

CHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Beverley Rymer, 11 Rectory Lane, Avening, Tetbury GL8 8NN
email:cheringtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Chairman - Cllr Mike Mitchell

Minutes of the Cherington Annual Parish Meeting held on April 1st 2017 at 10.00am at the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Henry Arden, Kate Gegg, Mike Mitchell (Chairman) and Peter Workman

Also present: Beverley Rymer (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Tony Hicks, District Cllr Jim Parsons, Hilary Hodges, Wendy Eldridge, Desi Dillingham, Roger Gegg, Liz Workman, Ann Tarlton, Mary Uzzell, Kerry Braithwaite, Elspeth Braithwaite, Diana Jagger, Paul Cable, James Trotter, Camilla Trotter, John Bate-Williams, Andy Green, Joe Weinberger, Roger Hall, Zac Curtis

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Alison Sharpe, Danielle Ahearne, Sandra Welland
- 2. To approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting April 2016** – Agreed and signed
- 3. Chairman's Report – Cllr Mike Mitchell**

Cllr Mitchell mentioned the forthcoming County Council elections on 4th May, at which County Cllr Tony Hicks will stand down after 20 years; Cllr Mitchell thanked him for his long service to the area. The Chairman announced the new village website (cheringtonpc.org.uk) and asked that suggestions for further content be sent to the Parish Clerk. He welcomed the new Parish Clerk who replaced Mrs Ashfield (who had resigned in December). He also thanked all those who took part in the annual litter pick and had organised the Christmas tree event (both well-attended). Peter Workman is handing over organisation of the Flower Show to Cllr Gegg and Zac Curtis this year and Cllr Mitchell thanked him for his work over the years. Thanks were also given to those who had organised and contributed to a number of successful village events (a Christmas Fair at Trull that raised £1800, a Quiz night and a coffee morning in aid of Cobalt Unit). Recent council discussions with the County Council footpaths department should lead to dog waste bins being installed on the bridleway and in the village. A grant to commemorate World War I had been used to refurbish the bench near the village hall. Finally Cllr Mitchell thanked the Churchwardens for their hard work during the absence of an incumbent. There are plans for a 10km Fun Run starting in Cherington at the cricket ground on 21st May, in aid of Best4Ben; he invited Joe Weinberger and Andy Green to explain details. Planning is still underway and they will aim to minimise potential disruption; help with parking and marshalling would be very welcome. Villagers who were present offered support.

4. County Councillor's and District Councillor's reports

County Cllr Tony Hicks highlighted the GCC overspend of £3.5m on social care, for which demand is rising. Hence an rise of 2% for Government Adult Care and a further 1.99% County increase. Half the overall budget is laid down for education by central Government to a formula, though the public will be aware that this formula is

subject to change in the coming year. The county's schools are not well funded relative to other parts of the UK, but quality is high nevertheless. Highways remained an issue; progress had been made this year on patching and the coming financial year will see higher spending on structural work. The planned incinerator near Gloucester will reduce landfill charges, generate electricity for the Grid and eventually provide heat for local business: CDC waste recycling stands at a creditable 60%. Fire & Rescue services had improved to reach the top ten in the county. The NHS Partnership plans to transform the balance of health care support, in order to relieve demand on the acute care hospitals at Gloucester and Cheltenham. Plans include increasing the size of GP practices; letters are being sent to patients of Phoenix and Romney House practices.

District Cllr Jim Parsons reported that Cllr Mark Annett takes over as Leader of Cotswold District Council on 16th May. The District Council had frozen council tax again this financial year. Cllr Parson was active on health care related committees and mentioned a number of changes underway to GP practice size, first response responsibilities and other support relationships, all with the aim of improving service level and response times.

5. Village Hall Report

Wendy Eldridge reported that she expected the end of year balance to stand at just under £2000 once the accounts are completed. There had been no major expenditure this year and costs were running at c£600-£700 pa. The teamwork to paint the interior had saved a lot of money and the plan is probably to repeat this for the exterior, but seeking quotes first. Ann Tarlton was thanked for her help in obtaining the donation of replacement chairs. Peter Workman noted that the Flower Show had £1000 in reserve should it be needed for the Village Hall.

6. Police Report - no representative present

Paul Hancock had left Tetbury and is replaced by PC Leah Davis and PCSO Sue Fellows. PC Hancock had forwarded a report which stated that there had been 2 reported crimes, both burglaries (at the church and to a shed).

7. Village Issues - update

Cllr Gregg mentioned that there is a limited grant of £2000 available to each District Councillor for defibrillators and the Council is researching the related issues, such as training, location, cost and a rota for use and maintenance. Cllr Mitchell reported that, following a meeting with Mike Barton of GCC, the Grove Park Estate had made changes to the ground level at the bridleway gates, to improve access in response to a complaint about the difficulty of entering from Yew Tree. Changes would not stop illegal motorbike use, which should be reported to the police.

8. Open Forum

Roads: It was reported that there had been a poor level of response from Amey despite repeated engagement over several months on potholes and erosion of verges. There were multiple reports of dangerous potholes on various roads in and around the village and damage to vehicles and cyclists was increasingly likely. County Cllr Hicks mentioned that Richard Gray (CDC) is responsible for commissioning work on Amey and he offered to help arrange a meeting to discuss the work needed. Grove Park had been very helpful in addressing issues caused by delivery lorries. In some places the road substructure is inadequate.

Broadband: Cllr Gegg reported that Fastershire had commissioned Gigaclear as its provider and a contract is now ready for signing. Cherington is in their phase 3 delivery plan, as is Rodmarton. She encouraged everyone to register on the Fastershire website to receive email notification. There are no details on cost as yet. Although the County Council grant remains unspent, the money is committed. Cllrs Parsons and Hicks explained that the last 5% of provision is the most complex to deliver but the aim is to achieve 100% by 2019. District Cllr Parsons had asked to be involved in Phase 3 planning.

Signs: Zac Curtis had cleaned the village signs last year and noted that they are in need of work again. Cllr Hicks advised raising this with Richard Gray.

Housing: Work had not progressed and there are concerns that the village lacks a shop or rural transport and so was not sustainable. New housing would require availability of a suitable site.

Future social events: There is an initiative (The Great Get Together - see website) to encourage community events across the country on 17/18 June, the anniversary of the attack on Jo Cox MP. There was support for organising a ticketed barbecue at Coxes Farm, with thanks to Cllr Arden.

Cllr Mitchell thanked all the councillors and the Clerk for their continued hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.15am