



Great Sadness at loss of Ron



It is indeed with great sadness that we report the loss of Councillor Ron Jennings from the Parish after fighting bravely against illness for the past few years. He was a man of great friendliness, and knew the parish as well as anyone, having lived here in Low Habberley all of his life of more than nine decades. His tremendous knowledge of the locality and recollections of the past will be a great loss to everyone in the area, as will his common sense approach and wisdom when dealing with Parish affairs in the role of Councillor over 24 years of service, including several periods as Chairman. Indeed, many of the articles featured in the past in this newsletter originated from Ron, recalling stories and events long forgotten by most, and recounting village life over the years.

He was a showman by trade, although he had turned his hand to many skills during his lifetime, giving service to many local enterprises and local village people. He was held in high regard in the community, as was evidenced by the huge attendance of more than 200 mourners at his funeral in March, with many from the proud community of show people.

From my own point of view, I and my family received a great deal of kindness from Ron, both professionally and personally, and we shall miss him a great deal.

The Parish Council join with me to offer very sincere condolences to Mary and the Jennings family, united in their huge sense of loss. A minute of silence was held in remembrance of Ron at the March Parish Council meeting. God bless—we will miss you, Ron. RIP.

Parking issues

We regret to have to advise that we are again facing dangerous and inconsiderate parking, particularly in Low Habberley, opposite Fountain Court up to the middle of the village. Cars approaching from Kidderminster have to pull out blindly only to face oncoming traffic, with no easy way to pass.

Defibrillator Provision



The Parish Council are proud to advise that they have assisted with the provision of two

defibrillators in the parish—one at Crundalls Lane, and one at Trimpley Village Hall. This has been possible with contributions from the residents of Crundalls Lane, former District Councillor Gordon Yarranton, County Councillor Ian Hardiman and Trimpley Village hall, as well as a contribution from the Parish Council and assistance from Parish Councillor Chris Grainger. The possibility of siting a further machine at the Reservoir was also considered, but requested contributions from Severn Trent, the Sailing and Angling Clubs were not forthcoming and so this has not been possible. District Councillor Gordon Yarranton is seen above with Parish Council Chairman James Gammond with the machine to be sited at Crundalls Lane.

Proposed Closure of layby, Eymore Lane

The matter is still under discussion, with several people advising they wish to see it closed, and several people against the closure. Both viewpoints have valid reasons for their opinion on the matter, and no doubt it will be some months before any decision is arrived at.

Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley

Holy Trinity Church, Trimpley's fundraising is gathering pace and we are looking forward to our **Summer Fête** which will be held on **Saturday 30th June from 12pm-4pm** at **"The Guildings", Eymore Lane, Trimpley DY12 1PG**. A truly beautiful setting, lots of stalls, refreshments, fun and entertainment for everyone. Entrance is by cash donation and all proceeds go to the Relief Fund. To volunteer or donate items, just ring Elaine on 07814 594443, Email Jane - twigglet2@btinternet.com or message us on Facebook - @HolyTrinityChurchTrimpley. The "Relief Fund" will be used to improve facilities at Church. Details and quotes for different options are being obtained and once enough information has been gathered there will be a widely publicised "Open Meeting" so that everyone can help decide what to do. Services at Holy Trinity continue on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month at 9.30a.m and occasionally in the evening too. Everyone is very welcome!

Parish Council Matters

Meetings

Don't forget, the public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors and usually local police in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. These are the dates of the next meetings, all held in Trimpley Village Hall @ **7.30p.m.** - **21st May, 18th June, 9th July** — **check the website or noticeboards for agenda.**

Your Parish Councillors are:

Mr. J. Gammond (Chair) : Tel 01299 400750
Mr. C. Grainger : 01299 403231
Mr. B. Phillips : Tel 01299 861661
Mrs. C. Gammond : 01299 402929
Mr. G. Yarranton : 01299 403835
Mrs. L. Green : Tel 01562 747180

Please feel free to contact them (or the Clerk (see overleaf)) on any matters of concern re life in the Parish, or come along to the **Public Open Forum**

Casual Vacancy

Due to the sad passing of Councillor Ron Jennings, there is a vacancy on the Parish Council which will be filled by co-option. For details of the process, and to express your interest if you wish to be considered for this vacancy, you must submit an application by 11th May. Please contact any parish councillor or the Clerk by e-mail or phone for an application form if you wish to serve in this capacity.

Low Habberley Golf Club Site

By means of this newsletter, (which is voluntarily delivered to each household) we wish to highlight some facts for the benefit of everyone within the parish, many of whom we are grateful to for attending the February Parish Council meeting or contacting us in other ways – and we would firstly like to thank you all for your input. We are aware that not everyone was able to attend that meeting, but we feel it is important that they too are equally informed about the matter.

Having said that, I feel that I must come to the defence of the Parish Council, as sadly there have been many accusations and rumours flying around which are simply untrue and definitely unjust – and we would therefore like to list some facts which we feel may help explain the situation:

- ⇒ The Parish Council have always tried to keep everyone up-to-date on this development. We were approached last August by the owner, and invited him to a Parish Council meeting - which was fully advertised on August agenda on the webpage (<http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish>) and on the parish noticeboards - and indeed some 25 people attended the meeting to listen to what was being proposed.
- ⇒ This quarterly Newsletter featured an article in October 2017 detailing what we had been informed about the proposed development from the owner at the August meeting.
- ⇒ It was not mentioned in the January Newsletter, as the Newsletter went to print before we had details of the application.
- ⇒ In light of the gravity of the implications of the application, the Parish Council secured a deferment for comment from the original deadline, in order to gather together all the information and facts they could, until after the February meeting - when the application was then withdrawn.
- ⇒ The Parish Council do all we can within a very limited budget (check the parish rate on your council tax) to keep parishioners informed, with the webpage, the newsletter and noticeboards. It is not the duty of the Parish Council to issue individual planning application notices to individuals, neighbours, or statutory authorities - the Planning Authority at the District Council will ensure that all statutory consultations are made, including any neighbour notifications. Any query in this respect should be addressed to the District Council Planning Dept. The Parish Council do, however, try to keep parishioners informed by the Agenda published - see above. Furthermore, it is possible for anyone to see full details of any planning application by going to the District Council website (<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings>) where you can view and comment on any planning application. To find a specific parish application, if you do not have the reference number, you need to narrow your search to the parish, and a relevant date range.
- ⇒ The Parish Council are not the Planning Decision makers, and have not issued any formal comment about the development to the District Council Planning Dept (who are the decision makers) either in support or against the previous application, which has now been withdrawn. However, the Parish Council have taken note of all opinions expressed to them, and have tried to be as fully informed of all true facts themselves, and not react to supposition or rumour. The Parish Councillors are unpaid and voluntary - and have spent many, many hours listening to all parties concerned and to the comments made at the February Parish Council meeting, and although they have many years of experience of scanning plans, they are not trained planners, but try to give meaningful responses within the parameters of planning law, when asked to comment on applications.
- ⇒ Low Habberley Golf Club is zoned as in the Green Belt in the Local Area Plan and has a D2 designation for leisure. As far as the Parish Council are aware and have been advised, what has been proposed is an adventure trail, with non-permanent structures, falls within the allowable use of the site, does not require planning permission - and therefore we cannot fight against something which would be allowed anyway. The application which was submitted, and which we would have commented on, had it remained, addressed just the changes to the access and the construction of car parking - not the use of the site as such a trail.
- ⇒ We spent considerable time reading e-mails and reports about this matter, and countless hours on the telephone - and we objected to the Highways Authority, who had submitted their report to the District Planning Department on the access and parking proposals only (which was the subject of the former application) - without commenting on the suitability of the approach roads - which was of concern to us all. This was, we felt, an unacceptable stance for the Highways Authority to take, and we complained to them and the District Council accordingly, and we are now led to believe that should a further application be submitted, they have been persuaded to address this and to give comment on the suitability of approach roads.

Therefore, before further criticism is levied at the Parish Council, we would ask you all to take full account of the above points, and to understand that no formal comment has yet been made by the Parish Council either in support or against, since there is no current planning application and comment is not currently requested. Any comment made without a relevant application would be unsolicited, premature and may be inaccurate and inappropriate without reference to current valid plans, full facts and the most information we can gather. Your Parish Councillors are fully aware of the feelings of local people, and will represent that to the best of their ability, knowledge, and within the parameters of their power and in light of all facts should a further application be submitted.. They will not act on hearsay or rumour, and are not the deciding authority. Your Parish Council try to find out every bit of factual information and will approach relevant authorities for expert advice and knowledge in the event of further plans. Indeed, some parishioners have stated that there has definitely been development on site which should require planning permission, and this will be fully investigated for complete evidence, even though we only have verbal reports. Again, apart from trying to glean all information, we will only act on fact and actual evidence presented - not rumour and hearsay – but having said that, we will represent the feelings and views of parishioners to be best of our ability and power.

If you wish to confirm any of the items listed above, perhaps you could check out what is said above with the Planning Authority at Wyre Forest - Mr. P. Round - who is dealing with this case, and who will also be dealing with any future applications concerning development of this site.

We hope that this helps bring about some understanding of the stance of the Parish Council, who will always represent your views fairly and justly within their power and set planning parameters, and we would ask that you kindly understand the very limited powers that the Parish hold. Reticence to make formal comment at this point in time should most definitely **not** be interpreted as tacit approval - as it seems to have been by some parishioners; the parish council has not issued any formal comment on this matter since there is currently no valid application (at the date of print of this newsletter) on which to comment. Perhaps the length of this article will bring understanding for some of the amount of effort and time spent on your behalf on this matter by your Parish Council.