

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly of Gnosall Parish Council
Held in the Grosvenor Centre, on Wednesday 6th May 2015
Beginning at 7.30 pm**

The Chairman, Cllr Roger Greatrex, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone

Present: 11 Parish Councillors and the Clerk, 2 Borough Councillors, 1 County Councillor and 33 residents (full list attached)

1	<p>To receive apologies</p> <p>Parish Councillors: Cllr Tomkinson, Cllr Watson-Jones, Cllr Wallis, Cllr Cook Dave Clarke, Mr and Mrs Prichard, Mr and Mrs Winfield, Mr McGregor, Mrs Stiles</p>
2	<p>To receive the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 May 2014</p> <p>The minutes had been approved at a Council meeting in September 2014.</p>
3	<p>To receive the Annual Report for the year 201/15 and any questions from electors of the Parish</p> <p>Copies of the Annual Report for the year ending 31.3.15 had been distributed to those attending the Assembly and would be distributed around the village at key points. Reports from the Clerk and Chairman and Committee Chairmen detailing the work of each of the committees over the last 12 months were contained in the report as well as an un-audited statement of accounts. There were no questions.</p>
4	<p>To receive any questions from electors</p> <p>A question was raised by Mr Stevenson about the recently installed Super Fast Broadband and that some areas in the parish have no, or very poor broadband particularly areas between Gnosall and Moreton. Cllr Winnington responded, he said around 95% of Staffordshire will be able to receive Super Fast Broadband by the end of 2016 but there are some areas, particularly houses more than 1.5 miles from a connection box, that will not be able to access it for 2 years. The County Council is considering options to reach these properties eventually. Mr Stevenson said the existing broadband is also problematic and does break down, BT have difficulty finding faults as poles and equipment are old and in some cases rotten. Cllr Winnington said this is a matter for the Parish Council to take up with BT directly.</p> <p>There were no further questions from electors.</p>
5	<p>To receive a presentation on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group</p> <p>Jeff Rhodes, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, gave a detailed and informative presentation on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working groups since it was formed in September 2013 though to when the completed Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Stafford Borough Council in February 2015.</p> <p>The presentation covered the background of Neighbourhood Plans and how they are a new feature of the Planning system, how they cannot be anti development but can help shape it and have to be in line with national land local plan policy. Parishioners were informed that a typical plan takes 2-3 years to complete and can cost over £20,000 however Gnosall's plan had taken 17 months and has cost the parish a couple of hundred pounds as well as a grant from Locality of £7000. The presentation went on to explain that Gnosall Parish Council applied for Neighbourhood Plan Area designation July 2013 that was approved by Stafford Borough</p>

council in September 2013 and the working group was then formed. A major local questionnaire survey was carried out in January 2014 and all data was input and results analysed. Consultancy support was sourced in March 2014, a webpage set up on the Parish Council's GPC website and a survey Feedback Report produced in July 2014. Grant funding was obtained in July 2014 and a public consultation and update event held in October 2014.

There was overwhelming public support for producing a Neighbourhood Plan and high level of consensus on main issues. Without that it could not have happened. There was a high level of satisfaction within the parish and a strong view that Gnosall had already accommodated significant large scale house building. There was a strong preference for future housing to be small scale, infill development, within the updated "Settlement Boundary". Parishioners also wanted open/green spaces protected where possible as well as any financial benefits from new development to generate maximum benefit for Gnosall.

Gnosall's plan is the first Neighbourhood Plan to be submitted in Stafford Borough and has already helped put local planning debates into a context and has started to influence planning decisions. Joint working with Stafford Borough Council ensured good alignment between the Neighbourhood Plan and The Plan for Stafford Borough. The plan may, should Stafford Borough Council implement the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), generate income for the parish.

J Rhodes concluded his presentation by explaining that the plan is now with the appointed Examiner Mr Nigel McGurk who may or may not require a public hearing. Following the examination, Stafford Borough Council will arrange a Referendum and more than 50% of those who vote have to support the NP for it to be adopted.

JR was thanked for the presentation, for chairing the working group and for producing plan for the parish in such a short amount of time at very little cost.

