

MINUTES OF THE SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at New Beaconsfield Hall, Station Road, Shipton-under-Wychwood on Thursday 21st April at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs: B. Young (in the chair), , J. Mavin, B. Pitman, B. Rigby, C. Arnold, **County Councillor** R. Rose, **District Councillor** T. Simcox, **Parish Clerk:** L. Wilkinson

Members of the village: Trevor Cramphorn, Lin Cramphorn, Kate Stacey, Julie Hemming, Christine Halliday, Gordon Halliday, Paul Chantry, James Walmsley, Terry Wigley, G.W. Wanderforde, Graham Nelson, Jane Graham, Johnny Graham, Ann Rigby, Liz Shannon, Jennie Charwood, Rosie Waterman, John Roxby, Richard Arnold, Anne Hilling, Sarah Milleu.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr N. Jagger, Cllr S. Matthews, Mr Terry Wilson, Dr D. Nixon, PCSO W. Smith, Mr Rubba

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 23rd April 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. **Chairman's report:** Cllr Young welcomed everyone and summarised the annual report. He welcomed the new councillor, Carole Arnold and mentioned that it was Lisa Wilkinson's first full year as clerk.

- Wychwood Working Together continues.
- Planning: a large number of applications were received last year. The PC tries to strike a balance between the interests of applicants and other local residents. The big issue continues to be the Sharba development. Shipton PC objects on the basis of the impact on the infrastructure in Shipton.
- Green spaces: the three year contract with Green Scythe comes to end in October. They have done a good job and are reasonably priced.
- Trees: three years ago a survey on treestock was undertaken with the result that Treeteck were engaged on a three year contract. Remedial work has been completed so now tree work is carried out on an ad hoc basis or by the Shipton Volunteers.
- Highways: Several accidents have occurred on Upper End/A361. County Cllr Rodney Rose has helped with road safety by persuading Highways to install bollards at no cost to the PC. The school bus stop was also moved from this site. The PC is keeping an eye on possible speeding around the village. Surveys have been carried out on Leafield and Swinbrook Roads.
- Transport: bus subsidies will be removed in July. This is a concern to the PC and it is working with other Wychwood PCs to see what can be done.
- Communication: newsletters and the website seem to be well received around the village. The PC would like to start some form of e-mail circulation.
- Finances: these are looking healthy at present. The reserves have been built up in expectation of Central Government cuts as the PC may have to take on more responsibility in the future.
- Two grants have been received:
 - i. From SSE to buy an emergency generator for the village to provide some power for New Beaconsfield Hall in case of a power outage.
 - ii. From Tesco's for £8,000 to improve access into the allotments, secure storage, raised beds for disabled people and more trees in the community orchard.

4. County Councillors' Report – Cllr Rodney Rose

The report was distributed to the meeting. Please see the attached report for the full content.

The following points were mentioned by Cllr Rose:

- Cllr Rose remains Deputy Leader. He has also taken on responsibility for the voluntary sector.
- Regarding the cuts to bus subsidies, Cllr Rose has met with parishes and with both the Villager Bus Service and Pulhams, in an effort to maintain bus connectivity. This would be funded by bus companies, possibly with help from parishes.

5. District Councillor's Report – Cllr Tom Simcox

Please see attached report.

The following points were discussed:

- Local Plan has unfortunately not moved forward as the Inspector has requested more houses to be built. Between 525 and 660 houses need to be built every year until 2031.
- The DC had to deal with an unexpected cut in their budget so they had to implement a 2% rise in council tax in order to maintain services such as free car parking.
- Monthly surgeries are held by the three tiers of council (parish, district and county) in Shipton and Ascott. They are held on the last Saturday of the month from 11.30-12.30pm in the Ascott and Shipton pubs.
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections to be held on 5th May.

6. Report from Wychwood Surgery

Please see attached report.

The report was summarised by the clerk:

- In December 2015 the practice was inspected by the Care Quality Commission and received a 'Good' grading.

7. Report from Rev'd Kate Stacey

Please see attached report.

The following points were included:

- Last year the church in Shipton celebrated 900 years. This was a good time for building community.
- The PCC is looking to do some work on the church building especially the heating and the layout so it could be used as a community resource.

