

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 2nd May 2013

This is the opportunity for members of the electorate to raise their issues and to voice their concerns. There were 13 residents present in addition

to the Chairman, Royce Batters, four Councillors and the Borough Councillor. The Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer was not present.

Matters arising from the previous year's meeting included:

- The problem of large and heavy vehicles accessing Pepper Street had
- been solved by CEC erecting a number of signs diverting this traffic away from the street and routing it to Barlow's Agricultural Engineers via Whirley Road.
- The Boundary Commission's proposal to move Henbury into
- the Northwich area this had been overcome by events in Parliament and was now dead.

In his report the Chairman mentioned the following topics:

The key problem was the difficulty of recruiting and retaining a Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

The Chairman reported on the outstanding success of the Environmental Project and thanked not only Dr Simon Browne who lead the team but also all the volunteers who had taken part in this venture.

He also reported that a footpath between Dark Lane and Whirley Lane had been opened. This was a project recommended and requested in the recent Parish Plan.

The Cheshire East Local Plan and its potential impact on the Village and its infrastructure, particularly the A537 had been discussed on several occasions. The Council's comments had been sent to CEC but no response had been received.

Numerous comments were made regarding the extent of the proposed housing and other developments particularly the so called 'affordable housing'. One question was would the dwellings be for owner occupiers or would they be rented out by a housing association or entrepreneurs?

Similarly the impact of the proposed road from the Lyme Green area to Broken Cross was discussed. Another question was would there be improvements to the A537 in the area of Birtles Bends to cater for the additional traffic load.

Finances – in the absence of the Responsible Financial Officer the Chairman gave a detailed report of the income and major items of expenditure. In the end there had been a deficit of only £148 during year 2012~2013.

The Precept had had to be raised and despite this a deficit (£528) for the current financial year was still forecast. There was comment regarding the cancellation of the usual grant to the Millennium Green. It was stated that the MG Trustees had substantial financial reserves and that the grant would be re-instated as soon as possible.

Reference was also made regarding the likely costs of the development and maintenance of the new playground and its inter-relationship with the MGT.

Mrs Mortin, a former head librarian at Macclesfield Central Library, queried why the library was threatened with closure before the end of this year despite it being possibly the most well-used library in Cheshire East. No consultation with the public had taken place. The Borough Councillor had no answer to this but undertook to make enquiries and report back to Mrs Mortin.

The Chairman informed the meeting that as he was no longer a resident of the Parish he would not be seeking re-election as Chairman and that he also intended to retire from the Council.