and letters from the community. Working together we can help prevent Bosbury and Coddington being spoilt by developers interested in profit not community. • Julia Boyle thanked Patrick, Matt and Rob for their work and for mobilising the community. 	
7.0	<p>Update from Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) Team – Matt Hosking</p> <p>Matt Hosking presented a resume of the current status of the neighbourhood plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDP was started in summer 2014 as a relatively simple exercise. There were workshops to identify what the village thought was good, sustainable development. The conclusions were presented as a document to Hfds Council and issued to all households. The 1st time round, we didn't get the issue to households quite right so we had to do it again! The NDP was submitted to Herefordshire Council in May 2015. • Hfds Council accepted the document saying it was a worthy document and meets the requirements. • Subsequently, Hfds Council amended the emerging core strategy which made our NDP null and void. • There were concerns that these changes would impact on village size and Patrick and Matt attended Hfds Council meetings. Finally, the Hfds Council plan stated that Bosbury and Coddington needed another 43 houses. However, there was small print and it was not clear what the small print of "these figures are indicative and local and environmental constraints may apply" meant. • There was considerable evidence of these constraints applying to our parish – conservation area, flooding, appeal letters, etc. which was submitted to Hfds Council. • Matt was pleased to report that he had now received an email from Hfds Council confirming " the evidence is sufficient to mean you cannot meet the requirements for 43 houses because Bosbury and Coddington have significant local and environmental concerns". • Therefore, our NDP can now be amended and re-submitted to Hfds Council. There is no need for it to be re- 	

	<p>submitted to all householders. It will basically state that Bosbury and Coddington are suitable for in fill developments perhaps up to 20 houses.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Matt and Patrick for all their hard work.</p>	
8.0	<p>Update on the new Defibrillator – Julie Baker</p> <p>Julie started by explaining some of the reasons why a defibrillator is important to our community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics show that early defibrillation in a cardiac arrest patient increase survival chances by 50%. • For every 1 minute not treated the chance of survival decreases by 23%. • The ambulance trust target is to reach patients within 8 minutes – but this is not easy in rural areas. • In the UK, 200 people per day suffer a cardiac arrest. <p>The defibrillator has arrived and an electrician contacted for installation.</p> <p>Community Heartbeat Trust will run an awareness session on 16th June, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall to explain what to do with the defibrillator in an emergency situation. It is important that as many people as possible attend.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Julie for all her help.</p>	
9.0	<p>Update on Traffic Calming – John Joyce-Townsend</p> <p>John Joyce-Townsend had offered his apologies to the meeting and submitted his report on Traffic Calming which the Chairman read out as follows:</p> <p>Some years ago the Parish Council undertook a programme of placing Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at each end of Bosbury. These were hired from Hfds Council on an occasional basis and were instrumental in establishing the magnitude of the speeding problem we were experiencing. In addition to flashing the speed of each vehicle it is recorded for later download. Results obtained showed that in the morning “rush hour” 15% of all vehicles passing the church were exceeding 40mph with one recorded speed of over 60mph!</p> <p>Following this the Parish Council was able to obtain the cooperation of West Mercia Police in deploying hand held speed cameras in the village which resulted in several motorists receiving a stern lecture although, to the best of our knowledge, no prosecutions.</p> <p>Subsequently the Parish Council engaged with Traffic Engineers from Hfds Council and its service provider, Amey, to set out our ideas for creating a Traffic Calming scheme involving Threshold Gates, verge landscaping and extending the Speed Limit area. The issue of Traffic Speeds in local villages was taken up by the then “Cluster” of local Parish Councils and gained the support of Hfds Council with Bosbury, having been the first Parish Council to specifically detail its plans, being classified as a “Test bed” to evaluate the effectiveness of such schemes.</p> <p>The support we received from Hfds Council and specifically our two Ward Councillors, coupled with the ability of being able to undertake a substantial amount of the work ourselves, resulted in the approach to the village being transformed at a cost of less than £3.00 per household and has resulted in a reduction of average traffic speeds to 34mph- not as much we would like but a significant reduction nevertheless.</p> <p>The efforts of our Lengthsman Ed Seabright in maintaining the verges and planters so effectively are much appreciated.</p> <p>The Parish Council has been informed that Hfds Council has now “retired” its SIDs and is considering their replacement. It is our intention to again deploy them as soon as possible to reinforce the effect of the Entry Treatments and to obtain further traffic speed data.</p> <p>We have not forgotten the Cradley end of the village and, in addition to the Threshold Gates and relocated Speed Limit signs already in place, we have started to mow the verges this season.</p> <p>Road Safety is a prime concern of the Parish Council and we will continue to explore ways of making our two Parishes as safe as possible.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked John for his timeless efforts to traffic calming.</p>	
10.0	<p>Update on Flood Prevention – John Joyce-Townsend</p> <p>John Joyce-Townsend had offered his apologies to the meeting and submitted his report on Flood Prevention which the Chairman read out as follows:</p> <p>Most of us here will have seen flooding in Bosbury in the past few years although thankfully not recently. The Parish Council however is well aware of the concerns of those resident in areas previously affected.</p> <p>There are, of course, two sources of flooding in the village –one imported via our two watercourses the River Leadon and its tributary Dowdings Brook and the other, rain falling directly in and around the village area.</p> <p>The potential for flooding caused by run-off from development of “Greenfield” sites has been the subject of much concern recently.</p> <p>The major problem with the Leadon is a comparatively large catchment area feeding into a bottleneck at the bridge by the Parish Hall and restricted flow immediately downstream due to lack of depth and obstructions. Three years ago the Parish Council approached Hfds. Council resulting in an inspection which led to Balfour Beatty dredging the River below the bridge followed by some further works by our Lengthsman. Our thanks are due to Mr. Lambert for allowing access to his property to carry out this work.</p> <p>We are certainly not complacent about the potential for further problems, but having had two recent instances of very heavy rain which we would have expected to cause flash flooding, the river has coped well.</p>	

