

WHITWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

will be held

at **6.30pm** on **Thursday, 16th May 2024** at
Park Hall, Whitwick Park, North Street, Whitwick

AGENDA

**1. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting
2nd March 2023** (ANNEX A)

2. Parish Council Annual Report (attached later)

3. Reports from Local Groups (may be taken as read)

(NB Please submit reports by Monday 13th May if you wish them to be placed on our website before the meeting.)

4. Issues from the floor

The Meeting is open to all Whitwick electors who are welcome to speak and/or vote on any matter concerning the Parish.



(Cllr S Colledge)

Chair of Whitwick Parish Council,

3 May 2024

MINUTES of the WHITWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Thursday, 2 March 2023 at 6.30 pm at Park Hall, Whitwick Park, off North Street, Whitwick

Present: Councillor Sue Colledge (Parish Council Chair)

5 Members of the Public plus 2 Council Officers

including Parish Councillors – A Barker, P Moulton, R Woodward, and

Mrs. T Barker, Mr T Gee

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meetings held on 4 May 2021 and 12 May 2022 were approved and signed .

2. PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Sue Colledge, the Chair of the Council, submitted the Annual Report on the activities of the Parish Council in 2022/2023, which had also been published on the Parish Council's website.

Annual Parish Chair's report - The past parish council year had been a challenging one. We were still recovering from the chaos caused by the pandemic, and the world was in a place of great turmoil, sadness and worry. The parish had shown solidarity with the residents of Ukraine and we continued to fly the Ukraine flag. The parish council was proud to honour the death of our longest reigning monarch. We were proud to show respect and to be part of this memorable occasion. The example of duty set by a human being to devote 70 years of service to her country was remarkable and one we would not see again.

She was disappointed that we had lost the Hermitage Leisure Centre building as a community asset as she believed it could have provided much needed resources for our village youth in particular. Unfortunately, during the year we had seen the resignation of two councillors and the removal of a councillor due to non-attendance for six months. It was a matter of great sadness to her to lose any Councillor, as she believed we needed a diverse range of members who could work harmoniously together for the greater good of our village. However, we were pleased to welcome a newly-appointed councillor to fill one of our vacancies. The remaining two positions had to remain as unfilled seats until the forthcoming election in May. Finally, we would be saying farewell to our Parish Manager, Cathy. We wished her well in her retirement, and appreciated how hard it had been to continue working during recent difficulties.

She had been proud to chair the council during a particularly difficult phase. She looked forward to seeing Whitwick Parish Council go from strength to strength over the coming year. Yes, there had been challenges and setbacks but we should be proud of our fabulous history group, thriving Bowls club and other community organisations. The parish parks which had been refurbished and/or extended to be as inclusive as possible, leading the way in this area for integrating play between park users of all abilities.

Cllr Colledge firmly believed Whitwick Parish Council was stronger as a whole than its individual parts. She had seen the good that could come out of it by working productively together. Good news might not make the front pages all the time but we had done a great job with the Community Crisis Team – still active since 2020. We had been part of some fabulous community events, the Easter egg hunt, the Jubilee, the Summer Shindig in the park, the Christmas event based at the Black Horse. We had managed to restore the annual remembrance parade when we were approached by the Royal British Legion to help with this. We also succeeded in facilitating a public meeting with concerned residents, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent. Hopefully bringing some solution to the flooding and contamination problems our residents had been enduring for far too long.

We were so proud to have welcomed Fred, the lollipop lady as our third Honorary Freeman, and we looked forward to marking our local heritage and history with the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of Whitwick mining disaster. I would like to place on record my :

Thank you to every member of staff who had gone above and beyond throughout the year.

Thank you to every volunteer who had done anything to improve our village.

Thank you to every councillor for giving up their time and talents freely for the good of Whitwick.

Thank you to the residents of Hermitage Ward for electing her and trusting her.

Finally, thank you to every single resident of this village for being part of her home.

We did not know what the next year would hold but all we could do is face it head on, head held high and trust in the power of neighbourhood. .

3. Reports from Local Groups

Disappointingly only one report had been received from:

Woodstock in Whitwick

It had been wonderful to get back to staging our community events again.

Although things would never be the same as pre-pandemic, we were pleased to say we have had some great times over the last twelve months.

The Easter egg hunt last year saw 100 children enjoying a fun morning in our park. Thanks to our generous residents we had loads of Easter eggs and treats to share around.

We had a lovely community event to mark the platinum jubilee and our families came along and enjoyed a picnic and some musical entertainment.

The scouts topped the event off with an awesome torchlight parade. Our congratulations to them for such a fabulous event.

The Summer Shindig was another lovely community day. Hundreds of local residents came along to enjoy the entertainment and support us.

We are so grateful to Sarah at the Black Horse for hosting our Christmas event, 99 children got to visit Santa, receive a gift and enjoy the festive entertainment. Once more, our villagers supported us with gifts of mince pies, mulled wine and prizes.

Finally, we managed to hold our first donation presentation since 2019.

We donated an awesome £10,600 to various good causes and individuals.

Some travelling a journey with cancer, some battling other health problems and some fabulous charities who work to make this area a better place .

We set up a chain of warm bank places within the village to try to support those residents struggling with the cost of living crisis.

Thank you to the Parish council for the opportunity to work together on some of these events .

We are looking forward to the coming year and wish to thank every volunteer and supporter of Woodstock in Whitwick for making this possible.

4. ISSUES FROM THE FLOOR

None.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.42 pm.

CHAIRMAN SIGNATURE: DATE: