



OLD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Richard Baldwin Clerk: Rosie Warne

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 in the Community Centre, Townson Close at 7.30 pm

Parish Councillors Present: Richard Baldwin (Chair), Pauline Baldwin, Sarah Haughney, Colin Smart, Catherine Beckett.

District Councillor: Ann Carter,

Old Parish Charities, Chairman of the Trustees: Joan Barratt

Members of the public, village groups or village organisation representatives: 9

1. **To note any apologies given.** Parish Councillors Rosemary Bury and Nick Moore, County Councillor Judy Shephard and District Councillor Ann Carter. Councillor B Grant was absent
2. **To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 25th April 2017.** Approved
3. **To receive report from the Parish Council Chairman covering the activities of the Parish Council for the year to 31 March 2018 and to take any questions following the report and agree any actions.**

Once again we have seen a change in the Council this year with Graham Day leaving us after many years valuable service. In Graham's place we welcomed Sarah Haughney to the Council.

Earlier this year I reported that, following our survey, the majority of residents voted in favour of us installing a speed warning device in the parish. I was also very pleased to report that, thanks to a very generous donation from a charitable trust, we were able to purchase the device without the need to find any additional funds. Unfortunately, the installation of the device has been held up whilst we wait for the County Council to put in the poles but hopefully it should be happening in the very near future, so we will hopefully start to see an effect on speeding drivers.

On a similar note we will again be running the Speedwatch campaign this year, but we can always use more volunteers to help man the cameras so if you are interested please let us know.

I am also pleased to report that the fly tipping notices that we put up at either end of Mill Lane seem to have had an impact as we have seen a lot less rubbish being dumped there.

On the subject of litter, I am very grateful to the lone vigilante who you may have seen tidying up the litter from the road sides all around the Parish. The results of his efforts really have made a fantastic difference.

I am also very grateful to the White Horse for sponsoring the repair of the litter bin located next to the Jubilee Tree which is now back in place and looking great.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the litter bin by the bus stop at Cherry Hill which you may recall went missing shortly after it was installed last year. We have still not been able to establish what happened to the bin and we are still debating whether to replace it.

We agreed last year to designate an area of the green at the top of Mill Lane as a Butterfly garden. We have agreed the budget to produce the garden and work will be starting shortly to install it.

I am afraid that dog poo has again been a constant subject of concern all around the Parish. I have reported before that Daventry District Council do take this very seriously and will prosecute people that do not clear up after their pets so if you are aware of any offenders please let us know.

Finally, you may be aware that Pauline and I are both resigning from the Council after the Annual Parish Meeting. I would like to thank all of the people that I have worked alongside on the Council and I wish the Council all the best for the future. Our leaving will of course create two vacancies on the Council so if you are interested in joining please let the Clerk know.

Comments

Withdrawal of off peak bus service – Discussions took place regarding the withdrawal of this service and Councillor P Baldwin advised that the withdrawal of this service was the decision of Stagecoach as this route was no longer financially viable. The Parish Council are aware that residents rely on this service and there is a need to work with surrounding parishes to try and introduce some assistance – in what form at present unknown. Clerk advised that she has contacted surrounding villages and awaiting updates from them and will keep everyone informed as and when proposals are received. Also discussed was a community led project which would need further discussion

Speedwatch – Councillor Smart advised that volunteers are needed for this to continue and without additional volunteers the Speedwatch group will fold

4. To receive reports from the County Councillor and the District Councillor and to take any questions following the reports and agree any actions

Apology received from both Councillors – no reports received

5. To receive reports from the Trustees of Old Parish Charities and to take any questions and to agree any actions.

Presented by the Chairman to the Trustees, Joan Barratt.

January seen the re-election of the Chair and Vice Chair. One nominee left this year and Councillor Colin Smart joined the team as a Parish Council representative.

The Community Room has just been redecorated and looking to replace the tables in the near future

The Community Room continues to be well used by various groups who are successfully maintaining their numbers and being well supported. The Breakfast Club has ceased at the moment but consideration is being given to re-instate this. The Youth Club is proving to be very successful. Other events which have been held were outlined and all have been well supported. The annual Christmas lunch will be held again this year and is open to all residents on a first come first served basis.

