

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at The New Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton-under-Wychwood at 7.30 pm on Thursday 29th May 2014

Present: Cllrs: Neil Jagger (in the Chair), Brian Young, Richard Hogan, John Little, Sarah Matthews, Jill Mavin, Brian Rigby, **Parish Clerk:** Annie Champness.

Members of the village: Mr and Mrs M Campbell, Jennie Charlwood, Mr and Mrs J English, Sir John and Lady Graham, Mr G Gillett, Mrs and Mrs G Halliday, Mr R Hollingdale, Mrs D Johnson, Mr and Mrs L Knightson, Mr and Mrs R McConnachie, Mrs V Newman, Mrs A Rigby, Mr and Mrs J Walmsley, Mrs R Waterman, Mr M Watson, Mr T Wilson, Mr A Vickers.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from former DCllr Hilary Biles, CCllr Rodney Rose, Revd Kate Stacey, PCSO Kirstyn Tyrer, Elaine Biles, Mr and Mrs Williamson. Anne Hartley

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd April 2013** were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. **Chairman's opening remarks**

The Parish Council Annual report had been published and distributed to every home in the parish. Elections had taken place for the Parish and District Councils. We are sad to say farewell to DCllr Hibbert-Biles (who has served for 12 years), but she is wished a happy retirement. She was thanked for dedicated help for a long and sustained period, and these sentiments were warmly supported by the meeting. Farewell was also said to Mike Watson who had served for xxxxx years (whose portfolios had included finance, the newsletter, and the website). He will be much missed and we are very grateful for all he has done. Robin McConnachie too who has served for about 8 years. His portfolios included planning, communications and transport. He has volunteered to continue to keep an eye on buses and trains. He was also proffered very many thanks on behalf of the village and wished well for the extra spare time he may now have. These votes of thanks were heartily endorsed by the meeting.

New Councillors were welcomed. First, returners: Brian Young, Sarah Matthews, Brian Rigby, Jill Mavin. Greetings were extended to Richard Hogan (who brings business experience and hopes to contribute a young family perspective) and John Little (a former mechanical engineer in the oil industry) who introduced themselves. Welcome was also extended to our new DCllr Tom Wilcox who could not be here himself. We will look forward to meeting and getting to know him and familiarizing him with local issues and concerns. We aim to get best value for money. Our reserves are there for a reason. There is increasing pressure on provision of services with reductions of those provided at District and County Council level. This is the main driver behind the decision to increase our precept. We were especially conscious of the need to support Wychwood Library. The County Council have reduced the funding for staffing. We have undertaken to provide support for the next 3 years. Proposed plans for 75 new homes by Carter Jonas in Milton and Upper Milton are of concern and villagers were encouraged to go to the public meeting about this on 21 June at Milton Village Hall.

Wychwoods working together is an initiative we started in October when we had a get together with Ascott and Milton to discuss issues of joint interest. The Library was the main issue that came up. We also carried out an audit in relation to Quality Councils Standards and we passed 75% of the relevant criteria. We were pleased but not complacent and are continually monitoring how we can improve our service to the Community. We need to hear village views about what local concerns are as we are here to serve our village.

4. CCllr Rose's written report (made available to the meeting)

Included the following points: A complicated political landscape with Conservatives only having 31 of 63 County seats, so needing to form an Alliance with 3 Independents to give a working majority; his chairmanship of the East/West Rail Joint Delivery Board and its proposed link Oxford/Bedford via Milton Keynes and ultimately to Cambridge; hosting a summit on better solutions for county wide flooding; bringing together The Wychwoods to keep the valued library service going; chipping and tarring for A361 North from the Wychwood Inn to the Ascott turn and the Milton Road near the A361 being tidied up; white lining too; a reference to further information on broadband; a summary of the challenging budget which agreed a 1.99% increase allowing retention of valued services while meeting savings targets of £265 million between 2010 and 2018 (partly by cutting Director numbers by 50%). Positive announcements included increased time on personal care visits, a multi-agency safeguarding Oxfordshire hub, £1m extra on Highway maintenance, £400K towards flooding and other winter weather issues, contributions to Community Budgets.

