

**Notes of the Meeting****Present**

Parish Councillors Councillors - K Barnett, M Baggaley, Dr M Calhaem, A Elkin,  
R Hocknell, S Nicholls, G Walker, H Walters.

County Councillor Councillor I Parry

District Councillor Councillor A Harp

Apologies Mr P Ritson

**1 Chairman's Report for Milwich with Fradswell Parish Council 2015 - 2016**

Parish Council elections were held in May 2015. The existing seven Milwich Council Members and two Fradswell Council Member were re-elected in an uncontested election.

Of the twelve Parish Council meetings during the year eight were held in Milwich Village Hall and four at Green Lea School.

The County Councillor Ian Parry continued to represent Stone Rural Division.

District Councillor Andrew Harp and Councillor Frances Beatty now represent the enlarged Milwich Ward.

During the year :-

Brick Kiln Pits The fishing lease arrangements with Izaak Walton (Stafford) Anglers Association continued. The Parish Council thanks Peter Hulme who again cut the boundary hedge free of charge. Several Milwich parishioners requested permits to fish at the Pool.

Transfer of the Fradswell Car Park land to Fradswell Village Hall was completed.

BT Broadband. The cabinet in Milwich is now "live"

The Parish Council funded repairs to the War Memorial in Milwich Churchyard.

Donation from Milwich Music Festival to the Play Area Fund had been received.

Financial Support was provided for Milwich Village Hall, Compass Magazine, Douglas McMillan Hospice and Stone First Responder

-----

Dialogue with other authorities continued throughout the year, mainly with the County Council and the Borough Council.

County Council -

Ongoing issues associated with roads around the parishes :-

The state of the roads with blocked grids being the main issue followed by potholes and lack of ditch maintenance.

The Neighbourhood Highway Team visited once during the year and completed minor works.

The number of accidents at Hardiwick crossroads, concern about the potential increase in traffic on the Sandon / Hilderstone Road due to the Blythe Park proposed development. The warning signs on the Milwich / Stone Road had been improved but little else.

Street Lighting - Night Time Switching initiative. Revised proposals from the County Council still being considered.

Following the discontinuation of the Saturday service to Uttoxeter last year, the Wednesday service has now been discontinued, which leaves Milwich and Fradswell without a bus service.

The Mobile Library service to Milwich and Fradswell is to continue following a review of services.

Borough Council -

The Civic Amenity Visits continued with three visits to Milwich during the year plus the Streetscene operation continued dealing with litter picking and clearing up after fly tipping.

Consultations on Planning Applications dealt with by the Borough Council as the Planning Authority for the area continued :-

There were 9 applications for Milwich (10 last year) and 5 for Fradswell (3 last year) plus 2 associated Listed Building Consent applications, one in each parish.

Dwelling Extensions	4	2 in Milwich, 2 in Fradswell
Agricultural Barns to Dwellings	2	1 in Milwich , 1 in Fradswell
Development of Workshop to Dwelling	1	Coton Hayes
New Dwelling (Outline)	1	Milwich
Replacement Dwelling	1	Garshall Green
Demolition / Replacement Dwelling	1	Milwich Heath
Conservatory	1	Fradswell
Replacement Caravan	1	Garshall Green
Lawful Development Certificate	1	Summerhill
Tree Preservation Order	1	Fradswell

Neighbourhood Plan

A meeting was held with the dedicated Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Raj Bains, who has since left the Borough Council and her position will not be filled.

A brief meeting has been held with Alex Yendole, the Forward Planner.

Information to be published in Compass about Neighbourhood Planning, its consequences, with a provision questionnaire relating to the Plan Area, Housing Need, costs implications and interest.

## **2 Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

Presented by the Clerk. No questions raised.

## **3 Council's Observations on its Finances for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

Presented by the Clerk. No questions raised.

**4 To receive Accounts of Milwich Parochial Charities**

Presented by the Clerk. Work still has to be done in historic sorting of the charities in relation to the Trustees, the money held at the National Westminster Bank, the investments and the charity involving Hilderstone.

**5 To Receive the Observations of the County Councillor for Stone Rural Division**

Councillor Parry raised issues including the following:-

The County Council together with the Public Sector generally are experiencing difficult financial conditions at present given the requirements of Social Care. 70% of spending on 2% of the population of the County - children and the elderly. Aim being Health and Independence at Home. Up to 2020 raising funds through Council Tax and Business Rates, if nothing was done in other sectors then Social Care would require all of the budget. The challenge up to 2020 is to take £200M out of the "none care" budget.

Regarding infrastructure and Highway Maintenance, there had been a greater than expected deterioration of the highway network in the last 12 months. There should be an improvement by the Autumn using forward money to finance the maintenance programme. Methods of reporting highway faults presented, preferred method using App's or logging on to the website. Defect priority of 1 to 4 outlined and the response period expected, 7 days to 1 year.

Gully emptying - Currently analysing and prioritising the drainage system.

Broadband - moving steadily on, 95% of the population should be covered by the end of the year.

Questions raised by Councillor Calhaem

1 2% levy for Social Care, how much does it raise.

Response £6M but the annual increase in expenditure is £8M.

2 Issue of potholes and their category

Response Category definition quantified.

3 Broadband for Fradswell.

Response No prospects at present, other technical solutions being looked at.

**6 To Receive the Observations of the District Councillor for Milwich Ward**

Councillor Harp's report included the following topics :-

Southern area of Stafford, the new shopping centre will be opening shortly with its associated Car Park.

The years target of 500 house completions was exceeded by 250 houses.

The Borough sports facilities were in the process of being transferred into a Trust.

With regard to finances the Borough were keeping their head above water.

Northern area of Stafford, redevelopment being looked at.

Question raised by Councillor Barnett

The MOD housing is it included in the 750 houses and do the residents pay Council Tax and contribute to the economy of the community.

Response The MOD housing is not included in the 750 completions and yes they do contribute.

**7 To consider Resolutions of which written notice has been given.**

None

**8 To deal with any other business raised by Parishioners.**

None