

WEREHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TUESDAY 14th MAY 2019 6.45 PM

WEREHAM VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Jo Bruce

Cllr Annie Bruce

Cllr Cliff Knight

Cllr Sandra Calvert

Cllr Jon Marsh

Cllr John Millard

Helen Richardson, Parish Clerk and RFO

Cllr Martin Storey

Cllr Colin Sampson

Members of public in attendance - 3

1 Apologies for absence- Cllr J Hitching

The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed new Councillors to the meeting and congratulated Cllr Colin Sampson and Cllr Martin Storey for their re-elections to the Borough Council. The Chair advised that their help is extremely valuable to the Wereham Parish Council through the year on any matters that may arise.

2. Last Year's Annual Parish Minutes - Matters Arising

Approved.

3. Chairs Report

The Chair Cllr Jo Bruce read the following report:

I'm not offering a recap this year. No need to go over old ground. We are looking at a new team with new objectives. If anyone wants to know what the PC has done for Wereham in the last 12 months they can look back through old minutes.

I wanted to take this opportunity to simply thank all the councillors & clerks I've worked with since 2010. It's been a long, & eventful at times, 9 years.

It feels like we achieved a lot. In fact, I'd decided, as most of you know, to stand down this time as my tick list was pretty empty. I felt happy to hand things over to another fresher pair of eyes.

However here I am. It seems these kinds of positions are not exactly sought after!

In fact, we've had 2 successive elections now & neither have been contested. In other words, we have only just filled our 7 seats both times. This succession planning issue is a problem that needs tackling & I fear will only get worse.

Maybe if I can offer any advice to members of the public it's this. Be kind to us. Not one of us is sat here with their own agenda in mind. Not one of us is sat here in a paid role. I don't think any of us are 'do gooders', there to simply meddle in day to day life. We all simply want to help. Let's keep the passion in the debate but leave aggression at the door. It's not a pleasant atmosphere to work within. I am speaking on behalf of councillors & clerks when I say that.

Respect the way we work, as Helen is the only paid member of the team its only polite to go through her for anything in the first instance. The days of turning up unannounced at councillors' front doors is past. We all lead busy lives and would hate to be rude or unavailable when you need us. So, check in with Helen first.

Remember we cannot agree to anything outside of a public meeting anyway, so it's always better to put your issue to us on email so Helen includes it on future agendas. And finally remember the meetings are for us to debate those items in public. Not for the public to join in too. Your part is always at the beginning now so you can voice any concerns/issues you may have. If we want input during the meeting from the public we will ask. And if it's given outside of that invite you may be politely asked to leave!

Now to help ease my new councillors in to their new posts. Don't worry about what I just said, it is part of the job I'm afraid. But as long as you park your personal views at the door & come in to represent the village as a whole then you cannot go wrong. Our clerk is here to help us all. I think we all owe her a big well done for providing so much useful information already. She's done a brilliant job of easing you all in gently. If any of you want any help or advice both Helen & I am here to help so just email us any time.

That's it, sorry you are stuck with me for another 4 years. Maybe next time you'll consider putting yourself forward so I can give everyone a break!

4. Public Concerns

There were no public concerns.

Meeting Closed 7.00 pm