

TRYSULL & SEISDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, TRYSULL, ON WEDNESDAY 14TH MARCH 2007

Chairman's Report by Councillor N.D. Compson

The Annual Parish meeting was held at the close of the Parish Council Meeting and the Chairman opened the meeting.

The Chairman stated he took the Chair for the second time on 17th May 2006 and that this year has been busy with some successes, frustrations and disappointments.

Traffic calming is ongoing, however our campaign for interactive warning signs has almost stopped due to disapproval by the County Council's Highways Department at Stafford, and therefore we may have to carry on with our planned road narrowing measures.

We have received a moderate number of planning applications this year. These were studied in detail and our comments forwarded to the South Staffordshire Council's planning department.

The South Staffordshire Local Development Framework is being compiled and the Core Strategy and Wolverhampton Business Airport option papers have been received. Councillors and residents of the Parish have had the opportunity to pass on their views for consideration and we now await the findings.

Our new Community Police Officer, PC Dean Colley came to meet us in February and is aware of most of our policing problems and issues. We plan to liaise with him on a regular basis. Albeit, sadly, there are not sufficient resources for us to be policed the way we would prefer.

The parking problems outside Trysull School seem to be solved and now the purpose built car park is being used as intended. Unfortunately we have lost our connection with School via our appointed School Governor, however we are trying to re-establish this bond.

Seisdon Quarry redevelopment is coming together. I am sure the end result of our efforts for a natural rural leisure facility will be spectacular.

Efforts by many residents resulted in prizes being awarded for the Best Kept Village competition. Trysull won Best Small Village and Seisdon gained third place. Thanks to our co-ordinators for their help.

The Village Hall Committee have taken further steps to improve the hall facilities. There have been new wash hand basins and toilets fitted in the ladies and gents lavatories together with a high efficiency central heating boiler. The Committee have also felt the need to install security gates in an attempt to curb vandalism.

The playing fields are in good order. Repairs have had to be made to the childrens' play equipment although we are making provision for future equipment renewals via our precept.

We are coming to the Parish Council elections in May and nomination papers should be deposited at the Codsall Council Offices by noon on Wednesday 4th April. Four of our prominent Councillors are not putting up for re-election.

Wendy Bagley who also sits on the Village Hall Committee on our behalf has served us well.

David Southall has also given four years of service. He has been Trysull's Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and has represented the Parish Council on Police Consultative Committee meetings. David has also managed our Parish Council web site, with much of this credit directed to his wife Pat, and with others David has helped set up our computer system for ease of communication via e-mail. David recruited over fifty members for the Footpadder Scheme and he also made time to attend meetings regarding our local public transport.

Maurice Skelton has served the community since 1974, including duties and committee commitments on the Playing Field, Fete and P.T.A. committees. In 1977 he persuaded the Parish Council to take over the Womens Institute Hall to become the Village Hall and with others drew up the Hall's constitution. Maurice also arranged, with others, to rent the new Seisdon Playing Fields and negotiated to buy the second half of Trysull Playing Fields. He was appointed stewardship Chairman of the Church Council for many years and was co-opted to the Parish Council in 1991. Maurice became Chairman in 1994, the centenary year of the Parish Council. He then accepted a nomination to be a Trustee to Trysull & Seisdon Charity and he is now Chairman and this is where his efforts are to be focused.

Finally, Tony Unwin is not putting up for re-election either. Tony has served the community since 1973 when he was elected as a Parish Councillor for his first five year term. He was then re-elected in 1991. In 1976 Tony was nominated as a Trustee to the Parish Charity and served for 30 years, 16 of which he was Vice Chairman and 4 years as Chairman. With others, Tony raised finances which led to the demolition of the Almshouses at Seisdon to be replaced by John Rudge Court. He negotiated a lease by the Trustees of the Parish for two portions of land known as "Poor Piece", one which became an essential car park for the Village Hall. Tony was Secretary to the Committee in acquiring a lease from the W.I for the use of their building as the Village Hall and he took part in many working parties. Tony was also the Secretary to the Committee for the acquisition of the lease for the Seisdon Playing Fields. Through his second term as a Parish Councillor Tony became Chairman in 1998. Through the years Tony developed a strong interest in footpaths and bridleways which resulted in him writing, publishing and selling 250 maps and guides for the Parish Rights of Way. He represented the Parish Council in a 30 year old dispute regarding bridleway 5 and has taken an active part in many footpath problems. He also set up the footpadders system where footpaths were annually inspected. Tony provided a local history exhibition for the Millennium, the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the Flower Festival.

Many thanks to Wendy, David, Maurice and Tony for all their hard work. A remarkable record. I also thank Seisdon Councillors, John Tonkinson, and Alec Smith, together with Mike Kelly on the Trysull Ward. Thanks to our County Councillor Brian Edwards and our District Councillor Bob McCardle for their help support.

My Vice Chair Corinne Lowe has given me her full support throughout the year and I thank her and wish her well through the coming year. Good luck to all nominees for the forthcoming elections. Finally I thank our Clerk Nagle Walton for her experience and commitment. Again it has been a privilege and honour to serve the Parish Council and I thank you all for your support.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Maurice Skelton thanked the Chairman for his excellent leadership and he felt sure that residents of the Parish welcomed his intervention on a number of occasions.

SIGNED.....DATED.....

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