5. Apologies were received from the previous DCllr.

6. Gordon Gillett for Shipton volunteers.

Going from strength to strength. Total hours worked by 42 volunteers exceeded 550 hours (hours up 25% on the previous 12 months). Tasks had included: A361 pavement weed clearing, Church railings preparation and painting, Village Fete support, Litter clearing, Cutting back, clearing and tidying Simons and Meadow Lane. Ideas and wishes for making the village a better place in which to live are welcomed. Please spread the word! They are a band of volunteers who do their best with limited means and resources. A written report was submitted. The meeting thanked the Volunteers with warm applause.

7. James Walmsley reported for the Lady Reade Educational Foundation Charity.

This small local charity was inaugurated in the early 19C. It is administered by St Mary's church with trustees from Shipton, Milton, Leafield, and Ramsden. They meet annually to grant awards for educational or vocational training to local students who have passed their secondary educational exams and want to move on to higher education. Last year there were 7 successful applications. The Parish Council gave £300; Milton also contributed. There are 10 potential applications this year. The charity always needs money and is dependent on local support. There was much applause and thanks for the charity's work from the meeting.

8. Terry Wilson reported for the Neighbourhood Watch.

The scheme has been relaunched. The Village has been divided into manageable areas with area coordinators. Coordinators are still needed for the following areas: Littlebrook Meadow, Reynolds Close, Meadow Lane, Meadows Close, Plum Lane and associated Closes to Five Ways, Upper High Street, Trot's Lane, Chapel Lane, Station Road, Tothill, Coombes Close, parts of Milton Road, St Michael's Close, Ballard's Close.

'You are being watched' signs are going up round the village.

9. Vanessa Newman reported for the Surgery

After 14.5 years as business manager, Vanessa has seen a lot of change including the move to the new surgery, new staffing, and Sandy Scott's departure. A lot is going on. Wychwood surgery is an example where primary care works: patient care comes first and foremost and those providing care are supported by their employers. Dr Ken Mann is resigning as partner - his desire is to spend more time with his family and to take them to S Africa - but he will remain involved. The practice is federating with other practices: this is happening across the country to provide extra commissioning clout. Dr Mann is director of PML Ltd, which was set up to provide out of hours services in N Oxfordshire. 90% of Oxfordshire has now agreed to set up a countywide association and it has CQC (Care Quality Commission) registration. It has legal, HR, Employment experience for submitting

bids. Its first bid to OCC to continue to provide public health services (it is now necessary to bid against Virgin health care etc) was successful.

Patient access to GP services is remarkable and the practice would appreciate feedback about this unusual ease of GP access. ECG, Blood test and many other tests are available in the surgery, which is often not the case elsewhere. An active patient participation group helps look at services provided. The practice is beginning to look at allowing online bookings once Dr Mann's replacement is sorted out. Our surgery is a GP training practice (Nina Brown and David Nixon), and are doing their bit in the countrywide need for GP training. Dr Katrina Darker (a former GP trainee) is welcomed back as Melanie Hargreaves's replacement. Re the Pharmacy: There are concerns and issues. The surgery is working hard with the pharmacist to try and improve the situation but there are constraints because of the Royal College of Pharmacy regulations and the new clinical system which has been installed has a national problem with the clinical dispensing side of things. The meeting gave a loud applause of thanks to all those involved with the surgery and thanked Vanessa for her report.

10. The School

Cllr Mavin summarized the written report, which had been submitted. 295 pupils are on the roll. Head Lindsay Daulton hopes for Outstanding grading at the next Ofsted Inspection. Dee Loader will be the new Deputy Head replacing Mrs. Dawe who moves to Finstock Primary in September. The school forms part of the Burford Partnership of schools, which includes 8 primary schools in the area. Only science (though training on the new science curriculum has been led by Wychwood), and PE are not led by Wychwood. As a Church of England School, much support is received from church members and Revds.' Kate Stacey and Anne Hartley. Themes have included friendship, disagreements and forgiveness. The 'old' national curriculum has continued to be delivered since it is outstanding; preparations are on course for the new curriculum in September. Extra-curricular activities included visits to Hook Court learning about bush craft, the Living Forest, Sulgrave Manor, Read-a-Thon, Great Wychwood Bake Off and a diverse after school programme. Most children are meeting or exceeding their targets. Finances are healthy. The school meals supplier is being changed for better savings and quality.

