

*Annual Parish Meeting at East Brent on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at East Brent Village Hall*

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Attended by

Parish Council Chairman Cllr E Champion, members of the Parish Council, Cllr J Denbee Amanda Goddard, Mary Chorley and caretaker clerk of Brent Knoll Owen J Cullwick also several members of the East Brent community

**Chairman's opening remarks**

The Chairman thanked the assembled meeting for coming to the Annual meeting and welcomed the officers from Sedgemoor and Cllr J Denbee for attending.

**Minutes of the Last meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 were agreed as an accurate account of the meeting and were proposed and seconded.

**Speaker Mary Chorley of Sedgemoor affordable housing**

Mary outlined what has been achieved in East Brent in the development of recent affordable housing project in the village of together with similar project in Rooksbridge. This has been achieved as a result of a close partnership between South Western Housing the district and Parish Councils. The achievement has been recognised by Sedgemoor as a flagship project which it would like to develop further.

It is the aim of the partnership to look at further consultations in order to develop further both this type of housing, and to consider opportunities that exist for older residents looking to downsize. The district council are looking to support fully any proposal for additional shared ownership schemes and to ensure that at any need locally is fully investigated in the housing needs. If anybody wishes to know more about the process they should contact Mary at Sedgemoor District Council

**Speaker Amanda Goddard of Sedgemoor District Council**

Amanda outlined the recent changes that came into force in April. The changes affect the way in which planning policy is determined by local authorities. The new planning framework is designed to give a greater degree of local input into the shaping of their local communities.

Sedgemoor have been consulting and delivering the LDF ( Local development framework over the past 18 months. This plan is now in place and will over see the Sedgemoor area for the next 20 years. As part of the localism bill neighbourhood plans will ensure that communities have the opportunity to shape the way that their local area is developed providing it conforms to the overriding principles of the core strategy. Locally it is hoped that East Brent will be a sustainable development settlement and under policy P5 allow for infill development.

The new neighbourhood planning will have to be set up by either town of Parish Councils and the plan will be the subject of examination to ensure that it fits with sustainable development and meets the core strategy core objectives. It can include opportunities for additional housing over and above that identified in the local plan and also facilities such as schools and other local needs. Once any plan has reached a certain point in its process a local referendum will take place with a simple majority needed to implement it. The costs of Examination of the plan and the referendum will be borne by the district council but their will be inevitably costs that need to be borne by the Parish Council. In some cases developers who may be keen to develop in an area could be asked to contribute some of the costs. One key element of a neighbourhood plan is that it cannot reduce levels set by the Local development plan but can add to it.

### **Speaker Cllr John Denbee Somerset County Councillor Brent Ward**

Cllr Denbee told the meeting that he had been elected as a result of a bye election caused by the untimely death of Cllr A Ham who served the ward over many years. He is responsible for an area that includes, Brean, Berrow , Lympsham, Brent Knoll, and East Brent along with several smaller villages in the area. Cllr Denbee has responsibilities for Audit and standards and is a Sedgemoor District Councillor in addition to his Somerset County role. He stated that on the question of Pilrow he was personally opposed to the siting of Wind turbines at this location however he pointed out that the Parish Council have some difficulty in publicly having a view due to issues of pre determination and a risk of judicial enquiry,. The Parish Council will get an opportunity to make representations once a formal planning application has been made. He outlined the process by EDF on pylons and the infrastructure planning inspectorate will be holding open meetings over the coming weeks. He pointed out that sub sea underground energy transmission was a route that he favoured and also is the option that SCC is in favour of. On roads Cllr Denbee said that improvements to A38 near Cross and Rooksbridge were going ahead along with a permanent speed Indicator device at Cross. Council Tac has been maintained at previous levels in all areas of the County budget except on Fire and rescue up 3%. He also pointed out that the leader of SCC Ken Maddock has stepped down as leader in order to pursue his selection as the conservative candidate for election as police commissioner for Avon and Somerset.

### **Questions raised from this session**

Broadband poor connections in the area

Representative views of the Parish Council

Why do the Parish Council not come out either in favour of against wind farm ?

### **Broadband**

The County Council is very well aware of the frustrations that local business has in getting decent internet speeds. It is a subject of ongoing effort.

### **Parish Council on Wind Farms**

The Issue of the Parish Council was answered by Cllr Denbee on the matter of pre determination in his address and the reasons why the Parish Council need to tread with caution to avoid a judicial review.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

The Parish Council chairman Cllr E Champion told the meeting that it had been a busy year in 2011/12. He thanked all of the members for their tremendous support during the year. He pointed out some of the grass cutting issues at the cemetery that have now been resolved. He was pleased with the outcome of the affordable housing development in the village. The Parish Council have had 28 planning applications to consider over the past year. He also told the meeting that more responsibility has been passed from District to Parish Council and that there has been 3 new grit bins purchased ready for next winter. He thanked the Jubilee Committee for their hard work to ensure a smooth Jubilee weekend in early June. On the Pilrow issue a committee has been set up to fully explore the pros and the cons of this future application and to ensure note is taken from all sides of the argument. Cllr Champion thanked the assembled meeting and also the Clerk of Brent Knoll who has stepped in to take the minutes at this meeting. He pointed out that Bob Strachan has now stepped down and the position is advertised. He also thanked those who provided refreshments for this meeting

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**