

Lydbury North Parish Council Annual General Meeting  
held on Thursday 14 May 2015 at 8.00pm Lydbury North Village Hall

The Annual Meeting was introduced by Charlotte Barnes Unitary Councillor for Shropshire Council who welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

In attendance: 16 members of the public, 7 councillors, 1 county councillor and 2 external speakers

The following presentations were delivered:

NHS Future Fit (Stephen Williams) - The current situation regarding Future Fit and the options for future accident and emergency services was provided with questions regarding the risk to Shrewsbury Hospital and the opportunity for an Urgent Care Centre in Bishop's Castle raised.

Lydbury North Primary School (Penny Knight – Headteacher) Since its inception 3 years ago the value of becoming a federation with Onny School was recognised and its success celebrated on Breakfast TV and Radio 4. The development of nursery provision has been welcomed and the nursery is open 5 days/week with 10 children in attendance. September will see a full reception cohort. Mrs Knight was keen to emphasise the welcoming environment at the school and how the children enjoy their learning. Forest School has been introduced with thanks to Mr and Mrs Parish for use of Walcot arboretum. Links have also been established with Walcot Stables for KS2 pupils. A wildlife area is being developed as one of the many ideas children are coming up with for the use of the field. Close links with the church are maintained with the Reverends Stephanie Fountain and Sarah Hare taking assemblies and supporting RE lessons. The school is also part of the South west Shropshire Learning Trust along with 10 other schools working to improve the education and well-being of young people. A meeting with BCCC to identify ways of working together have included and logo designing competition.

Lydbury North Parish Church (On behalf of Revd Stephanie Fountain and Revd Sarah Hare) - The church expressed appreciation for the support of individuals and groups and the contributions to the repairs of the cemetery walls. There are strong links with the Primary School services being held for the children and families. There is continuing work to be done on maintaining the church and the graveyard plan is being updated. Stephanie and Sarah are both Governors of St Michael's Federation and both hold vouchers for the food bank at Clun.

Lydbury North Village Hall (Tim Weaver – Village Hall Management Committee) – Tim gave a resume of the building and opening of the new hall, thanking all concerned for their contribution to making it a success.

Lydbury North Village Shop (Rita Baker – Chair of committee) - Rita told the meeting that it had been a difficult year for the shop and this reflected the economic downturn. At the annual general meeting of the shop committee it was agreed to look at different products to help address the situation. It is also evident that with better communications within the village, the shop could stock accordingly, e.g. a recent bikers event left the shop unable to meet the demand for bacon and eggs! The shop ensures that goods sold are priced competitively. Volunteers enjoyed working in the shop and more would be welcomed.

Lydbury North WI (Frances Phelps - President) – Frances welcomed the use of the new hall. With a membership of 20, which is a high percentage for a parish, the WI celebrated their 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. There have been trips including one to Haddon Hall and a variety of speakers, including the Reverend Sarah Hare, Roger Evans and Andy Peters and presentations on such diverse subjects as Women in the Merchant Navy, SE Asia and Needlework. The local group will be represented at the WI centenary meeting at the Royal Albert Hall and at a Queen's Garden Party.

Lydbury English Centre (Rita Baker) – The centre run English Language courses for business purposes. The centre has felt the full impact of the changing economic climate. Previously companies funded English training for their staff whereas they now tend to employ English speakers. The centre has had an increased number of unemployed people seeking training and those undertaking MBA's. The centre has developed an accelerated training system that is receiving interest from teachers in the public sector.

Lydbury Field/Young Archaeologist Groups (On behalf of Mike Greene) – updated everyone on the activities of the two groups including work on Walcot Mill (completed), mapping of the area circa 1800 and recording of data in the church graveyard. Mr Greene is keen to encourage involvement of younger people.

Walcot Food Gardens (On behalf of Rob Milne) – Started in 2012 as a Community Interest Company a group of volunteers set out the walled garden at Walcot Hall. The venture provides an opportunity to meet like minded people, develop new skills and share produce. New members welcome.

Bookworms (Richard Beaumont) – In its 6<sup>th</sup> year and appreciative of the benefits of the new hall with the potential for soundproofing improvements being welcomed.

Bellringers (Richard Beaumont) – Activities curtailed due to illness over the year, but hope to be back on form in the future.

Community Newsletter (Richard Beaumont) – Produced 10 issues with especial thanks to Cllr Bowen. Only publish news and factual accounts and not opinion or unattributable material.

Education and Welfare Fund (Robert Beaumont) – The fund has supported young people with travel expenses, but can provide grants for a wide range of needs. Applications are treated in confidence and they are keen for young people to apply for support.

West Mercia Police Authority (PC Anne Gutteridge) – PC Gutteridge gave an update on speeding through the village. The Police use a 30 + 10% + 2 mph as the speed for issuing a fine which can only be undertaken by a Police Officer. The use of Community Speed Watch is limited as members of the public involved may record speeding vehicles, but are unable to issue fines. The Safer Roads Partnership can provide additional support. Lydbury North is seen as a priority regarding speeding and West Mercia Police will continue to carry out random enforcement.