	<p>However as a further measure to mitigate flooding should the river (in spite of our efforts) overtop, the Parish Council carried out detailed measurements of the bridge structure and established that resurfacing over the years had resulted in the height of the carriageway above the reinforced concrete deck increasing by about 8 inches, in effect forming a Dam preventing any flood water from the Leadon flowing away from the village. Engineers at Balfour Beatty were not prepared to plane off the excess surfacing which they claim might reduce the load bearing capacity of the bridge.</p> <p>The bridge carrying Catley Lane over Dowdings Brook has also caused flooding with water running down the lane into the village centre. The design of this bridge is peculiar resulting in massive silting up which obstructs the flow. The Parish Council is mindful that regular dredging will be required.</p> <p>Finally you will be aware of the very large puddle that appears by the Church lychgate. When this first appeared the Parish Council succeeded in getting Balfour Beatty to inspect and subsequently jet the culvert that runs down to the Leadon. This initially appeared to solve the problem but it soon reappeared. Hfcs Council maintain that the cause is a trench dug by BT causing the culvert to partially collapse. It appears that no remedial work is going to take place until this dispute between BT and Hfcs Council is settled. The Parish Council are aware this is a serious Road Safety problem as well as a hazard to pedestrians being soaked by passing traffic, and are mindful to pursue this matter.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked John for his hard work in this area.</p>	
11.0	<p>Review of Lengthsman Work</p> <p>The Chairman gave a brief review of the lengthsman work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage and ditch work carried out by George Day • Mowing, strimming, planting, sign cleaning, grip clearing by Ed Seabright. • Lengthsman funding is unclear for the future but safe for the next financial year. • The Parish Council have set up a Lengthsman working party (Jo Hayes, John JT, Patrick Whitehead) to ensure the lengthsman funding is used efficiently and planned through the year. 	
12.0	<p>Adhithana Update - Sanghadeva and Sanghadarshini</p> <p>Rachel Lovering had offered her apologies to the meeting and the Adhithana update was provided by her colleagues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhithana appreciated the meeting that was held with Parish Council representatives and it had alerted them to consider their impact on Coddington and the concerns of local residents about road safety. • Retreatants are now being advised to consider where they walk, avoiding the roads, using other routes via farmland and thanked Peter Blandford for allowing access. They had reflective jackets for when they were on the road and Adhithana have provided more wellies to encourage off road walking. • Reviewing landscaping grounds to be more accessible • Open Day on July 17th – everybody welcome, talks, tea and cakes . • Adhithana were keen for the site to be a resource that could be used for others and for fund raising, and offered the facilities again for a fundraising dinner to raise money for local concerns. This year Ledbury Poetry festival have taken up that offer. • Wednesday evening meditation class – everybody welcome <p>The Chairman noted that Adhithana had made a great job of restoring Coddington Court to its former glory, and thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting.</p>	
13.0	<p>Update on Parish Website – Leanne Rex</p> <p>Leanne Rex presented a summary of the website current status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community website www.bosburyandcoddington.co.uk was launched in Jan 2016 by Emma Ferrier. • It contains a wealth of information from WI to Rugby Tykes, from mobile post office to zumba classes and all the major events like Flicks in the Sticks, farmers market etc. • The current arrangements are based on an annual maintenance fee of £1500. • Leanne is exploring a more financially viable solution that is more in line with the parish council budget. • Other parish councils use the Hfcs Association of Local Councils to host their website, and train their Clerks to update the website. The annual cost of this is less than circa £500. • There would be some costs to transfer the website to the new hosts but it is hoped that there would be a grant available to cover this setup cost, and also possibly the cost of updating for the first year. There is also the possibility of advertising revenue. <p>Leanne will update the parish council with progress.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Emma Ferrier for her hard work in getting the website off the ground.</p>	Clerk
14.0	<p>To receive updates from other local charities and organisations if submitted</p> <p>Bosbury Educational Foundation – Sven Bosley</p> <p>Rental from 4 properties provides grants for school leavers going into further education. In the last 12 months 9 students have received a grant of £350 each. Students apply each year and have to live in Bosbury to be eligible.</p>	

15.0	<p>Open Forum Thanks were made to Tony Hall who keeps the churchyard in pristine condition. Clerk to write with thanks.</p>	Clerk
15.1	<p>Corner of Brook Lane Ditch clearing waste has been dumped and needs tidying. Had been on hold awaiting Beanfields outcome. To be part of Lengthsman working party planning.</p>	JH/JJT/PW
15.2	<p>Neighbourhood Watch – New Co-ordinator needed Rob Hooper addressed the meeting. He is stepping down as the co-ordinator and a new co-ordinator is needed. Paul Crompton who runs Neighbourhood watch in Ross is keen to address the community and move us into the 21st century !</p>	
15.3	<p>The Phone Box A resident enquired what would happen with the redundant phone box? The Chairman advised it is a listed structure in conservation area and no plans were known.</p>	
	<p>The Chairman thanked all speakers and everyone for attending.</p>	
	<p>The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.00</p>	
	<p>Signed..... Dated</p> <p>Chairman</p>	