

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the parish of Wall held at 7:00 pm on
Wednesday 16 May 2018 at Wall Village Hall, Watling St, Wall**

Present: Cllr M J Crowe (Chairman of the Parish Council), 5 other members of the Parish Council and 30 members of the public.

In Attendance: Claire Hines and Ed Higgins (LDC Planning) and Peter Young (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr A Ryman

1. Welcome

Cllr M J Crowe (Chairman of the Parish Council) welcomed everyone to the meeting and was delighted at the high turn-out from the public.

The Parish Clerk explained that this was not a Parish Council meeting, but a meeting of the electors of the Parish which was required to be held annually. A Parish Council meeting would follow this Parish Meeting and members of the public were welcome to attend.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 17 May 2017

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Chairman's Report 2017/18

Councillor John Crowe reported that the Parish Council had continued to support the Church with the maintenance of the graveyard and had assisted financially in the removal of the diseased copper beech tree at the east of the Church. The Council had also provided a receptacle for the storage of green waste.

Dog fouling continued to be a major problem in the village especially with bags of faeces being thrown into the hedgerows along certain lanes. The Council asked residents to dispose of these bags into a proper receptacle. There were details of Environmental Health contacts at Lichfield District Council placed in the Village Hall porch.

The Council has submitted comments on the Deanslade housing development which would shortly be under construction; the main concerns being the traffic that would be generated spilling over into the roads around Wall. The boundary of this development came close to the parish boundary at Aldershawe.

The Council, along with Shenstone Parish Council, continued to lobby Highways England to make improvements to the Wall island junction, especially with the anticipated greater amount of traffic that would be generated from the major housing developments taking place in and around Lichfield.

The Council continued to assist with improvements to the Village Hall.

The Community Payback team was now back in the village carrying out general maintenance and keeping the village tidy, following an absence due to staffing problems caused by the ill health of the regular supervisor. It was hoped that work could now recommence on the phone box restoration along with other tasks.

The village was once again highly commended in the 2017 Best Kept Village competition and had entered again this year. It was hoped that residents would enter into the spirit of the event.

There had been no planning applications submitted for new properties, but several applications for agricultural building to be converted to dwellings, and also for the erection of new sizeable agricultural buildings.

The conservation area for Wall Village was presently under review by Lichfield District Council and consultation would end on 11 June at 5pm.

5. Draft Wall Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

Claire Hines (LDC Principal Conservation and Design Officer) and Ed Higgins (LDC Conservation Officer) outlined the proposals contained in the Draft Wall Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

The District Council was required to periodically review all Conservation Areas and the Wall Conservation Area had not been reviewed since 1974. The review document was in two parts: the first part was the Appraisal, and the second part the Management Plan. A Conservation Area related to “matters of special architectural and historic interest” which included not just buildings, but trees, hedges and views etc. The aim was to preserve the special character of these areas by a process that would manage change, rather than prevent change.

Being within a Conservation Area had three main implications:

- a. control over demolition of building
- b. reduced permitted development rights
- c. approval required for works to trees.

The boundary of the existing Conservation Area had been based largely on that of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. A revised boundary was being proposed which removed parts of the current area and added in others. Areas to be removed were various fields where the boundary did not follow a physical boundary on the ground. Areas to be added included areas of established buildings which meant that the proposed new Conservation Area would include all the main built-up area of the village within a clearly defined boundary. For those areas removed from the Conservation Area the Green Belt status and Schedules Ancient Monument status would still apply and provide protection from unwanted development.

Many members of the public expressed strong concern at the proposed removal of areas from the current Conservation Area and commented that they saw no reason to change the existing boundary. Views were expressed that the land to be removed from the west side of The Butts was required to protect the fine view from the Wall historic remains. There were fears that removal of areas from the Conservation Area would lead to subsequent development of these sites and that Green Belt status could be over-ruled to permit development. The overwhelming response from members of the public present supported retention of the existing Conservation Area boundary.

Two members of the public expressed concern about proposals to add other areas to the Conservation Area because of the planning restrictions this would impose on properties.

Various comments were made that the Conservation Area Appraisal should include a plan showing the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, explaining its key historic significance to the Village, and explaining the level of protection it provided.

Claire Hines reported that the present Plan was a draft proposal only and that there were several stages to undergo before final approval. All comments made on the Draft Plan would be taken into consideration as part of the consultation process.

The Chairman thanked Claire Hines and Ed Higgins for their presentation and reminded members of the public that they should submit their comments on the Draft Plan to the District Council by the closing date of 5pm on 11 June.

6. Any other matters raised by Electors

No items were raised.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 7:45pm