

## WEST MONKTON

### Annual Parish Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The meeting was held in Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH) and attended by 45 people, including County Councillor, District Councillor, and Parish Councillors. There were 2 speakers.

1. Welcome

Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Haskins welcomed those present and explained the agenda. The Annual Report of West Monkton Parish Council was distributed at the meeting, it will be distributed in the Village News and made available on the website.

Various flyers and publicity materials were available for attendees to take away.

2. Apologies

No apologies were received.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (28<sup>th</sup> March 2018)

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr H Ellis, seconded by Cllr Mike Thompson.

4. The panel of speakers was introduced: Alan Hall, Project Leader Maidenbrook Country Park and Sally Hillman, Inland Waterways Association Taunton and Bridgwater Canal.

#### **Alan Hall: Project Leader Maidenbrook Country Park**

The Maidenbrook Country Park, located in the neighbouring parish of Cheddon Fitzpaine and owned jointly by West Monkton Parish Council, Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council, consists of an area of open space of 1.1 hectares which has been allocated for a Country Park. After embarking on developing and establishing the Country Park, the opportunity of the Somerset Wood arose and it was decided to combine the 2 projects. Part of the Somerset Wood is in the Country Park and it will expand beyond it with the ambition of one tree being planted for all those who fell in World War One.

1600 trees have been planted so far, with the help of many dedicated volunteers. A dedication stone has been placed in the Country Park and a Dedication Service took place on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Early in the Country Park project, a SWOT analysis of the Country Park was carried out and that has informed what should be planned to be included in the Country Park as it is developed. This includes a visitor centre, park runs, adventure play areas, water features, open space for picnics, wild planting, an open theatre, forestry schools and much more.

Alan shared pictures and plans for the Country Park and expressed his thanks for all those who have helped over the last year to get the project underway.

Gratitude and thanks were expressed by members of the public and Parish Councillors to Alan for all the work he had done and continues to do in relation to the Country Park and Somerset Wood.

#### **Sally Hillman: Inland Waterways Association Taunton and Bridgwater Canal**

Sally provided an overview of the work of the Inland Waterways Association and provided the history of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal. The canal, which is 13 miles long, reopened in 1994 and this year therefore marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A celebration is taking place at the Bridgwater Docks on 1<sup>st</sup> June and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

Sally explained the invaluable work of the volunteers to help maintain the towpath and canal and thanked the Parish Council for its financial support which has enabled the Association to purchase litter picking equipment for its volunteers.

Sally left flyers and leaflets about the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal for parishioners.

Questions were asked at the end of each presentation.

Stuart Haskins closed the meeting by taking the opportunity to thank Tricia Cavill for all the work she has done for the Parish over the last 15 years as Clerk of the Parish Council. Tricia will now take up the position of Assistant Clerk with Amy Shepherd taking over as Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> April. A speech from Tricia followed outlining the work she has done over the last 15 years for the parish and the journey the Parish Council has and continues to travel on.

These minutes will be ratified at the next Annual Parish Meeting which is scheduled for **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

The meeting was closed at 7.50pm and attendees enjoyed light refreshments.