

Balsall Parish Assembly

Approved Minutes of the Parish Assembly

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 18 May 2017 at 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common

Present

Councillor Mark Tattum (Chairman), Councillor Marie-Louise Marsden, Councillor Judy Lea, Councillor Will Heard, Councillor Sheila Cooper, Councillor Lee Quinney, Councillor Helen Dean, Councillor Lionel King, Councillor Christina O'Sullivan and 20 members of the public

1. Introduction

The Clerk welcomed members of the public and outlined the format of the event.

2. Chairman's report

Councillor Mark Tattum presented a statement on the achievements and actions of Balsall Parish Council during 2016/17 and outlined priorities for the coming year.

3. Cemetery plans

Councillor Marie-Louise outlined the planned works shortly to get underway at Temple Balsall Cemetery. Work will take place to create a Memorial Wall and Garden where ashes of loved ones can be scattered and a plaque placed on the wall. The civil cemetery is in the ownership of the Parish Council, open to all in the Parish.

4. How the parish can be involved in shaping our priorities

The Clerk explained how electors of the parish could help the Parish Council by providing their views and comments on 5 main themes HS2, Balsall Common Village Centre, Willow Park, Cemetery, Planning and Neighbourhood and 1 theme for other issues.

The exhibition display boards had information, illustrations and ideas to trigger responses that could be captured on post-its or written on the notes sheets. Councillors most involved with those themes would be available for discussion.

5. Comments from the public forum and display boards

(5.1) A request was made from a member of BCVRA (Balsall Common Village Residents Association) for an explanation of why Balsall Parish Council withdrew from the joint NDP process. Councillors Tattum and Heard responded. It was confirmed that designation of Balsall Parish is being dealt with by SMBC (Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council) which will allow Balsall Parish Council to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Balsall Parish.

(5.2) Points were made in relation to the Governance Review request made of SMBC by Balsall Parish Council and comments that there are several options that could provide a solution, including a ward-based parish or parishes. Councillor Tattum indicated that it is hoped that SMBC will consider a Governance Review at some stage in the future.

(5.3) A number of members of the public made comments on their concerns associated with Willow Park namely ASB, drug use, vandalism and the inappropriate location of the basketball court. In addition there was concern over the absence of police and ASB incidents in the carpark behind Tesco.

(5.4) Comments from the Planning/Neighbourhood theme:

Have a firm policy against pavement parking

Why are planes going over our houses in Needlers End Lane and not over green belt, not good for our health

Shopping area outside village

Longer opening hours and late night for the doctors' surgery

A bigger school/ another school

More car parking

Make station car park multi storey

More starter homes for our children

An elderly care home in amongst new housing

At present all housing is middle income and well off retired

Another primary school or larger one, not in Barretts Lane but on Grange Farm

No building on Grange Farm

Comments from the Willow Park theme:

Remove the basketball – soccer area

Revert to a children's play area not a youth's attraction

Disproportionate amount of council money and time spent on an amenity that is little used

(None of the above comments could be attributed to Balsall parish residents as no detail of home addresses were left)

Needlers End Lane residents (3): The main problem is noise from people using the basketball court (which includes goal posts for football) - too near houses - a lot of noise from balls as they hit the fencing - also it attracts youths which puts off others using the children's area. Plant trees in that area instead.

Comments were also noted from a fuller discussion with members of the public and Councillors Quinney and Heard and will be considered in addition to those above, by the Willow Park Working Group.

6. Councillor Mark Tatum closed the meeting at 9.15pm