Questions/Comments

SBC Cllr Mike Smith confirmed that the Examiner, Mr McGurk hopes to inform SBC on Monday 11th May whether he will be needed a public hearing or not. Cllr Smith also said the Borough Council would be implementing the Community Infrastructure Levy as soon as the new Council is in place.

Mrs Gregory reiterated thanks to the Parish Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and particularly Jeff Rhodes. She said she had read the responses following the latest consultation and referred to the only two comments that were not supportive - one of them from the County Council who had made a recommendation to build 75 houses on County Council land off Stafford Road (this is following SCC's withdrawal from the inquiry relating to 150 houses on this land) she added that there was inaccurate information within the comments put forward by SCC. JR said the Examiner could, after reading the comments ask the working group to make modifications that would open up the debate again.

Mrs Spencer queried why the two sections of the village had been joined with the amended settlement boundary as she believed that this would have an effect on the "right to buy" legislation which affects settlements with less than 3000 habitants. Members present were not able to answer this query therefore the Clerk was asked to write to the relevant authority to check.

Cllr Booth asked about the County Council's recommendation to put a site forward as "a reserve site" and asked what this actually means. J Rhodes said it is likely that they want the Examiner or Council to consider having a stock of reserve sites for when the

	<p>Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed.</p> <p>Mr Hopkins asked what the plans were to “keep the Neighbourhood Plan alive” once it is adopted. Cllr Greatrex said it would always be on the Planning Committee’s agenda and reviewed regularly when planning applications are considered. It would also be reviewed every 5 years. Cllr Web added that the Borough Council’s Local Plan would be reviewed regularly therefore it may be that the NP could be reviewed at the same time. J Rhodes said that currently there is no legal requirement to review the plan but this could change and if it did it is likely that the review would be at the same time as the Borough’s Local Plan.</p> <p>Mrs Brown asked whether sites turned down for inclusion in the settlement boundary would be reconsidered if the Examiner finds there is land lacking in the plan. JR replied, saying the Examiner may recommend some of the sites put forward previously.</p> <p>Cllr Winnington congratulated the Parish Council and Working Group for completing a Neighbourhood Plan and agreed it had protected Audmore Loop and the County Council land off Stafford Road. He said he was not aware of the SCC’s suggestion of amending the proposed settlement boundary to include 75 houses on SCC land.</p> <p>Mr Stevenson asked why the Neighbourhood Plan only concentrates on 5% of the parish. Cllr Greatrex explained how Gnosall is a Key Service Village and has a defined settlement boundary. He added that there is scope for some development in rural areas as outlined in the Borough Council’s Local Plan. Mr Stevenson said the concerns in the rural area are about poly-tunnels and the state of the roads and neither the Neighbourhood Plan nor the Borough’s Local Plan deals with these issues. JR said the focus was on Gnosall and it was necessary to follow a policy lead from the Local Plan and within the plan there is acknowledgement that there can be small areas of development in the rural areas and there is a policy on rural diversification. From the consultation exercise there was no feedback from parishioners about poly-tunnels.</p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>
7	<p>To receive reports from the Borough and County Councillors</p> <p>SBC Councillor, Ken Williamson referred to the Borough Councillors reports within the Parish Council’s Annual Report. He spoke about the proposed Wind Farm at Knightley Hall Farm and how the Borough and Parish had objected. Borough Cllrs had expected the applicant to appeal but so far nothing had been submitted. The deadline for the applicant to lodge an appeal is 19th July. Cllr Williamson also confirmed that a recent application for septic tanks at Knightley Hall Farm had been “called in”. Cllr Greatrex also added that this application would be considered at the Parish’s next Planning Committee.</p> <p>County Councillor Mark Winnington addressed the Assembly reporting on a number of issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The Greenway (cycle route 55) had now been completed with the last section linking Gnosall all the way to Newport. He thanked Paul Boston for his continued help in maintaining the local section of the Greenway. 2 Superfast Broadband 3 A new partnership with Amey to deal with Highway issues including the use of modern technology to report issues. 4 The new primary school that is now under construction and acknowledged that the loss of the youth club and swimming pool is an issue for the parish however the recently formed community group is working positively to look at options for replacement facilities for which the County Council had promised funding. 5 Library provision would be reviewed by County Council later in the year.

