

# **Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting (Annual Parish Meeting) held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm at Marton Primary School.**

**Present:** Cllr. John Rylands (Chairman), Cllr. David McGowan, Cllr. Sue Webborn, Cllr. Phil Cheetham, Cllr. Barrie Nolan, Cllr. Alistair Goodwin, Cllr. Lucy Nixon

Elizabeth Worrall, Clerk to the Parish Council

29 members of the public

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Cllr. John Rylands introduced the Parish Councillors to attendees. John shared that Parish Councillors are always available to help residents where they can. John reminded all attendees about the Village e-mail list and to speak to the Clerk if they would like to be on this.

Councillor responsibilities were shared. Cllr. David McGowan is the lead on planning and has liaised with developers and other bodies throughout the year. Attendees were signposted to the Neighbourhood Plan which is detailed on the website. Throughout the winter, the Council have arranged coffee mornings and plan to run them again throughout winter 2024 – 2025.

## **2. Council Environmental Plan**

The Council does have an Environmental Plan in place. John Purcival shared an update on the trees within the Parish. John used to be the Parish tree warden and keep an eye on tree stock and manage new planting within the Village. John shared the changes he has noticed in the village, regarding tree loss and other changes in wildlife.

The plan for improving the village will focus on the planting and maintenance of trees, improving the hedges (mainly by filling in gaps in hedgerows) and by the planting of fruit trees (both for blossom and for fruit). This is funded partially by the Parish Council and partially by donations from volunteers within the Village (donations of holly hedge plants and apple and damson trees were noted!)

The Parish Council has attempted to wildflower seed. This is usually done to improve biodiversity and specifically to improve the variety of plants and the variety of insects within the Village. A site has already been put into place and several other sites have been identified as being possibly suitable.

The brooks within the village have significantly improved and show no visible signs of pollution. The mayfly population has also significantly increased. Any further

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improvements would need to be done in conjunction with the Environment Agency. The ponds within the village are not currently in use but may be reviewed in the future.

The key areas of development for the next twelve months are improving the trees and the gapping within the hedges and identifying sites that may be suitable for wildflowers. Opportunities for community engagement will be improved and will be circulated by the village e-mail.

### **3. Speeding and traffic issues**

Councillor Alistair Goodwin shared that the Council had recently installed a SID (a speed indicator display) which seems to be working well and has been well received. The Parish Council plans to site a second one, which will be at the other end of the village, facing the southbound side of the carriageway.

A show of hands was asked for, and it was unanimous that a second SID would be welcome within the village.

Highways have pre-approved the site, and the Council are awaiting the release of funds from Cheshire East.

The Parish Council would like to improve safety by campaigning for a section of the village to be reduced to 20mph. This is in very early stages of discussions.

Councillor Goodwin noted issues that can be referred to Cheshire East Highways (specifically, gritting and potholes).

A question was asked regarding whether there had been a noticeable change in speed – anecdotal evidence from the village and residents has indicated a change, but there has been no formal speeding survey conducted since the installation.

### **4. Closing Remarks**

Cllr. John Rylands thanked everyone for attending. The coffee mornings were mentioned again, as a method of outreach and engaging with the Parish Council, including bringing issues to their attention.

The meeting formally closed at 7.30pm, and refreshments were served.

