## HERMITAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Hermitage Village Hall.

Present.

Ms R. Cottingham

Chairman.

Forty five members of the public.

#### 1 Welcome.

The Chairman of the Parish Council warmly welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly.

#### 2 The West Berkshire Superfast broadband project.

Kevin Griffin, Head of IT at West Berkshire Council talked through the aims of the project. WBC aims to see superfast broadband available in as many Parish areas as possible. This is an expensive project, funded partly by a Government grant of some £1.9m for Berkshire as a whole and by contributions from WBC itself and those Parishes who would most likely benefit. Broadband providers look for a 15 year return on investment.

The project aims to provide fibre optic cable to cabinets. The connection from cabinets to residences will remain via copper, and this always affects broadband speeds.

There are 741 residences in Hermitage and 196 registrations.

WBC is going out to tender and, when the tendering process is complete, will be able to know for sure who will benefit and who will be outside the reach of fibre optic cable. Mr Griffin illustrated his talk with slides and location maps, and then asked for questions.

Your maps show who is in the benefit area – is this final.

The assets will be assessed by the Contractor and upgraded cabinets will serve everybody. How many bidders are there.

Two.

You can't tell us now which cabinets will be upgraded.

Not at the moment.

How will we know if we have an upgrade.

If you register on the website you will be told.

Will your website show which cabinets will be upgraded.

Up to the supplier – they will be investing not WBC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Griffin for his time and talk which had helped everyone to understand a little better how the project would work.

# 3 Minutes of the last Annual Assembly held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

There was a proposal from the floor that the minutes be taken as read, which was passed by a majority of the public.

The minutes were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

## 4 The Annual Report from the Parish Council Chairman.

The report is attached to these minutes.

ly.

## 5 The report from the District Councillors.

Both Mr Pask and Mr Webb had presented apologies and hoped to be present later on. Their report is attached.

## 6 Reports from Village Groups.

The reports are attached from – Pre-School.
Village Vision
School
The Horticultural Society
The Village hall
The Church.

The Police.

The Scouts.

The Cubs.

# 7 The meeting was then open to the Public for questions.

There were no further questions and the Chairman closed the Assembly at 21.20hrs.

A COA A Chairman Date