

HUNNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm, on 21st May 2019 at Romsley Methodist Church, Bromsgrove Road, Romsley

Those present: Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Mrs Teese, Cllr. Fitzpatrick and Cllr. Bayfield

Retiring Vice Chairman Cllr. Fitzpatrick presided over the meeting attended by no Parishioners.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on 16th May 2018 were formally signed as a correct record.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick gave a summary of all the events and undertaking which have been carried out by the Parish Council over the last year.

TO RECEIVE REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

This has been a very challenging year for Worcestershire County Council. We started looking at a budget shortfall of £2.8m, this we are relieved to report has reduced to £1.8m. 70% of our county council budget is spent on 4% of our population, it is right and proper that we look after the most vulnerable in our communities, the young and the old but this does mean that we as a county council have to look closely at how we deliver our services.

We will now take you through some of the headlines from this year:-

Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for government funding to test and explore 5G connectivity. 5G is the next generation of mobile technology. When 5G becomes available in the UK, it is expected to have a profound impact on the way people live their lives. As many as 1.4 billion 5G connections are predicted by 2025, it is fantastic that Worcestershire is leading the way in this new technology. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium, led by Worcestershire County Council and the LEP Board launched the first ever British 5G factory trials at the Worcester Bosch factory in the last month.

Electric trains were launched in Bromsgrove on 29th July, there are now up to five trains per hour travelling to and from Birmingham during peak times and between two and four during off-peak.

You may recall that Worcestershire County Council Cabinet approved recommendations for the development of a wholly owned council company as the alternative delivery model to deliver children's social care. The company is "Worcestershire Children First".

The authority is making significant improvements in its delivery of children's services and this has been recognised in the latest monitoring visits by OFSPED. For the new school term in September 2018, 91.4% of young people in Worcestershire were

offered a place at their first choice secondary school. For primary school, 92.5% were given a place at their first choice school.

The NHS celebrated its 70th birthday this year and so too did our adult social care provision. A 70th birthday card signed by members at County Hall was handed over to the Health Secretary in December by Cllr. Hardman Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Richard Keble, the Assistant Director of Adult Social Services. The aim of the trip was to highlight that more needs to be done by Central Government to better fund adult social care in Worcestershire and across the country.

Worcestershire County Council was crowned Council of the Year at the West Midlands Energy Efficiency Awards. Through the implementation of a 'spend to save' scheme and installing energy efficiency measures, the County Council reduced gas and electricity cost for their corporate sites by £125.00 compared to the previous year.

Summer resident shows were held across the county. These annual roadshows give councillors and officers the opportunity to meet and speak with residents, answer questions and raise awareness of the services that the council provides. We will provide the Clerk to the Parish Council with a list of this year's roadshow dates when it is published. Your views are most important.

Libraries within our County Council divisional area remain a priority to us both. We will continue to lobby hard on maintaining the current provision. We believe very strongly that libraries are about far more than just books, they offer the opportunity for people to interact and connect with the wider community.

Finally we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support.

Cllr. Karen May, County Councillor, Worcestershire

As there were no parishioners present, the Chairman duly declared the meeting closed at approximately 7.15pm

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman – Hunnington Parish Council