

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
for Perton held at Perton Civic Centre, on
Monday 24th April 2017 at 7.00 p.m.**

P Davis [Chairman]
Mrs RA Heseltine [Vice-Chairman]
Mrs P Allen
Mrs L Turner
Mrs G Davis
A A Bourke
C Evans
D Glynn
R E Moreton

Also in attendance:-
Citizen of the Year: Mr Andrew Key
Parish Clerk - Becky Hodgetts
Members of the public – 6

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman, Cllr Philip Davis welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

2. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25th April 2016**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2016 were reviewed.

3. **PRESENTATION - CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

The Chairman said that this year there had been no nominations for Young Citizen of the Year. The Chairman was delighted to award Citizen of the Year to Mr Andrew Key in recognition of his voluntary contribution to the community and presented a PPC 'Coat of Arms' plaque and a small cash award of £50.00

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016 / 2017**

WELCOME

Welcome to all members of the public who have come along this evening and fellow members of the Council.

PERTON CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

This year no nominations were received for the junior category. The senior category for Perton Citizen of the Year is awarded to Andy Key in recognition of his voluntary litter picking, who is regularly seen, in all weathers, with a black bin liner collecting litter while out walking his dog.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2016/2017

The Parish Precept income remained the same as 2015/16 at £190,000 which meant a band D property contributed £55.91, equating to £1.08 per week.

The Parish Council also generated £79,000 of additional income primarily through Civic Centre bookings. Bank interest generated from cash holdings amounted to just £628 which is due to the continued low interest rates. Total expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2017 was £165,355.00.

CHAIRMAN'S' CIVIC SUNDAY

The Chairman declined to hold a Civic Sunday reception this year.

THE CIVIC CENTRE

Over the last twelve months Perton Civic Centre has been a vibrant and busy place due to the regular customer base which provides a wide range of activities from Fitness classes, Karate and slimming clubs. Our regular hirers are generally increasing in number and customer feedback tells us that we are seen as a safe and welcoming centre with good facilities with a fair and competitive price structure. A number of Private functions, parties and public events were held this year. The Pantomime

returned for the 11th year and the new Wrestling event was well supported in February and is due to return in July. Again a number of worthwhile charities and local public groups have received 'Concessionary' room hire rates which are subsidised by the Parish Council. The Centre Management Committee has been diligently working to ensure that the Centre is well maintained, secure, inviting and cost effective. The current rates will be held at the present level and reviewed again in April 2018. Ongoing building maintenance continues to be both reactive and proactive with breakdowns and repairs, and the constant need for refurbishment always on the agenda.

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

The Parish Council will be installing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the redundant BT phone box on the Parkway near to Leasowe Drive at a total cost of £1,495.00 + installation. This unit will be registered on the 999 callout system and is intended for public use and an access code will be issued by the Emergency Service operator if deemed necessary in respect to the nature of the call.

A free First Aid course was held in November which was well attended and feedback was very positive - *'the information was presented well with useful amounts of detail', 'Excellent course, both interesting and useful. We both feel more confident about tackling a heart related emergency now.'*

PLAYGROUND , MULTI-USE GAMES AREA & OUTDOOR GYM

Our children's playground and the Multi-Use Games Area were again very well utilised over the last twelve months and it is gratifying to see both of these facilities so well visited and enjoyed. Minor amounts of maintenance were required during the year as would be expected but generally these facilities are stable, popular and widely used. The ongoing issue in all three areas is the constant littering despite a very large number of litter bins being in-place, and occasionally some petty vandalism.

LITTER

A recurring concern year on year is the continual source of complaints from residents relating to littering, broken glass and dog fouling. Our own Litter Warden patrol continues to operate in two shifts and thus provides cover seven days a week subject to warden availability. This service is principally focussed on central Perton to ensure that litter is cleared from local public areas but sadly even a doubling of these shifts would not be sufficient to keep on top of the problem village wide. Unfortunately litter issues seem to be increasing and it is important that this matter is given high profile in the education of youngsters both in the home and at school since many young people are amongst the worst offenders; our children's play area being an example of how the litter bins are so often ignored.

