

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Gnosall Parish Council
Held in the Grosvenor Centre, on Tuesday 3 May 2011
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, Rev M Bridgen, Mr & Mrs Winterbottom, Mr D Clarke, Mr R Talbot, Miss S Clarke, Miss D Sheldrake, Mr & Mrs Hall, Mrs Pellow, Mrs L Bevington Cllr A Kelly.

2 To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 27 May 2010

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

3 To receive the Annual Report for the year 2010/11 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 31.3.11 had been distributed to those attending the Assembly. The Chairman reminded everyone that the current council had reached the end of its four year term. There had been 13 nominations for 16 places therefore there had been an uncontested election. Three vacancies would now be filled by co-option. There are four new councillors and 9 continuing councillors. Councillors were thanked for standing for parish council positions and for their hard work over the last few years. It was also noted that Gnosall Parish Council would be eligible for reaccreditation for quality status in 2012.

Committee Chairmen then gave verbal reports on the past year's activities and future projects. Cllr Simkin, Chair of Open Spaces Committee talked about the exiting plans for the Acres Open Spaces. She thanked her fellow councillors, employees, partner organisations and residents of the village for their invaluable contributions in managing the Open Space areas in the parish. The Best Kept Village Team was commended by Cllr Simkin for all their efforts and for their achievements in winning in 2010.

Cllr Payne, as Chair of Grosvenor thanked staff and hirers of the centre over the past year. He said there had been an increase in bookings proving a demand for the centre. He explained that work had been carried out to keep the centre up to date in relation to health and safety and disability requirements. It was noted that the centre is financed purely by income from bookings – not by parish council funds. Changes to the centre area being considered by committee which would be discussed later on during the meeting.

Cllr Greatrex, as Chair of the Planning Committee, explained the function of the Planning Committee and encouraged residents to attend planning meetings to speak about applications in the public open forum which assists the parish council with its responses to Stafford Borough Council. He spoke about the Affordable Housing project and explained that the parish council is awaiting results from site surveys. It is hoped that this project will progress over the next few years.

Cllr Sharp, as Chairman of Resources Committee, explained the function of the Resources Committee and talked about the new finance system. He commented that at the beginning of this term of council it was hoped that some of parish council funds would be used for the benefit of the parish and he was pleased to report that this year £29,000 had been spent on community projects. He also added that Grosvenor Centre surplus funds are added to the amount of reserves which helps keep the precept low. Future projects need to be supported by the majority of the parish therefore input from residents is important to enable councillors to apply council funds correctly.

Cllr Sharp, as Chairman of the Personnel Committee, thanked all staff for their contributions, particularly Maggie Hughes who left parish council employment in September 2010. He welcomed her replacement Jamie McLaren.

Cllr Booth, as Chairman of G-Fest Working Group briefly spoke about the forthcoming festival taking place from 9th to 17th July 2011. She said this is a new event and hopes that parishioners will support it by attending the events planned.

At this point, the four new councillors made themselves known to those attending the meeting.

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

4 **To receive any questions from electors**

No questions were asked.

5 **To receive a report and begin a consultation on possible recreation facilities at the Grosvenor Centre.**

Possible future plans of the Grosvenor Centre had been discussed by Grosvenor Centre Committee. A questionnaire was distributed to those attending the Annual Assembly that asked for views and comments on a list of possible recreational facilities which included tennis court(s), bowling green, licensed coffee bar, gym, wedding licence, extended car park and improved ambiance. This questionnaire would be circulated as widely as possible around the parish to obtain as many views as possible. It was emphasised that any funds spent on changes to the centre must be done with the approval of parishioners therefore it is essential that questionnaires are completed and returned for analysis by Grosvenor Centre Committee.

A resident gave her comments about the support that a bowling green would have in the village and referred to various parish council and newspaper articles over the last few years that that talked about

changes. She said, in her opinion, the village lacks a sporting facility for senior citizens and a bowling green would be welcomed.

Another comment was raised that the projects detailed on the questionnaire would be very expensive to establish and maintain and the demand is not yet known.

A comment was raised that there had previously been two bowling greens in the parish that had closed.

Everyone was thanked for their comments.

6 To receive a copy of Gnosall's new Parish Plan with action points for the next five years till 2016

A copy of the new Parish Plan was given to everyone. Copies would be made available at various locations in the village and a leaflet, summarising the plan, would be distributed to households in the parish.

Residents were encouraged to become involved and assist the parish council in achieving the actions outlined in the plan.

Thanks were made to all volunteers who helped with putting this plan together over the past two years, particularly Paul Boston and Derek Pitt.

No questions were raised.

7 To receive reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Ken Williamson, Borough Councillor reported that shared services had been expanded with Cannock Council to cut costs within Stafford Borough Council.

Cllr Winnington, Staffordshire County Council was pleased to report that following a successful funding application, the Millennium Cycle Route had been extended a further 1.3 miles to Broadhill and the route would continue as far as possible until funding ceases. A resident raised the point that communication between Staffordshire County Council and Telford and Wrekin Council regarding the continuation of the Millennium Way from the county boundary had not progressed. Cllr Winnington agreed to follow this up.

Cllr Winnington also talked about the changes on the A518 with the installation of new signage, flashing lights and barriers all of which is hoped would reduce the amount of accidents on this road. However it was pointed out that drivers also have a responsibility to drive safely. He said there are plans for two bus stops near to Swan Pit and the area between the Navigation pub and Methodist Church had been highlighted as a "speeding area" and would be reviewed. Cllr Payne commented that past lobbying by the A518 Action Group had helped with getting the changes put in place and thanked Cllr Winnington for his contributions.

Signage had also been put in place near to the play ground on Brookhouse Road to alert drivers that they are approaching a play

area. If the signage does not make a significant difference the area would be looked at again.

It was reported that from June 2011 teenagers would be able to travel around Staffordshire for £1.00. Pensioners would continue to receive bus passes for free travel.

Cllr Booth thanked everyone for attending, thanks were given to Maggie Hughes and Mavis Hill for the refreshments. Cllr Booth wished the Council every success in the future.

Vice Chairman, Roger Greatrex presented Cllr Booth with flowers and thanked her for her contributions to the Parish Council during her time as councillor and Chairman.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm