

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FOWNHOPE PARISH HELD AT FOWNHOPE
PAVILION ON WEDNESDAY 7 MAY AT 07.30 PM**

Present:

Parish Councillors:

M Williams	Chairman
J Boothman	
D M Clark	
D Colley	
A Corby	
P Daines	
J Hardwick	
F Jolley	
J Jones	
H Mansell	
G Williams	

Parish Clerk:

J Bateman

18 Members of the public were present.

In Attendance:

Hayley Crane, Jane Thomas and Graham Parfitt, representing Herefordshire Council Housing Development and Herefordshire Housing Limited

PC James.

1. Apologies for absence.

Councillor D Pascoe

Ward Councillor Pemberton expressed regret at being unable to attend.

2. Chairman's opening address.

The Chairman outlined the Council's achievements over the past 12 months, pointing out that these had all been due to the hard work of unpaid volunteer councillors.

3. Housing Development.

Ten sites had been studied in depth as potential locations for 8 affordable housing units. The housing would be managed by the Housing Association and let to people who could not afford to buy a home of their own. The Meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of providing affordable housing. None of the sites studied was ideal but one, at Ringfield Orchard, had been short listed. Following completion of ecological impact study it was intended to submit a full planning application to develop the site in June.

The Meeting expressed grave misgivings over a number of aspects of the plan. In particular, there was concern over the traffic impact in Capler Lane, both over the increase in volume and the difficulties for turning vehicles - particularly for bulky agricultural lorries and machinery. Doubts were expressed over whether the road layout diagram being used for planning was accurate.

More generally, it was felt that inadequate planning had taken place to address sewage disposal capacity, already a problem in the Parish, or issues associated with the Conservation Area status

of the locality. It was felt very strongly that there were a number of other, more suitable, sites in the Parish and that these should be (re)considered before proceeding any further with Ringfield Orchard.

Many of these issues could already have been effectively addressed if the local knowledge of the Parish Council had been exploited during the planning process. A meeting between representatives from the Parish Council and the Highways, Planning, Housing Development and Housing Association Departments would take place in the near future.

4. Police Matters.

Other than some minor pilfering in the shop, levels of crime were, generally, very low in Fownhope.

5. Open forum for views on Parish issues.

Appreciation was expressed for the hard work that had gone into improving Court Garden. No further issues were raised.

Jem Bateman

Parish Clerk

14 May 08