Other remits include playing field, allotments and tennis courts all of which continue to be used – only concern is that of dog mess on the playing field. Residents advised to remain vigilant and if can report to DDC

All properties are occupied

Newsletter goes out and is well received and thanks go to Rebecca and Ann who put in a lot of work to make this a success. The newsletter has started to offer advertising space and this is improving in number of adverts.

Joan thanked everyone on the committee for their continued support and commitment and to all residents who support the various activities and events

Comments: None

6. To receive reports from any parish group, organisation, community representative and village resident and to take any questions following the reports and agree any actions.

St Andrews Church – Jacqueline Yeoman

New lighting system has been installed with the help of residents and thanks given for this

One weekend unable to use the Church for a service and used the Community Room and this was well received

This year has seen 3 weddings, 2 baptisms and no funerals

Events which have been held throughout the year have been well supported and money from this type of fundraising is used to pay diocese for the vicar – noted fundraising for bell is separate donation. St Andrews is part of 4 churches within the benefice who share a vicar and St Andrews also has 2 lay readers who do services. Karen left after 14 years to move to a new benefice and new vicar has yet to be appointed but have a full time vicar for 3 months (May to July). This vacancy will be advertised in due course once finances have been reviewed.

Comments:

Question was asked about the use of the tower for a telephone mast and Jacqueline advised that this has been discussed and no decision has been made to date. Prior to any agreement would need to be agreed by the village. Some residents felt that this would be a benefit to the village

Village Hall – Katie Lindenbaun

It is reported that this has been a good year and AGM was held 2 weeks ago

Currently there is a regular booking for everyday of the week and include activities such as yoga, badminton and most recently a new ballroom dancing class. Weekends sees the hall being used for parties especially children's parties. The incomes from these cover the regular outgoings to run the village hall. Any profit from extra bookings like parties and fundraising is used to fund repairs.

Winter Music Fest was held in February and this was very successful and raised approximate £1100.00. Bridge drives remain profitable and local charities run the raffle for their own fundraising.

There will be a table top sale on in May and it is anticipated that this will be a very popular event

The bonfire and fireworks night remains one of the most supported events and seeing an ongoing increase in numbers attending – it is anticipated that this will be held on 2nd November 2018

Christmas pantomime will be held this year and expected to be held on the Thursday before Christmas

Hall is well maintained and there are plans to redecorate including the repainting of the ceiling and these works are currently out for quotes.

Thanks is given to all the committee members including those who work behind the scenes and to all who support the various events and activities that are held at the village hall

Katie also advised that there is a joint church and village hall event being held on 16th/17th June – this is in the form of open gardens and already have 8 gardens signed up and 2 public spaces. There will be teas at the church and food and teas at the village hall

The White Horse – Stuart Wright

Stuart thanked the village for their continued support without which the pub would not survive.

Some mistakes were made last year and these have been rectified

The first marquee booking is a wedding vowel renewal on 18th May and there are two weddings in July and August

There have been personnel changes throughout the year.

Thanks to Richard and Pauline who have assisted with the quiz night and one is now held every month.

Pizza oven opens next month

Stuart advised that should any village organisation need any help and he will assist wherever possible

Women of Wold – Sarah Hampden-Smith

Report was read by Councillor Richard Baldwin on behalf of Women of Wold

WoW, Women of Wold, is open to everyone in Old and Cherry Hill. There is no membership as such, just a small contribution towards refreshments when you come along.

We apologise for not being with you in person but this evening but we have arranged a board games evening. We will endeavor to be present next year.

This year we have enjoyed a Northampton Castle tour, two visiting speakers, Gordon Corner and Alasdair Tait each talking about experiences on the ocean waves. We had a Christmas card making evening in the autumn and started the new year watching Love Among the Lentils, one of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads. We have discussed four books, Iris and Ruby, The Crowded Street, Light Between Oceans and Chesil Beach.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Bridget a key member of the group and a co-chair.

All details are in the newsletter and we are delighted to welcome new faces. We find the meetings are an opportunity to catch up with others in the village that we don't see often and share news, views and laughter.

Thanks was given to Richard and Pauline and everyone wished them all the best for the future and that village will miss them

The meeting closed at 9.pm