11. The Clerk summarised reports received from the Vicar, Police, CCllr R Rose (as detailed above) and Paul Chantry for the NBH.

St Mary's Church: Our Vicar Kate Stacey mentioned quite a high number of deaths. The burial ground is filling up - efforts to release space have helped. The congregation and choir are growing and the church is looking to provide afternoon tea on the 4th Sunday of the month for locals and visitors. Plans are also proceeding for the 900th anniversary of St Mary the Virgin. Information will follow.

Community Policing Team: The Police had provided crime statistics as follows:-

01/04/13 to 01/04/14

There were 29 reported crimes in the Shipton Under Wychwood area. 7 of which are non-crime incidents for example Adult Protection, Child Protection and Domestic Incidents.

Assault without injury: 2

Burglary other than in a dwelling: 1

Criminal Damage including to properties and vehicles: 6

Thefts (including theft from vehicle): 10

Further helpful crime prevention advice was given from the Thames Valley Police Website.

NBH: Paul Chantry's report detailed the effect of the Parish Council Annual Grant of £2,600 (in the previous year). Subsidies had been provided to the following groups: Youth Club, Brownies and Guides; Bumps and Babes, Movers and Groovers; Monday Café; Wychwood Players; Day Centre; Junior Badminton Coaching. 2013 had been a difficult year. Low income for the first 3 quarters was salvaged by 2 events organized by the Hallidays, a charitable donation from BMW and a much better final quarter. Tight management of pricing and incentives is impressive.

12. Open forum with general questions from the public.

Do we need a number on outside of defibrillator box? It seems a number is not required on the box. Should we be fund raising for another one in the Fiddlers Hill part of the village? Mrs Campbell would be happy to be point of Contact. It was agreed to discuss this further and Mrs Campbell was thanked for her offer. Cllr Young would liaise.

Roads are shocking. Cllr Jagger summarized work in progress: - chip and tar to take place, Milton road to be seen to later this year (local knowledge says it is imminent!). Also the Leafield road is very bad.

Royal Mail is looking at arrangements for post offices - Ascott may close. The owners in Milton are concerned they are being required to move to front of office to provide counter services over a longer period of time. We need to be vigilant: about this.

Appearance of the Green. There are 6 different seats.

Why has the cricket ground destined one not been taken? It would be taken to the next meeting for resolution. It had been offered to the cricket club and may need to be delivered to them.

Broadband - what sort is involved? Fibre to cabinet. There will be the option of paying for the link from there to houses - the timescale would be clear in September.

Housing: are there plans for extra SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) housing in our area? Yes. It has been commissioned by Oxford Planning Authorities. The Assessment has recommended a huge housing increase, which they say needs to be built in Oxford and Oxfordshire. It is up to CC and Districts to decide how to respond. WODC needs to prepare a local plan (which is in the process of being updated) to replace the existing one, since the absence of a current Local Plan hinders any challenge to the SHMA. Numbers being produced by the CPRE among others have suggested the basic assessment should be challenged since it is flawed and based on unrealistic scenarios. The SHMA takes all the most optimistic forecasts of needs for housing and adds them up. It corresponds with government and those behind inner city partnerships in Oxford (development projects). There is a loophole because of delay, therefore the national planning policy framework imposes a criteria of sustainable economic development. Speculative developers are trying to exploit that. Planning applications put in now have a higher chance of getting through since there is no valid local plan against which these can be challenged.

What influence does the PC have on development of local plan? Impact of this assessment on local villages has been discussed. The answer has been that the Wychwoods are not a focus for increased housing. Rather - Carterton: West and Brize Norton end (over 2000 houses), W Witney develop (1000 + house), around Chipping Norton = main focuses plus Bampton. A Community Infrastructure Levy needs to be paid to local community towards extra schools, roads etc. That has supported the view that Wychwoods were low risk. But potential development in Milton seem to change that view. Neighbourhood plans are expensive - around 25K but once sites are identified they are then owned by W Oxfordshire. As a PC we can keep asking questions and focus on wider plans and how they might impact on us. We need to be very vigilant.

Formal business ended at 20.52 pm

13. Informal chats continued over tea and biscuits.