

Martin Parish Council

Minutes of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF MARTIN PARISH COUNCIL held at THE BLANDFORD HALL, MARTIN on Tuesday 30th May 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr S Sampson, Cllr J Richards, Cllr H Lawes, Cllr S Hooper, Cllr B Hapke, Cllr M King, Mr E Hale (Interim Clerk), 12 Members of the Public

The Chairman opened the Annual Assembly and said that unfortunately there would not be a speaker from Martin Down Nature Reserve as Graham Johnstone had been in a cycling accident. He was not seriously injured but did not feel able to speak at the meeting. Instead there were boards displaying photographs of the wildlife for residents to look at for the first fifteen minutes

The Chairman thanked Angela Farmer for arranging and setting up the wildlife displays, and villagers for attending. There was discussion about the displays and some were surprised at the number of butterflies. It was suggested there could be a permanent display in the Church, possibly centred on W H Hudson

1. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2016. The minutes were approved by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman
2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Damage to verge at Townsend Lane. It had been established that no action could be taken about this unless a vehicle was blocking a pathway. If a Parish Council installs dragons teeth it will be responsible for all future maintenance. The verge counts as part of the highway

3. Speaker. See above
4. Report from the Chairman

The Chairman gave her report on the activities of the Parish Council as follows:

Staffing. There had been two changes of Parish Clerk during the last year

Planning. Issues around Martin Club had been a challenge, where it was proposed to build a new house to fund a new club building. There was ongoing enforcement action over Maplefield Farm

Highways. There were continued concerns about safety at the A354 junction, particularly during the History Festival. Some traffic was being diverted away from the A354, but the Parish Council would continue to request improved signage to slow traffic near the road junction. The condition of roads was causing concern and the County Councillor had previously advised villagers to record all issues on the HCC website as this would increase the chance of repairs

Lengthsman. The scheme was being used to cut footpaths and clear grips

Playground. Additional equipment had been bought and it was hoped to buy more

Notice Board. A new Parish Council board had been installed at the north end of the village

Broadband. A grant had been obtained to pay for Wifi in the Village Hall

Defibrillator. Funding had been arranged for a unit which should be installed soon

Litter Pickers. The village had a good team of volunteers keeping the main areas tidy

Councillors. The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their work during the previous year. Particular thanks were given to Cllr Richards for maintaining the village website

5. Presentation by the County and District Councillor. No report this month

6. Matters of Interest raised by Martin Residents.

Members of the Public thanked the Chairman for her work on behalf of the Parish Council

The defibrillator was discussed and Cllr Hooper said the new equipment could only be used when in contact with emergency services and for specific medical conditions

Broadband was still being improved in the area. Cllr Hapke said there is a new service which uses booster dishes from tall buildings

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Edward Hale - Interim Clerk – Martin Parish Council

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