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TURWESTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2016

Present: Cllrs D Richards (Chairman), A Kirkland, H Morrison, H Sime (Parish Clerk),
Cllr P Fealey (AVDC), Cllr R Stuchbury (BCC) and 20 members of the community.

1. **Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:**

Cllr Tilley, Mrs Tighe, Mr and Mrs Poynter, Mr and Mrs Howard, Mrs Miles, Mrs Dancer.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 21 May 2015 and Matters Arising:**

The minutes were approved as being a true record of what took place. Proposed Cllr Kirkland, seconded Neil Tanner. Matters arising would be covered in the Chairman's report, with particular regard to the mandate given at the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting concerning HS2.

6. **Reports from District Councillor and County Councillor:**

The Chairman brought item 6 on the agenda forward to enable both Councillors to leave the meeting early.

Councillor Fealey reported that he has been appointed as Chairman of the Planning Committee. He recapped on various local issues and made the following points:

- It is intended to build 31,000 new homes in Aylesbury Vale.
- AVDC is becoming a commercial organisation, to generate more income as Government grants are gradually reduced. By 2023 it is hoped to do away with the AVDC portion of Council Tax.
- AVDC still intends to become a unitary authority, to avoid duplication between County and District Councils, in order to save money and maintain services.
- A broadband company has been established to support the provision of high speed broadband to smaller, more remote, villages.
- The Vale Lottery is well established. 58p per pound goes to a nominated local charity. Tickets are available online, prizes amount to £20,000 per week.

Cllr Fealey was asked for more details on how AVDC were going to achieve the zero AVDC council tax portion.

Councillor Stuchbury thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their work and then highlighted areas that he has been involved in:

- Traffic calming in Turweston has been a challenge, but progress is now being made.
- Children's services, education and welfare are of particular interest.
- Long-term care for the elderly in the community.
- The expansion of Buckingham, which is expected to grow by 42%.

Cllr Stuchbury answered questions regarding the Grammar School in Buckingham. He was asked whether out-of-county children who attend the school are funded by Buckinghamshire Council Tax, but this is not the case – they are funded by their own county.

Cllr Richards thanked Cllrs Fealey and Stuchbury for all their efforts on behalf of the village. Both councillors then left the meeting.

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4. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman's report, financial statement and village organisation reports had been previously circulated. The Chairman highlighted areas of his report, particularly focussing on HS2, where the Parish Council had asked for, and been given, a mandate from the village on various issues concerning the Playing Field. There is still more work to do, but the Parish Council believes the mandate has been achieved and is 'the best we can get'.

Cllr Tilley held a drop-in session for residents to view the proposed Traffic Calming scheme. Cllr Stuchbury has been liaising with Bucks County Council. The next step is detailed costings and it is hoped to start work in June.

High speed broadband has been installed and residents can sign up for a faster connection.

The Rally School is to make a joint application for retrospective planning permission and to move the footpath to run alongside the Solar Park fence. Cllr Morrison had spoken to the Footpaths Officer who had no issue with the proposal but hadn't considered the Health and Safety aspect. The Parish Council will comment on the application when it is received and will keep residents informed.

The first annual payment from the Solar Park was received and the money will be used for the good of the village. Surplus funds may be used for the Traffic Calming scheme. David Miles asked if the Precept could be increased to raise money for the scheme. It was agreed that this could be a possibility, but was not likely to happen.

The Chairman thanked Judy Swadling for keeping the HS2 accounts. Although more expense was incurred by a second petition, it is not thought necessary to raise more money for HS2 at this time. Judy Swadling thanked Jerry Neal for auditing the accounts.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

The accounts are in good shape with a healthy bank balance. David Miles was thanked for carrying out an internal audit and the accounts have now been sent to the external auditor. There were no questions and the accounts were approved.

7. **Village Organisation Reports:**

These were circulated prior to the meeting, along with the Chairman's report. Jerry Neal is looking for someone to volunteer for the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The Queen's Birthday celebration will take place on Saturday 11 June from 3pm – 10pm. There will be afternoon tea, entertainment, games, tug-of-war and a disco in the evening. Tickets are £5 + £1 for the evening Barbeque. All money raised will go to revamp the Village Hall.

8. **Open Forum:**

The Chairman outlined the HS2 process from hereon. The House of Lords Petitioning Committee meets from 19 May. Over half of MPs who wish to petition have been challenged by the promoter for locus standi, i.e they have no right to petition the House of Lords. Brackley Town Council has submitted a petition. It is planned that the Hybrid Bill will be approved in December although costs are being challenged.

There are dead branches in the trees on The Green and shoots sprouting from below. Generally the trees need looking after and a discussion took place as to how to proceed. It was agreed to put this on the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

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It was queried what control the village has over the condition of homes that are rented as a result of HS2. 9 houses are owned by the government and 11 have blight notices accepted. This means that, based on these numbers, 27% of houses in the village could end up being owned by the Department of Transport. All houses are managed by Savills and they would be the ones to approach in the first instance.

A question had been made prior to the meeting by Ian and Sue Poynter regarding trees at Northfield House becoming entangled in the overhead wires. It would be necessary to ascertain whether these were telephone wires (BT) or power cables (Western Power). Work can be done in a Conservation Area without planning consent if it is to maintain services. Savills should be able to arrange this.

9. **Any Other Business:**

Cllr Cooke has resigned and will be leaving the village later this year, as a result of HS2. She has been a Councillor since 2001 and the Chairman thanked her for all the work she has done for the village. On behalf of the Parish Council he presented her with a card and book tokens and wished her well in the future. He also thanked all members of the Parish Council for their continuing support.

On behalf of the village, Judy Swadling thanked the Parish Council and Clerk for all their hard work.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.20 pm.