

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Radway, held at the Village Hall, Radway on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7:15pm

Present: Cllr Johnson, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Feilding, Cllr Wilkins, 4 members of the public and County Cllr Williams.

1. **Apologies** – None.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017** – It was agreed that the minutes can be signed although a copy was not available for signing at the meeting. **Action: Clerk to provide copy for signature at next Parish Council meeting.**
3. **Matters arising from those minutes** – None.
4. **Report from the Chairman** – I would like to start by thanking each fellow councillor for their endeavours over the last year and more. Each of us bring different attributes to the council and as such I believe that makes us strong and productive. With us each having different ways of dealing with matters it is the combined ability to listen and discuss which enables us to develop a helpful way through our tasks.

We each have busy lives and our available time fluctuates with life. To that end I would like to say a particular thank you to everyone as I myself have had life events which have been rather traumatic.

John has managed on the whole to keep his parish council business separate from his district business and it seems that matters do seem to get actioned with the other authorities rather quicker now than before. Even though at times it is still frustrating for you and us. The added parking facility along Langdon Lane is quite an achievement and the dropped curbing is afoot. This is in addition to the flooding, drainage and pit hole ongoing matters.

My fellow councillors have taken on projects which has enables us to provide the goods and services as agreed for the benefit of the residents. Keeping a balance between funds and services. In a small village like ours it is not always easy to ignore the personal connections when assessing which goods and services to provide and as far as humanly possible we as a council manage this. If we have been unsure we take professional advice from the supporting organisations. With added rules and regulations being introduced throughout the year the responsibility grows.

We congratulate the REG group with its success. Also the village hall for enabling a more cohesive community. The table tennis group is progressing well and the village flood issues are now greatly reduced. Thanks also to the clerk for all her hard work and support.

5. **Report from District Councillor (J.Feilding)** – I was not quite expecting all that the role of District Councillor would bring. There have been a number of elections and a new District Council leader has had to be elected. I have learnt about dog poo, car parking, speeding and how almost all parishes have complaints about speeding, parking and the inevitable dog poo. We were asked to identify historical buildings that may be of interest to the public and I suggested the church in Radway – thanks to Puffin, Brian and everyone else involved.

**6. Report from County Councillor (C. Williams)**

We are nearly at the end of the first year that the Conservative Group has been in full control of the administration at Shire Hall. Previously, we were the largest party but not in overall control. Throughout the past year there has been a strong message from government that austerity continues and this is the second year of a three-year savings plan. I must reassure you that the County Council's finances are in a sound state unlike our neighbours, Northamptonshire. The pressures have been brought about by a reduction in the amount of support we receive from central government. Mandatory services have been maintained despite a 30% reduction in staffing over the last six years.

When I first became elected in 2009, the budget was some £120 million more than the present level. Warwickshire is performing well when compared with other authorities. Unemployment is 2.9% compared with a national average of 4.5%. Productivity is 10% higher than the West Midlands average and there are now more than 25,000 businesses registered in our county. Warwickshire is a popular county in which to live. As well as wealth creation the expanding population and increase in housing numbers brings its problems to the infrastructure especially traffic on our roads. Our budget for 2018/19 provides £100,000 for extra staff in the Highway Planning Section to help with logistics.

From our budget of nearly £470 million, £132 million will be allocated to Adult Care and £57 million to Children's welfare. i.e. Fostering, Adoption and Safeguarding. To put these figures into perspective the total budget for the District Council was £12 million. To continue the strong financial position of the County Council as well as maintaining growth and the well-being of the less well off, we need to increase our revenue by some £45 million over the next two years. Further savings through staff efficiencies will provide £25 million of this sum, increases in housing numbers will produce £9 million and the proposed increase in Council Tax for this year produces £10 million. Basically, a 1% increase in Council Tax produces £2 million in revenue.

It was predicted last year that we intended to increase our Care Staff and I am pleased to report that over the past year we have employed an additional 40 Carers to help with the adult care responsibility. Some 25 children currently in the care of the County Council have been accepted by various Universities including three places to Oxbridge. This is a remarkable success story when compared to other authorities. We currently have over 700 children in care and our Fostering and Adoption Services are recognised nationally for their enviable reputation.

I am proud to represent Kineton & Red Horse Division at Warwickshire County Council and that with all the gloomy predictions we are able to administer the authority with no reductions in any of our front-line services.

I am happy to answer any questions you might like to ask me.

**7. Any matters raised by electors of the parish present – None.**

**8. Closure – Meeting closed at 7:30pm.**

Signed..... Date.....