

Misterton with Walcote Parish Council

**Minutes of proceedings at the ANNUAL MEETING of
Misterton with Walcote Parish Council held on
Monday 19th May 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in Walcote Memorial Hall**

Present:

Sephton Green Out-going Chair
Caroline Bach Councillor
Paul Jackson Councillor
Judi King Clerk

In Attendance: 14 residents of the Parish, John Everett, District Councillor

1. Election of Chair

Caroline Bach, seconded by Paul Jackson nominated Sephton Green for the office of Chairman. There being no other nominations, Sephton Green was duly elected.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Caroline Bach, seconded by Sephton Green nominated Paul Jackson for the position of Vice-chairman. There being no other nominations, Paul Jackson was duly elected as vice-chair.

3. Declarations of Office

Sephton Green and Paul Jackson signed the declaration of office of Chair and Vice-chair respectively and both undertook to observe the code of conduct.

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Watts and Gilbert

5. Appointments to Committees and Associations.

Representative to L&RAPLC

It was agreed that whichever councillor was available to attend the meetings would act as the Council's representative.

MWCT Representative

Caroline Bach agreed to continue as the Council's representative on the Misterton with Walcote Community Trust and this was approved.

Finance Committee

All Councillors serve on the Finance Committee, which meets in November of each year.

6. Report from the Outgoing Chair.

Sephton Green presented his report for the year 2007-8. The Council wished to improve the play areas within the village and this coupled with the need to replace funds used for the cost of the election in May 2007 had meant a significant increase in the precept for the current year.

7. Receipt of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008

The accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2008 were approved and signed.

8. Annual Return and Governance Statement

The annual return and governance statement was agreed and signed.

9. Report and Accounts of the Misterton & Walcote Community Trust

The Council received the accounts and annual report for the Misterton with Walcote Community Trust.

10. Report and Accounts of the Misterton Charities.

The accounts of the Misterton Charities were received.

11. Review of Standing Orders

There were no amendments or additions to standing orders.

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 7.55 pm.

Annual Assembly of the Parish at 7.55 pm Monday 19 May 2008**12. Swinford Wind Farm**

A resident voiced her fierce objections to the proposed wind farm, which she felt would adversely affect the quality of life for her and other residents within the area. She urged the Council to object strongly to the proposals. Several other residents at the meeting were of the same opinion and felt that the area would be blighted by the development. Another resident presented the Council with copies of the letters of objection that members of their household had written to the planning authority and urged the Council to object.

13. Increase in precept

A resident asked the Council to justify what he considered a massive increase in the precept. The clerk explained the reasons behind the Council's budget and the need to precept. For a band D household the amount of Council tax due to the precept was £65.89 for the year 2008-9 which was 19p per week more than last year. The resident asked that the Council guarantee that this would not happen again. The Chairman said that the Council did try to keep rises to a minimum but he was unable to give such a guarantee. Another resident said that costs were increasing all the time and the Council's budget was not exempt from those increases. Therefore, it was unrealistic to ask the Council to guarantee no further rises. A resident thought that the administration costs were too high as a percentage of the budget. Councillor Bach said that the Council paid the clerk's salary according to the rates set by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. The Council, as an employer, was also bound by minimum wage legislation. A resident commented that they felt the £1000 grant to the village hall for acoustic panels should not have been paid, as the poor acoustics were a fault of the design. A resident thought that costs could be reduced by not paying a grant for the upkeep of the churchyard. A resident said that obviously, the budget had to cover necessary expenses and then there were discretionary items on top. He felt that the Council had been elected to do the right thing and should be allowed to get on with it. If residents were not happy, they could exercise their vote at the next election. The Chairman said that the Council wished to do things to improve the village and things must move forward. A comment was made about the costs of improving the playground and could some of this be gained by fundraising. Councillor Bach said that it was the Council's intention to apply for outside funding but some contribution would be expected from the community.

14. Crime Prevention Talk

A talk on crime prevention had been organised for Wednesday 11 June in Walcote Memorial Hall.

15. Christmas trees on Bufton Allotments

A resident asked that the coniferous trees on Bufton Allotments be cut down. It had been agreed last year that the trees could be used as Christmas trees in the village hall and the church. Another resident offered to organise it for this Christmas.

16. Attendance at meetings

A resident commented on poor attendance by councillors at meetings. The Chairman said that sometimes this was unavoidable due to other commitments but the comment would be noted.

17. Vote of thanks

A resident felt there had been a healthy debate at the meeting and proposed a vote of thanks to the councillors and the clerk for their work during the year. John Everett seconded this proposal and residents applauded to show their appreciation.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.