Shropshire Council (Unitary Councillor Charlotte Barnes) – Cllr Barnes reported on the continuing difficulties faced by Shropshire Council and the impact that this could have on the most vulnerable members of the community. There are a number of food banks that Cllr Barnes can direct people to. Across the County youth service provision is being consulted on with the 1 session at Bishops Castle being removed. Consultation on library provision is progressing well for Bishops Castle. Cllr Barnes commented on the need for a good OFSTED inspection for the Community College as this would benefit the primary schools as well. Enterprise House continues to be successful and Council Services will be maintained there. A meeting at Lydbury North Primary School to discuss road safety is planned.

Lydbury North Parish Council (Roger Plowden Chair) – Cllr Plowden welcomed the value of the new hall and stated that the maintenance fund bequeathed by Dorothy Hunt had grown from its initial investment of £200k to £212.5k with a yield of ~3% (~£500/month). It was felt the funds had been invested appropriately. Cllr Plowden commented that the Parish Council try to deal with problems as they arise and are keen to support local organisations. There are continuing concerns regarding access to effective mobile and broadband as well as the future of health services and services for the elderly. Speeding traffic is a continuing issue as is flooding in Brockton. There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council which Cllrs are keen to see filled. Cllr Plowden offered his thanks to the Clerk, David Birch in helping to keep the village clean and tidy, to Alan Meyrick of Shropshire Council for his work in addressing road maintenance issues and to the other parish Councillors.

## Council meeting

		<b>ACTION</b>
16.014	<b>Members present:</b> Cllrs Plowden, Beaumont, Bowen, Ellis, Evans, May and Woosnam Roberts Also present Andy Boak (Clerk), Charlotte Barnes (Unitary Authority Cllr)	
16.015	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> Mathew Mead	
16.016	<b>Election of Chair:</b> Nominations received: Roger Plowden Proposed RB; Seconded JB. All agreed and RP appointed. Cllr Plowden reiterated the need for a change in the future	

	<p><b>Election of Vice-chair:</b> Nominations received: Robin Beaumont Proposed GM; Seconded GE. All agreed and RB appointed</p>	
16.017	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> Cllr Evans	
16.018	<b>Minutes of last meeting:</b> The minutes of the last AGM held on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2014 were accepted as a true record with the amendment that during the public session Mr Tim Wheeler should read Tim Weaver and under Bellringers it should read 6 and not 8 bells.	
16.019	<p><b>Election of Cllrs to Personnel Committee:</b> Nominations: JWR, RP, JB Proposed GM; seconded RB and all in favour</p> <p><b>Election of Cllrs to Finance and Investment Committee:</b> Nominations: RE, RP, GE Proposed RB; seconded GM and all in favour</p> <p><b>Election of Cllrs to Village Hall Management Committee:</b> Nominations: JB Proposed GM; seconded RB and all in favour</p> <p><b>Election of Cllrs to Local Joint Committee:</b> Nominations: GE Proposed JWR; seconded GM and all in favour. Accepted on proviso that other Cllrs take responsibility for attending meetings through the forthcoming year</p>	
16.020	<p><b>Finances and bills to pay</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllrs approved an incremental increase for Parish Clerk - +£9.02p/month</li> <li>2. Cllrs approved the following payments from the Community Account <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Wages for June D Birch £60.67 gross, A Boak £357.07 gross</li> <li>b. Enterprise House printing for parish post - £19.20</li> <li>c. Npower £279.90 DD + annual adjustment cheque for 235.62</li> <li>d. Insurance – renewal quote from Came and Co - £842.29. Updated quote from Zurich to include defibrillator and laptop - £402.76</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Cllrs approved the following payments from the New Hall Account <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Income from investment for May 2015 - £755.19</li> <li>b. VHMC for costs associated with the sale/demolition of the old hall prior to receipt of funds from the D Hunt legacy and Lottery. This includes legal and professional fees and some minor purchases amounting in total to £6666.48.</li> <li>c. Supply and delivery of stone by Trevor Brooke Grab Services - £200.38</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Receipt of precept from Shropshire Council, £10648 noted</li> </ol>	
16.021	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cllrs reported that there were no objections to the planning application following the site visit to School House, Lydbury North</li> <li>2. With regards to the survey emailed to all about changes to planning processes Cllrs expressed concern about their ability to influence planning decisions on local development. Unitary Cllr Barnes said that she can represent the views of Parish Councils and ensure that where there were serious concerns these can be raised at a planning committee meeting.</li> <li>3. With regards to the planning application for a barn egg production unit at Walcot Farm it was agreed that Cllr Bowen will attend the planning committee meeting with Unitary Cllr Barnes on 16th June 2015</li> </ol>	<b>JB</b>
16.022	Date of next meeting, confirmed as 09/06/15	

Signed ..... Chairman      Date .....