

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 23 May 2011 at 7pm in
Garway Village Hall**

Present - The Chair Mr D Atkinson, the clerk, 4 members of the public

1. To receive Reports from:

Mr Oke - Scudamore Charities Reports

Frances Scudamore Charity: One application received £50.00 Balance as at 31.3.2011 - £5792.10.

Unknown Donors Charity: Seven applications received totalling £210. Balance as at 31.3.2011 - £1241.85. It was agreed to advertise on the Garway.org. web site

Mr J Harris - Footpaths Officer

Mr Harris had received a list of the 10 year backlog of complaints received by Herefordshire Council Rights of Way officers and was asked to check which ones are still valid. This has been undertaken over the winter months surveying all paths against the list and noting new problems. Listed complaints: 62 of which 38 now sorted, 15 remain minor and 9 remain major. Unlisted problems: 4 of which 3 are minor 1 major. Major problems include blocked paths and bridleways, unsafe steps and missing signposts. The survey has now been completed and returned to area warden. Work will be undertaken by Amey to replace broken kissing gates and signposts, Enforcement Officer will deal with blocked paths GW23 & 33 and the remainder the areas warden will deal with. Mr Harris is also in discussion with Mr Howard (Parish Plan Steering Group) to encourage visitors to the Church and Moon to explore some of the Foot paths by producing some simple leaflets. This will need co ordination and funding. Mrs Sparey asked that a guidance note is included in the leaflets for walkers to use the footpaths responsibly.

Mr D Atkinson – Chairman’s Report

Mr Atkinson formally thanked two former councillors Mark Jones and Caroline Trew for their service to the community during their time in office and welcomed Malcolm Howard and Colin Robinson. Three specific matters have partly or fully come to fruition this year. The BDUK pilot scheme – which Mrs Sparey and Mr Howard will continue working with. The success of the Parish Lengthsman due mainly to the quality and local knowledge of our contractor Terry Griffiths and finally the successfully adopted Parish Plan which will be a valuable tool for the future of Garway.

Mr D Atkinson – Village Hall Trustees

Mr Atkinson thanked Mrs Oke for securing funding for new surround sound/cinema system. Regular user group numbers are stable with new activities introduced this year. Post Office was running successfully. The parish plan Community Facilities action group are looking into the potential of a new community centre. This would include a shop/Post office along with hall and small community room. A first stage application to Big Lottery was in process. If successful then the group would be invited to apply for funding for the project. In the mean time the Trustees are looking to develop the continuing use of existing building with improved heating, insulation ect.

Community Support Officer

Due to commitments elsewhere a CSO was unable to attend

Garway Hill Commoners Association

Mrs L Whistance reported that Herefordshire Nature Trusts' Community Commons Project came to an end in December 2010 and the Commoners Association was now independent. Natural England had agreed Upland Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship for the Common. 2 kms of fencing and 1km of hedge planting completed. A new programme of capital works starting – fencing, gates and field trees. Two oak trees planted in memory of Phil Williams and Hazel Morris. 5 official educational access visits done last year. Bracken has reduced more significantly this year following a harsh winter and a cut and collect machine used last July.

1. Electors participation – open forum:

None

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.30pm