

MINUTES OF ORCOP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2013

Cllr B Thomas took the chair as Vice Chairman of Orcop Parish Council as the Chairman, Cllr D Sayce, was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

APOLOGIES were received from Cllr D Sayce and resident B Cooper.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING were approved by those present as an accurate account of the last Annual Parish Meeting and were signed and dated by the Chairman Cllr B Thomas.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Mike Willmont, Herefordshire Council, Neighbourhood Planning Team.

Mr Willmont explained to those present about the Localism Act 2011, how historically planning policies were delivered for Herefordshire solely by Herefordshire Council, about Neighbourhood Development Plans and the benefit to the Parish having its own Neighbourhood Plan and how the community can shape the future of their Parish to 2031. He also explained how having a Neighbourhood Plan can benefit the Parish by bringing in 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy to spend on Orcop parish community infrastructure.

Mr Willmont explained how Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP):

- Form part of the LDP
- Deal primarily with land use and development
- Are not compulsory
- There is no timespan by which a community has to embark on a NDP but explained it would be more beneficial to develop a NDP sooner rather than later.
- The aim of a NDP is economic development
- A NDP has to follow general conformity with the LDF policies.
- Parish Plans are not a NDP
- NDP are produced by the Parish Council with the involvement and support of local people.
- NDP can cover all or part of a parish or can be delivered in conjunction with another parish or parishes.
- Once a NDP has been finalised and been through inspection and a referendum and agreed it becomes part of the Herefordshire Council planning policy. (So it becomes Planning Law)
- NDP contain settlement boundaries, allocate housing, employment sites, style of design of new buildings, protection of open spaces and buildings, promotion of renewable energy and village centre enhancements.

Mr Willmont explained the process as laid out below:

1. Parish Council complete form to indicate the intention to proceed with a NDP
2. Herefordshire Council advertise the intention for the Parish Council to proceed with a NDP
3. PC consult with the community for their aspirations for the parish up to 2031, development within the parish to support the needs of the community, identify areas for this development and support services already being delivered within the community, identify sites for employment opportunities, identify buildings and/or open spaces of particular value to the community.
4. Prepare a plan. (Assistance available from Herefordshire Council to assist with this process)
5. Consult with the community on the draft plan.
6. Submission of final plan.
7. Plan is submitted to independent Inspector which is paid for by Herefordshire Council.
8. Referendum. Again paid for by Herefordshire Council. There must be 50% or more of the community vote in favour of the plan.
9. Herefordshire Council adopt the NDP and the plan becomes planning law. (This means every time Herefordshire Council receive a planning application for the Parish of Orcop it must fall in line with Orcop Parish's NDP)

It was explained that it was important to:

Get the community involved.

To set up a steering group made up both of Members of the Parish Council and of the community.

To set a clear vision to 2031 for the parish.

A government fund of £9.5 million is available to support parishes developing a NDP of which a parish can apply for up to £7,000 to support the process.

A benefit to the community from having a NDP was receiving 25% Community Infrastructure Levy to spend on improving infrastructure within the parish.

If the parish did not proceed with a NDP any planning applications received would be approved or not approved under the wider rural policies for the whole of Herefordshire.

Members of the community present considered if they wished for Orcop Parish Council to commence on and develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish of Orcop.

Put to the vote members of the community voted in favour of the Parish Council embarking on a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish of Orcop.

Members of the community present requested the Chairman put the communities request to the Parish Council at its following meeting for consideration and resolution.

The Chairman thanked Mr Willmont for his time and explaining the Neighbourhood Development Plan process and the benefits a NDP would bring to the community and for answering all the questions put to him by the community in relation to NDP's.

THE FUTURE OF THE FOUNTAIN INN – Friends of the Fountain Inn

Mr Barry Shaw, Chairman of the Friends of the Fountain Inn (FotFI) introduced himself to members of the community present at the meeting. He explained about the FotFI and the work they have done so far since they formed in September 2012. Mr Shaw explained what the FotFI are doing at present, their aims for the future and the future success of the Fountain Inn and touched on the Fountain Inn and its inclusion in the parish's NDP ensuring its future as a community hub for the parish.

Mr Shaw covered the following:

- Flyer sent out to all households before Christmas 2012. Disappointing response with only 12 responses to the flyer.
- Dissemination of a full survey/questionnaire sent out a week and half prior to this meeting. More positive. Went out to 66 email addresses and received 19 responses to date = 30% response rate. All comments received were very positive.
- Developing a Business Plan. Understanding what is needed to make the Fountain Inn successful as a business.
- Pub is The Hub – support for communities and Landlords of public houses.
- The Fountain Inn would need between 25 to 50 visits a day to survive.

Information gained from the survey as follows:

Do you want a village pub? – 100% answered YES

Pledges of volunteer help to refurbish the pub.

Pledges of financial support for shares in a community co-operative.

Pledges of volunteer skills to help to set up a community co-operative.

Prospect for the sale of the Pub:

Currently there are a couple who are very interested. The husband is a cook and the wife a licensee. Unfortunately they are not able to afford the full amount that is being asked for the Fountain Inn. It is hoped that some negotiating may be proceed to progress things.

Mr Shaw asked members of the community for their ideas on how to reach the wider community in the parish to gain their responses and support. He explained that last year the response to the extra ordinary meeting saw about 100 residents present at that meeting in August to respond to the planning application received by the Clerk and the meeting being called was by public notice, email and word of mouth.

It was suggested that 'Community Ambassadors' may be what is needed. People who will talk to their friends and neighbours within the parish, show them the questionnaire and get their friends and neighbours to complete them.

Several members of the community volunteered to do this and Mr Shaw asked them if they would talk to him at the end of the meeting and give him their details.

Cllr Hamilton explained to those present that if the Fountain Inn had not sold by the end of the summer Mr and Mrs Lee would withdraw it from the market. The Friends of the Fountain Inn are doing an excellent job in the work they are doing to help support the Fountain Inn, the sale of the Fountain Inn and ensuring support for any future proprietor. There is a need to create as much confidence as possible around the Fountain Inn and the community supporting it.

The Chairman thanked Mr Shaw for his time and congratulated the Friends of the Fountain Inn for the excellent work they are doing on behalf of all the community.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Several members of the community highlighted the state of the Saddlebow Road inundated with potholes and in need of immediate attention.

The Clerk informed those present that she would report this to Amey Herefordshire for their attention and requested that all members of the community report all road defects to her immediately. She explained that there is a form on the parish council website, only three lines to complete and press submit, all the information is sent straight to her and the defects can be logged and reported to Amey for their attention. If members of the community do not report defects the Clerk cannot act to see they are addressed and resolved.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for attending the meeting and their contribution and closed the meeting at 9pm.

Signed.....

Date.....