

Wistanstow Parish Council

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The Minutes of the Annual Public meeting and Parish Council Meeting held at Wistanstow Village Hall on Wednesday 26th March 2025 commencing at 7.00pm

Present:

Mr M Flanagan, Mrs J Woodroffe MBE, Mr J Morris, Mr P Alderson, Mr M White, Mr A Carney, Mrs N Kershaw, Mr P Powell, Mrs A Minton Beddoes.

Mr C E Williams (Clerk)

Apologies:

Shropshire Councillor David Evans

Annual Public Meeting

1. Chairmans Annual Report:

Mr M Flanagan presented his report to the Parish Council, which highlighted the activities of the Parish Council during the Year 2024/2025 which mainly related to Planning and Highway Issues. One long term issue that had been resolved was the Removal of the Fir trees bordering the boundary of the Closed Church Yard, although following a storm a branch had fallen from remaining trees across the electricity Lines by the Church however this was quickly reported by Janet Woodroffe and the Police and Eon were quickly on the scene to repair. The Chairman thanked Parish Councillors for their support during the year and the work undertaken by the Clerk who would be retiring after this meeting following 24 years' service to the Parish Council.

The Chairman also thanked the work undertaken by the Parish Councils Footpath Officer Phil Clarke in helping to maintain the Parish Footpaths Network.

The Chairman reported that he would not be standing as a Parish Councillor at the forth coming Parish Elections to be held on the 1st May 2025.

The meeting recorded their thanks and appreciation for the work that the Chairman had undertaken during the last four years.

2. Report from Wistanstow Village Hall Committee:

Mr P Powell presented the Village Hall Committee Report and although lettings were down the village hall was still well used and remained in a good financial position. During 2025 will see the introduction of the "Pop up Pub" and the redecoration of the outside of the building.

3. Report of the Footpaths Officer:

Mr P Clarke had produced a written report which had been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting and highlighted the maintenance work that had been taken. Storm Darragh in December has caused issues throughout Shropshire and in our Parish a substantial bridge was swept away downstream on the River Onny, and many trees were blown over. One of those trees came down and caused damage to a Bridge on what's commonly known as a Green Lane between Glenburrell & Longville Common, the Council are investigating to try and ascertain ownership of the Bridge.

Phil will continue to trim the Bushmoor to Marshbrook Bridleway twice a year and attempt to visit all gates and stiles during the summer months to clear under growth and report issues.

4. Financial Report:

The Clerk presented the Financial Report for the financial year 2024/25 with Income of £14,354 and Expenditure of £11,147 and Balances of £27,645 at the 31st March 2025.

5. Members of the Public:

Henry King-Slater the newly appointed Safer Neighbour Officer PC Henry King-Slater attended the meeting to provide an update on his role and the area that he covered.

PC King-Slater reported that there was very little crime in Wistanstow Parish but if residents became aware of issues, they were encouraged to report either by ringing 101 or via the West Mercia Police Website, He was aware of issues relating to parking by the school and this will be monitored by periodic visits.

PC King-Slater then answered questions raised and was thanked for his attendance.

Parish Council meeting

1. Declarations of Interest:

Nil

2. Minutes

The Parish Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th January 2025 and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes:

No matters arising from the minutes.

4. Confirmation of appointment of Parish Clerk:

The Parish Council welcomed Mr Clive Leworthy to the Meeting and confirmed his appointment as Parish Clerk from the 1st April 2025 although Eric Williams will continue until the end of April to ensure a smooth transition.

5. Planning Items:

Proposed Extension – 2 Glebe Cottages Wistanstow – No Objection

6. Highway/Amenity/Footpath Items:

a) Mr M White updated the meeting on the proposed improvement works along Bushmoor Road with the scheme where some initial remedial work had been done.

b) Members of the Council to continue to report highway issues such as potholes etc. onto the Shropshire Council Fixmystreet website.

c) The Clerk had reported that the streetlight adjacent to Peaton Roman Road Wistanstow had been repaired.

The survey of the streetlights had been undertaken by Eon of the Parish Councils twelve Streetlights this was for insurance purposes, certification of inventory for annual energy costs and future planning of require maintenance and replacement.

The Parish Council will need to consider an upgrade to the Streetlights which could result in a substantial saving in the annual revenue energy revenue costs of the Streetlights a report will be made to a future meeting of the Council.

7. Other Items:

The Clerk was asked to contact Severn Trent concerning future work on the River Onny.

8. Presentation:

The mark the retirement of the Chairman presented Eric Williams with a Canvas Print of Wistanstow Church.

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9. Next Meeting:

Wednesday 7th May 2025 – (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)