

HINTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

Minutes of the APM held on Tuesday 22rd May at 7.00pm in the Phyllis Collet Room Purton

Present- Cllrs- S Brown (Chair), P Marsh & L Yeomans.

1 members of the public participated in this meeting. (BVR)

Cllr. Beard sent apologies.

The Chair of HPC welcomed everybody and everyone introduced their selves.

There was no District or County report

Chairs Report- The Chair explained what the Council has done in the last year, I.e., purchased 3 defibs, updated the Play Area facilities, secured a lease on the Green at Purton. The Bus for Purton has been a slow process, but we are still trying to sort something out. Eight people or more are needed to make it viable. There has been an increase in fly tipping at Sanigar allotment site, Leyhill will hopefully be helping the PC clean this area in August. There was a FOI request, which meant the Clerks time was took up with that. The PC recently purchased a WW1 commemorative bench, with the help of a kind donation from the Sharpness RAOB. There has been NO money received from the wind turbine community grant despite endless attempts of trying. The PC have also invested some money

Finances -The accounts where available to view.

Railway- Robin Payne from the Vale of Berkeley railway attended to give a report after the few complaints that have been received. There is an ecologist on site, and there have been ecology reports- See statement.

"We commissioned an ecology survey from 'Just Ecology' in Gloucester who carried out, over one full season, an audit of species to be found on the site and they confirmed that there was no sign of endangered species there. Further, we have spoken to local ornithologists who do not feel that our work will result in loss of habitat for the kinds of birds that are usually seen in the area.

Signed.....

Date

Once we had completed the survey, we applied for a licence from Network Rail, the owners of the site (it is designated as railway land since it has rail tracks in situ). They granted us a license subject to confirmation that we would adhere to the strict environmental regulations that are required. This was granted in early April, (after the deadline for tree cutting because the bird nesting season starts on 1st March). As a result, we have not cut any trees down on the site, confining ourselves to low-lying ground cover. We will not begin tree cutting until 1st September, which is when the bird nesting season is officially over.

At the same time, we are required only to clear undergrowth from the site when the temperature has reached 16 degrees because that is the minimum temperature below which cold blooded creatures e.g. reptiles such as slow worms do not move around and could, therefore be at risk. On a number of occasions, we have stopped work because the temperature has fallen below 16 degrees.

We have been visited by an inspector from Network Rail who has confirmed that we are undertaking our work in an acceptable way and conforming to environmental as well as safety requirements. We expect future visits to check on our progress.

It should be pointed out that, unlike the previous scheme that acted with no permissions or concern for the environment, we take great pride in our sense of responsibility for the environment we will inherit as a railway. We are the only heritage railway to our knowledge that is setting up its own ecology and environment group and our aim is to actually increase species diversity through intelligent planting along the line.

Our task is to expose the existing railway tracks on the site and we will use those tracks for storage and maintenance of our carriages, wagons and locomotives. We will only remove trees that affect this and we will retain as many trees as we can so that the area remains as natural as possible. Future plans include developing a wildlife area close to the Oldminster site that will be established working with local groups such as Sharpness Primary School and will be for the benefit of the local community.

All local residents are welcome to come down to talk to our volunteers at the site and we will be more than happy to show them how we are approaching this task."

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Signed.....

Date

18.