Questions to Cllr Winnington

Mrs Malone asked whether a site had been identified for a new swimming pool. Cllr Winnington replied that the County Council had been asked for land along Lowfield Lane and officers are liaising with the community group about allocating a site.

Mrs Gregory asked Cllr Winnington whether he could progress the matter about safety barriers along Lowfield Lane while the new school and housing site are under development. Cllr Winnington said a meeting had been arranged on 15th May to discuss this specific issue.

There was some confusion about the objectives of the Community Group looking at options for a replacement pool/leisure centre and the work of the Parish Council in considering ways to improve the Grosvenor Centre. Cllr Abbott explained that the Parish Council learned from Neighbourhood Plan consultations that the Grosvenor Centre did not meet the needs for parishioners and that there was a need for leisure/recreation. He said a stakeholder meeting was held in January to discuss revamping the Grosvenor Centre to gauge opinion of local groups and organisations and people raised their concerns about the impact on other community facilities in the village. However he confirmed that:

- a) The Parish Council would be considering options to revamp the Grosvenor Centre
- b) The Heron Brook Community Group is looking at options for a new swimming pool/leisure centre

Therefore there would be two large projects for parishioners to consider that both have to be community led.

Cllr Greatrex, to make it clear to parishioners, explained the offer of funds from the County Council regarding the pool/leisure centre as detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding. £100,000 had been offered by SCC if a pool is built but this may not be £100,000 in cash as it could include the value of land put forward. If a leisure centre is built without a pool, there would be £50,000 again could include the value of land put forward.

Cllr Webb asked for clarification from Cllr Winnington that the Memorandum of Understanding does not, in any way, link to the development of County Council land for houses. Cllr Winnington said it does not and only relates to the fact that Gnosall had lost its swimming pool.

There was one further question for the Parish Council about why the Parish Council is financing the production of a newsletter when the village already has Gnosall Parish News (GPN). Cllr Deegan, Chairman of the Communications Working group, said the Parish Council is regularly informed that it does not communicate enough and the number of projects it undertakes is too much to include in the GPN. Therefore Council felt it was necessary to produce 4 newsletters each year to keep parishioners up to date with the work of the Parish Council. Cllr Abbott added that as a Quality Council one of the requirements is to communicate effectively with the parish and the regular newsletters as well as the website and social media sites helps.

There were no further questions and Cllr Greatrex thanked everyone for attending, thanked all parish council staff and parish councillors for the work carried out in the past year. He thanked retiring councillors, particularly Cllr Watson Jones who had retired after 56 years of continual service. He also thanked Cllr Hughes Cllr Green and Mrs Spencer for organising the refreshments and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

List of those present at the Annual Assembly held on 6 May 2015

Parish Council

Miss Jayne Cooper
Cllr Roger Greatrex
Cllr Graham Payne
Cllr Pat Alker
Cllr Maggie Hughes
Cllr Tracey Simkin
Cllr Keith Abbott
Cllr Kenneth Ingram
Cllr Mary Booth
Cllr Sue Green
Cllr Mike Deegan
Cllr Doug Webb

Stafford Borough Council

Cllr Ken Williamson
Cllr Mike Smith

Staffordshire County Council

Cllr Mark Winnington

Parishioners

Mrs Cynthia Spencer
Mr Paul Prince
Mrs Pam Prince
Mr Steve Hopkins
Mr Paul Boston
Mr Mike Sullivan
Mrs Linda Sullivan
Mrs Jane Gardener
Mrs Gail Gregory
Mr Mike Gregory
Mr Graham Morrell
Mrs Amanda Morrell
Mrs Rosemary Raynbird
Mr Dudley Taylor
Mr Mike Corfield
Mr Chris Emsley
Mr Tim Lewington
Mrs Joan Jobling
Mr Frederick Mouton
Mr Stuart Alderton
Ms Maxine Buchelle
L M Marsham
Mr Robin Grice
Mrs Denise Grice
Mr Stevenson
Mrs Stevenson
Mrs L Malone
Mrs T Edwards
Mrs A Rhodes
+ 3 (no names)

Total 47