New signs designed by children and pavement stencilling have been deployed at various locations around the village highlighting the issue of dog fouling.

POLICING

Policing at Perton is often an emotive topic but monthly crime reports tend to indicate that crime and anti-social behaviour trends are decreasing rather than the opposite.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Speeding around the Parkway continues to be a concern for residents. Community Speed Watch is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community. All volunteers receive appropriate training and are supported by the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds.

There are currently 4 volunteers for Perton who monitor approved sites around the Parkway and the Parish Council have recently purchased a new speed gun at a cost of £199.

COMMUNICATING WITH PARISHIONERS

The Notice Boards, Parish website and new Facebook page remain a principal source of information for parishioners and provides a broad array of details which we strive to keep up to date and interesting. Our website will, in the coming year, be refreshed and enhanced to support mobile communication. Additionally, any newsworthy items are passed on to the local press and monthly updates to the local advertising magazines which are delivered free to all homes in the village.

NOTICE BOARDS & SIGNAGE

We have Parish Council notice boards at Kingswood, Trescott, Anders Square in central Perton and additional boards at locations around The Parkway together with lots of information located within the Civic Centre. All notice boards are visited on a regular basis to ensure that parishioners are kept well informed regarding events and current affairs relating to Council matters and also activities at the Civic Centre. Due to space limitations The Parkway, Trescott and Kingswood boards are generally reserved for Parish Council matters whilst the Civic Centre and Anders Square boards are more comprehensive in respect to items displayed.

Signs have been installed at the upper lake informing residents on what to feed the Geese and Ducks as the correct food contributes to their health and wellbeing.

SUBWAYS

Continued maintenance and cleaning of the subways has had a positive effect in terms of reducing the number of complaints and overall this work makes Perton a cleaner and better place to live. During the last fiscal year we spent a total of £2,352.00 on graffiti cleaning primarily at the various subways, this is a cost that is almost totally associated with vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

PERTON BUS SERVICES & SHELTERS

Seven new shelters at various locations around the village at a total cost of £20,923 were installed in 2016. Unfortunately the timetable cases fitted within the shelters have been subject to criminal damage. Seven reports of damage have been made to the Police.

If anyone has information on these incidents please contact the Parish Council.

FILM SHOWS- FLICKS IN THE STICKS

In support of our Senior Citizens we continue to provide 'Movie Magic' film shows which are screened for the Parish Council via the charity Arts Alive with their brand 'Flicks in the Sticks'. The movie shows continue to gain popularity and see our Lakeside Hall transformed into a daytime cinema and the audience invariably looks forward to the next showing with keen anticipation. The films are open to all at a cost of £3.50 except for Senior Citizens who reside within the parish enjoy free admission. The free 'Movie Magic Pass' for qualifying residents has proved very successful and speeds up entry to the film. The format, which usually includes an intermission for tea and biscuits has been very well received and takes place on selected Thursday afternoons. We have screened six films in the last year at a total cost of £1500 and attendance remains steady with approximately 97 per film. Films screened over the last twelve months include 'Woman in Gold', 'Dads Army' and 'Waking Ned Devine'. 6 films will again be scheduled for the forthcoming year.

Perton Parish Council Management Committee have also screened 2 family films on a Saturday afternoon. 'Get Santa' was screened in November and 'The Secret Life of pets' in March. Whilst these are not yet as popular as the senior citizens film shows they are enjoyed by all that attend. Popcorn and soft drinks are also available to purchase before the film.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

We again supported the 'Sussed' activities programme operated by South Staffordshire Council at a total cost of £684.00. These were delivered at Perton for local children deploying local hosts to provide a mix of either various sports / games sessions or

alternatively dance based sessions.

Perton Parish Council along with Perton Playing Fields Association are currently working with a volunteer group to re-open the youth club for Perton children.

