

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Gnosall Parish Council
Held in the Grosvenor Centre, on Thursday, 27 May 2010
Beginning at 7.30 pm**

Cllr Booth opened the meeting and welcomed everyone including guests from outside organisations.

Emergency exit procedures were given.

Present: List attached

1 To receive apologies

Received from D Styles, B Morrison, S Clarke, Mr & Mrs Winterbottom, M Skene, Mrs Emerton, D Clarke, Deacon Livesey, Rev, Hawkins, C Spencer, Cllr M Smith

2 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 April 2009

Cllr Watson Jones proposed the minutes as a true and accurate record they were seconded by Cllr Haycock and agreed.

Matters Arising – Cllr Sharp reported that at last year's Annual Assembly issues connected with delivery vehicles to the Co-op store were raised. He added that a recent meeting had been held with representatives from the Co-op to discuss minimising the inconvenience. The Co-op had been very responsive and have since put in procedures that delivery vehicles must turn left when exiting the store car park rather than travel through the High Street and had confirmed that there would be fewer deliveries as distribution methods had changed and there would not be any further early morning deliveries. This was welcomed.

3 To receive the Annual Report and any questions from electors of the Parish of Gnosall including the wards of Moreton and Knightley

Copies of the Annual Report for the year ending 31.3.10 had been distributed to those attending the Assembly. The Chairman drew attention to the new format of the Report, which would be distributed to all households in the near future.

At this point Cllr Booth announced that two members of Parish Council staff, Mr and Mrs Hill had given 10 years of excellent service looking after the Grosvenor Centre and, with Cllr Payne as Chairman of Grosvenor Centre, presented them with gifts to celebrate this occasion.

Committee Chairmen gave verbal reports on the past year's activities and future projects. The Best Kept Village Team was commended by Cllr Simkin for all their efforts. Cllr Payne, as Chair of Grosvenor thanked staff and Designated Premises Supervisor for their contributions. He explained that the committee are focusing on looking at recreational facilities and would consult the parishioners when more information is available. Cllr Greatrex, as Chair of Planning encouraged residents to attend planning meetings to speak

about applications in the public open forum to assist the parish council with its responses to Stafford Borough Council. Cllr Greatrex also spoke about the village green hearing held in March and that the land in question had been granted village green status. He added that the current owner, Taylor Wimpey had yet to make a decision about what they wish to do with the land. Cllr Sharp as Chairman of Finance commented that the funds the Parish Council oversees belong to the parishioners and the Parish Council is accountable to parishioners for applying the funds evenly and fairly. He explained that £72,000 had been reserved for various projects and consultation would be arranged with parishioners before funds are spent to ensure they are spent with approval. Cllr Sharp as Chairman of Personnel Committee thanked all staff for their contributions.

There were no questions on the Annual Report, which was accepted.

4 **To receive any questions from electors**

A question was asked about progress on the Chippy Jumps project. Cllr Greatrex replied that the contractor hopes to start work in mid June and the Parish Council is currently waiting for the lease and licence from Staffordshire County Council to access the land to begin the work. It is hoped that the project will be finished in time for the school summer holidays. Cllr Winnington added that the lease had been signed by him and he would pursue this.

A question was asked why Parish Council minutes are not displayed on notice boards. Cllr Booth replied that as minutes are lengthy there is not enough room on boards to display but they are available upon request at the Parish Office. She added that the Parish Council is not legally required to display the minutes but has to make them available which it does. She added that when the new website is up and running minutes would be posted on it. Arrangements could be put in place to have minutes available in the library and Millennium Centre in Moreton.

A question was asked about communication and it was suggested that parishioners would welcome more information from the Parish Council, maybe once a month on council matters. Cllr Sharp answered in that GMK is printed and distributed quarterly to around 3000 households and that the website would be a positive step forward in sharing information. The website designer, Mr Alan Baker, also spoke about the ideas for the website and said it is possible for links to be added to other local organisations. Cllr Booth commented that as a Quality Parish Council, we do more than meet the requirements, including a monthly page in Gnosall Parish News and Mobstead News and are always looking to improve communications.

A question was asked regarding whether the Parish Council would give a statement of intent to clear the Doley Brook. Cllr Simkin replied that the working group is focussing on identifying land owners to work together to clear the brook and plans are well underway. Cllr Greatrex explained that the mapping exercise is nearing completion and a follow on meeting could then be arranged.

5 To receive a report on results from the questionnaire on Affordable Housing

Cllr Booth welcomed Tony Price and John Lancaster from Housing Plus who then gave a very detailed presentation giving the results of a questionnaire distributed to the parish in March. In summary, results had shown that 36 new affordable homes are required of which 22 would be for rent and 14 shared ownership. One, two and three bed accommodation including some specially adapted homes would be required mostly from young adults wanting to set up home in the parish. The Parish Council now has to consider the way forward and if the findings are accepted the next stage would be to source sites.

Several questions were asked about the findings and the answers given by Housing Plus accepted.

Cllr Booth thanked Housing Plus for arranging this survey as well as distributing the parish plan questionnaire and said the Parish Council would now consider the report.

6 To receive a report on results from the questionnaire on the Parish Plan

Paul Boston, Chairman of the Parish Plan Working Group, briefly explained how the parish plan questionnaire had been created and developed using a pilot survey then a parish wide survey. He spoke about the topics of concern and how, after analysis, they rank in order. He added there would now be a detailed survey focussing on the top 5 topics with follow on action points. When the plan is completed it would be circulated and would have realistic achievable action points. Cllr Booth thanked Mr Boston and the Working Group for their efforts.

7 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Ken Williamson, Borough Councillor reported that council tax had been kept below inflation and SBC had had to reduce expenditure every year to achieve this. Shared services are now in place with Lichfield Council to keep costs low and this may be expanded with Cannock Council. He also reported that the Local Development Framework is not going to happen and only 1000 houses will be built over the next 20 years and it is unlikely that Gnosall will have any new build (apart from affordable homes if approved)

Cllr Winnington, Staffordshire County Council explained that County Councillors for each division can now prioritise problems and for this coming year Gnosall has two priorities:

- 1) A518 at Swan Pitt – signage being reviewed
- 2) Brookhouse Road – road markings and ramps to help with speed restrictions.

He added that some speed restrictive measures had already been put in place. He concluded saying that he is available should residents have any issues at any time.

Cllr Booth thanked everyone for attending in such numbers, and closed the meeting at 9.10pm