8. Report from Wychwood Primary School presented by Julie Hemmings

Please see attached report.

The following points were included:

- One of the first schools in Oxfordshire to have a Section 8 'short inspection'
- Plans continue to raise funds for the all-weather pitch as well as a climbing/adventure playground on the main school grounds.

9. Report from Shipton-u-Wychwood Recreation Field and Village Hall Charity – Mr Paul Chantry

Please see attached report, including:

- It has been a reasonably successful year – regular users continue but there were fewer weddings and parties
- The spend on maintenance went up considerably.

- The Charity intends to replace the flooring in the committee room and have the main hall floor sanded, sealed and re-lined.
- The Rock School and the Hall have parted company. Lee (the manager) has started a new rock school called The Bumblefoot Rock Project. He has between 20 and 40 pupils.

10. Report from the Community Policing Team

PCSO Wes Smith sent in a report summarised by Cllr Young. There have been several thefts from outbuildings and vehicles in the village. The Policing team are recommending householders buy a 4 in 1 Security Camera light, video recorder, still photo, flood lamp and PIR sensor for homes.

11. Report from the Shipton Volunteers – Cllr Carole Arnold

Please see attached report.

The following points were included:

- The Volunteers are in their 9th year of activities
- Their objective of enhancing the appearance of the village is aided by 60 volunteers who put in 464 hours of work during the last year.

12. Report from Lady Reade Educational Foundation Charity – Mr James Walmsley

Please see attached report.

- St Mary's Church runs this small charity
- Grants for course books and courses were given to five students last year.
- Cheques were presented to the successful students at a church service last July.

13. Report from the Neighbourhood Action Group – Cllr Jill Mavin

Cllr Mavin reported that it has been a disappointing year for the NAG. The NAG consisted of groups around Chipping Norton working with the police. The Charlbury group has withdrawn from the group. Support also seems to have drained away from the Neighbourhood Policing team. The Mini Nags, set up by Wychwood NAGs, are active – people from the three Wychwood villages are working well together.

14. Report on OCC Subsidised Bus Consultation – Cllr Bartha Pitman

Cllr Pitman reported that the PC will continue to monitor the issue of the loss of bus subsidies from July. It is not yet apparent which services will continue to run. In rural West Oxfordshire bus passes are added to the problem as bus companies are not reimbursed for bus passes.

15. Parking Issues on Church St

Cllr Young explained that the current problem with parking is two-fold: access for vehicles such as emergency vehicles and parking on the Village Green which potentially causes damage to the Green. The following points were raised during a discussion:

- The refuse people are very patient when they cannot access the road.
- The Village Green is public land with restrictions on its potential use
- Laying Grasscrete down the edge of the Green was suggested.
- It was suggested that a parking bay at side of road was put in. However, it was explained that OCC "owns" the pavement and that the costs would be prohibitive.
- Attendees of the meeting do think there is a problem here. They accept parking is inevitable. It was agreed to look into the Grasscrete idea.

16. Village E-mail Circulation List

The PC is considering compiling a list of e-mail addresses of residents. This would improve communication by the Parish Council to the village. People are interested in this. It was discussed

how this could be done and Cllr Rigby explained he would like to write to list holders of groups in the village and ask if their members would opt in. There seemed to be general consensus for this.

17. Other Matters for Discussion

- Comment on the terrible state of the roads in the village. Problems should be reported on Fix my Street which works well
Cllr Rose explained that the amount of use a road gets effects its priority for repair. Due to Government cuts, roads are not getting repaired as frequently as in the past.
Cllr Young stated that if a serious road safety issue comes up the PC will look at it.
- When will the bus subsidy situation be finished? Subsidies finish on 20th July. Bus companies have not yet informed OCC what is happening after that.
- Question about recent trouble at the allotments where seven sheds were broken into.
- Comment on rubbish left around the allotments. The PC has agreed to put a skip up there soon to have general tidy up.
- Are the limes on Church path going to be pollarded? The PC plans to do them next year but they will be inspected.

Formal business ended at 8.40pm

Informal chat continued over refreshments.