GRANT AID

Outgoing grants made by Perton Parish Council over the year totalled £6130.00 compared to £7260.00 in the previous year. This figure comprised the following payments:

£500	Friends of Perton Middle School
£2,000	Perton Playing Fields Association 1 st half
£30.00	Perton Library
£2,000	Perton Playing Fields Association 2 nd half
£700	Perton Playing Fields Association – Pavilion roof repairs
£100	South Staffs First Responder
£500	South Staffs Work Clubs
£300	Perton Carnival (2017)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Perton Parish Council processed 27 planning applications during the year against 38 recorded last year.

FUTURE HOUSING

There have been several delays in the housing consultation. We have no further information at this point as to when building will commence.

WAR MEMORIAL

The much valued War Memorial, which physically marks the end of the old airfield runway, was previously maintained by members of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA - Wolverhampton & District Branch). Late in 2012 the Parish Council agreed to take on responsibility for maintenance of the memorial since RAFA were no longer able to do so. Since that time we have added gated fencing and will ensure that it is kept tidy and well maintained on a regular basis.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Parish Council again approved the installation of ten 'solar-powered' Christmas trees around the central areas of Anders Square. These trees were provided on a rental basis which eliminates the need for storage outside of the Christmas period. The solar trees were provided at an annual fixed cost of £1,900 which included delivery, installation, takedown and collection for a 3 year fixed price contract. Additionally the Parish Council provided support to the local independent 'Christmas Lights' committee who are constantly looking for ways to improve the festive lighting around the village centre.

ANDERS SQUARE SPRING & SUMMER PLANTING

The Parish Council again arranged for the provision of eight multi-tier planters to be located around the central areas of Perton village. Each tub provided an array of mixed coloured flowers to brighten up the place and make it more welcoming to visitors. The total cost is £2,960.00 which includes tub delivery and collection and season long maintenance and watering, this equates to £30.83 per tub per week for a twelve week season. 2017 will be the second year of a three year contract.

HARLEQUIN PANTOMIME PRODUCTIONS

In January 2017 Harlequin Pantomime Productions returned again for their celebratory 11th season at Perton Civic Centre with a production of 'Puss in Boots'. This was again a wonderful success being very well received by the sell out crowds and we are delighted to confirm that Harlequin will return once again in January 2018 with a production of Little Red Riding Hood.

CONCLUSION

The last twelve months have seen some significant staff changes, with Parish Clerk Tony Tappenden retiring in July after 10½ years. Admin assistant Becky Hodgetts stepping into the role and Louise Higgins joining the team as the new Admin Assistant. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and involvement during the last year whilst also recognising that the next twelve months will again be very busy and also present new challenges as yet unseen.

The help from Parish Clerks Tony Tappenden, Becky Hodgetts and Assistant Parish Clerk Alison Moreton has been gratefully received and the office has had a great deal of involvement in all of our projects. I would like to thank all the staff for their effort, support and dedication who have worked very hard to ensure good results, and seek on every occasion to be supportive and welcoming to customers old and new. I thank them allThank You.

5. **RESIDENTS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT**

A resident noted from the Chairman's report the cost of graffiti removal and wondered if the Police had ever caught anyone. It was agreed that this would be very difficult. Graffiti used to be a major complaint but the long term management has appeared to be successful.

It is hoped that the new youth club will start to instil in the young people a sense of pride and interest in the area.

Cllr A A Bourke congratulated the Chairman on his year and the initiatives that he has taken forward, Speedwatch and Indoor Bowls.

The meeting was informed that Speedwatch has helped to bring the Police Camera Van onto Perton. A resident pointed out that Coleridge Drive was one of the busiest roads on Perton.

Speedwatch only has 4 volunteers and badly needs more. With more volunteers the gun could be taken out more. All volunteers are trained and backed by the Police. Volunteers are not there to enforce the law, but it does slow traffic down. Any one interested in joining is welcome to come and have a look.

The Chicane was installed when the subway was removed to create a safe place for pedestrians to cross the Parkway. The project was recommended by County Council Highway Engineers. Additional speedbumps were installed with member's allowances with advice from the Highway Engineer, it is felt the advice and decisions were poor.

6. **DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MONDAY 24th APRIL, 2017**

The information was noted.

7. **LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

The Chairman invited all present to join him in the Airmans lounge for light refreshments.

The Meeting closed at 7.26pm

Chairman
8th May 2017