

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Morda Village Hall on Tuesday, 28th April 2015.

PRESENT: 15 Members of the Public, 13 Parish Councillors, Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow and the Speaker David Preston of Oswestry Town Council.

APOLOGIES: received from Cllrs Mat Lee and June Middleton and the Clerk Val Smout due to a bereavement.

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 29th April 2014 were corrected to include Phil May, Peter Richardson and Paul Milner in the list of those present. They were then Proposed, Seconded, voted upon and Resolved as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None received.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES. None.

OSWESTRY TOWN COUNCIL, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. David began by mentioning some of the changes in Shropshire, particularly the loss of the community support grant and the impact of the Localism Act. Changes in the National Planning Framework and how the decision making in planning has changed in recent years. He went on that it is also very difficult to attract local Councillors. The next topic was Oswestry 2020, which makes out the aspirations for the Town Council. These were primarily – a tourism strategy for Oswestry, to deliver employment land for the town and to develop the town centre. This would mean linking the Bailey Head with the town centre. He said the cemetery has about 25 years space left, so that must be considered too. It is intended to replace all 450 lights in the town with leds, which would lead to savings in energy costs. The town's new cctv system has a team of 30 volunteers working on the monitors and is an excellent scheme. He went on to address the problem of empty shops in the town, which has been taken up by The Mayor. The old Bewise premises has a new owner and the two shops opposite are also being taken, which will regenerate Cross Street. Oswestry Town Council has to contribute to the Oswestry Place Plan and they had a meeting which identified some of the priorities, such as more affordable housing, and above shops accommodation. Future Fit was referred to and shop front improvements. Finally, The Cottams in Morda, he said OTC did not want to grab any of that levy. It should be used to sustain that development and the Town Council would be happy to work with the Rural Council on that issue. He closed with kind comments for the retiring Clerk Val Smout. Questions were asked about parts of the town having Welsh post codes, also supermarkets taking the business out of the town and the foreign street markets held in town.

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS. None were raised.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. The Chairman, Cllr Rob Milton read his report for the past year.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS REPRESENTATION. Councillors gave brief reports on the other organisations on which they represented the Parish Council. Councillor Broomby asked that a letter be sent to Llyncllys Quarry asking for a liaison meeting to be held during the next year.