

Annual Group Parish Meeting Minutes of Thursday 19th May 2016 at St Catherine's Church Hoarwithy at 8pm

Present: Chairman Cllr Martin Soble, Cllr Peter Pember, Cllr Henry Rudge, Cllr Sally Pike, Cllr Patricia Fitzpatrick, Cllr John Lyons, Cllr Sherwood Keogh, Cllr Simon Harris, Cllr Frank Probert

In attendance: Parish Clerk Kath Greenow & Ward Cllr David Summers and 3 parishioners Jane Rigler of OWL

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Peter Rees

2 To agree and sign the minutes of the Annual Group Parish Meeting on 26/05/2015

It was **RESOLVED:** to agree and sign the minutes of the Annual Group Parish Meeting on 26/05/2015

3. To receive a presentation from Jane Rigler regarding OWL Good Neighbour Scheme

A presentation was given on the good neighbour scheme which Jane has set up in rural Herefordshire to help tackle loneliness and isolation.

The scheme is aimed at residents south of Herefordshire from Hoarwithy and across to Garway. The idea started in Orcop when around six parishioners were discussing how they could help the community in light of government and council cutbacks.

The idea developed to launch a service to reach out to isolated and vulnerable people and offer them support over the phone and in their homes.

We have a phone line that is manned by our volunteers. It is not just for old people but for all ages. For example, if someone can't get to the doctors to pick up their prescription we help out and give them a lift.

"Sometimes people just feel lonely. Herefordshire Council said a year ago about loneliness being one of the biggest problems in rural areas.

"We talk about the elderly but it could be a mum with kids who is stuck in an isolated area and feels cut off."

The phone line is open on Tuesdays 10am to 12pm and Thursdays 2pm to 4pm.

If the caller wants, a volunteer can make a home visit.

A launch of the OWL good neighbour scheme was on Saturday, May 14 from 2pm to 4pm at Orcop Village Hall. There are currently 15 volunteers.

We want more volunteers and we want to get the number out there for people who are in need of the service."

The number for the OWL good neighbour scheme is 07940 308696.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The chairman reported that Cllr Peter Pember was standing down after 38 years' service as a non-salaried clerk. The Chairman thanked Cllr Pember for his services over all the years.

During the year, the 2 vacancies on the GPC filled via co-option.

5. Ward Cllrs report

The ward Cllr gave a report on his activities as ward Councillor, which consisted of meeting with Balfour Beatty over road issues , pot holes, and retrospective planning application in the ward

6.Matters raised by the electors of the parish

Biblets common – The friends of Hoarwithy offered to pay for a bench to be placed on Biblets common. Some work was also required on the common.

The Clerk advised that:

The PC would need to seek clarity on ownership of the commons before any work can be carried out or a bench can be sited

Signed *M Soble*

Dated 18/05/2017

Chairman