

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting for The Gorge Parish Council held on Thursday 4th May 2017 at Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Community Centre at 7pm. Refreshments were available from 6.30pm with the Councillors.

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillor A White. 27 members of the public were present, three speakers from Telford and Wrekin Council and Sgt David Braid and PC John Walters from West Mercia Constabulary.
2. **Matthew Powell, for the Transport and Highways department , Telford and Wrekin Council** presented his department's proposals on traffic management schemes in The Gorge for the coming year , concentrating on : Road maintenance in Ironbridge Road ; footway maintenance in Coalport High Street and Station Road ; extensive road maintenance to Madeley Road and bridges and structures . Details of the road work to the Wharfage (now in hand) were explained.
3. **Adam Brookes** from Telford & Wrekin explained the extensive road surveys carried out since July 2016 including the side roads where there were no restrictions. Signing improvements would be carried out including Jiggers Bank and Legges Way . With regard to calming work at The Wharfage , it has been decided not to replace the speed bumps at the moment and review matters in July. There would be new speed limit reductions to Ladywood and Lloyds Head (30 mph). Future work across the Gorge had been identified, including traffic calming measures and accident investigations. Speed issues had been identified in Beech Road and Buildwas Road; collisions on Jiggers bank and Madeley Road and The Lloyds . Speeding in Waterloo Street and Wellington Road would also be monitored.

Questions from residents included: the impact on traffic when the new housing in Beech Road had been built ; concerns about speeding along the Wharfage; increase in traffic at Belmont/ Woodside and access to Lincoln Hill . Sgt Braid said that he had visited the area but most of the issues raised were considered to be of low risk . Questions were also raised re: resurfacing of Wellington Road (Matthew Powell said there was no programme for that this year) ; work to the traffic hump at Dale End and the narrow path down Madeley Hill.

4. **Angie Astley , Assistant Director , Neighbourhood and Customer Services, TWC** gave a presentation on Civil Parking Enforcement , sharing slides presented to a cross party group of Councillors . She gave a background to CPE , including the type of restrictions (signage etc) available. The current situation in the Borough is that the police had withdrawn the traffic warden scheme in 2009, but in 2014, Wellington and Newport Councils had entered into an agreement with the police to part fund 2x Police Community Support Officers. That pilot scheme was deemed successful and agreement were now in place to fund a PSCO for Dawley, Newport , Wellington, Oakengates and Madeley. Angie gave examples of the costs against recovery of charges and the factors which could affect this. The next steps requested by the cross party scrutiny group was to obtain data from the police and consider the

“appetite” for partnership working and funding. The group is to report back its findings in June 2017. Questions were raised, including : the strength of feeling in the Gorge; whether there was a “business case” when the Chief Constable has said that the police will not enforce parking offences ; whether there was a model for voluntary enforcement , or of reporting “hotspots” in the Parish. On the latter point , Sgt Braid indicated that the police would still be involved especially near to the schools where the police do visit, and perhaps the school could be asked to report persistent offenders? When asked if officers could come down to the Gorge , Sgt Braid could not give a firm commitment as it would depend on the “true cost” and how much a small council could afford . Angie Astley offered to meet the council and see if there would be any interest in being involved in some form of a CPE scheme.

5. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11th May 2016 were accepted and signed.**
6. **The Annual Report was delivered by the Chair** , emphasising the schemes , Pride in Your High Street and the new Parish Environmental Team . A question was asked if the Council could contribute the the CPE , based on the precept, but pro rata with other councillors . In reply , the Chair had to say that tonight’s presentation from Angie Astley was the first time we had heard that The Gorge may be able to join in the discussions .
7. **Financial Report. The Year end Statement and list of Grants made, was presented by the Clerk.**
8. **In the absence of any other business the Chair declared the meeting closed**