

# CHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Beverley Rymer, 11 Rectory Lane, Avening, Tetbury GL8 8NN  
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Chairman - Cllr Mike Mitchell

## **Minutes of the Cherington Annual Parish Meeting held on April 7th 2018 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 Stephen Hirst, District Cllr Richard Morgan, Members of the Public

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Cllr Sharpe, Mr Barnard, Mr Branch
- 2. To approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting April 2017** – Agreed and signed

### **3. Chairman's Report – Cllr Mitchell**

Cllr Mitchell paid tribute to Mrs Newton who had been a significant support to the village over many years. He introduced the new County and District Councillors and praised the long service of District Cllr Parsons who had sadly died in September. He thanked all those involved in the organisation of the Flower Show and remarked on the increasing membership of the Cricket Club. He welcomed the new Rector of Avening and Cherington. There had been a number of successful village events (the Christmas tree and a fund raising Christmas Fair at Trull among them); the Chairman and Cllr Gegg were both thanked for their work on these. Recent snowfall had damaged roads; some has been patched but more remains to be done. He concluded by thanking the Cllrs and Parish Clerk for their continuing support through a positive year for the village.

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

District Cllr Morgan also paid tribute to District Cllr Parsons. He reported that Cotswold DC's decision to share some services with other local councils (by creating Publica) is flexible and is already delivering multi-million pound savings. CDC has frozen council tax (21st lowest in the country), car park and green bin charges. Car parking is to be free in all CDC car parks after 3pm and CDC is investing in electric car charging points and decked parking in Waterloo (£15m budgeted). On standard measures of efficiency CDC is no. 1 in the country. Tesco removed recycling facilities at Tetbury and Cirencester because of misuse but town councils are trying to find new locations; CDC's recycling rate of 59.6% places it 13th out of 350 councils.

District Cllr Morgan supported the Chesterton development because it offered the best balance of housing and infrastructure (including a new school, leisure facilities, car parking, industrial units and road improvements). If councils fail to plan housing then central government will step in and decide on location. Chesterton will include approx 735 affordable, integrated housing units (out of 2350) over a 20 year period. It is staged, with strong legal contractual obligations to provide infrastructure, and housing will cover a range of sizes, rental and Help to Buy.

County Cllr Hirst reported that the GCC budget (see website) has significant investment in FY1819. Highways contracts will be split, with Amey ceasing general

maintenance in March 2019 (5 companies are short-listed, with a decision due in September). Tarmac is now responsible for structural maintenance and the revived lengthsman scheme will clear gullies, prune trees and fill holes, though the parish council can take action re overhanging trees. GCC is holding contractors to account on reports of road damage e.g. potholes, which should be reported at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-rights-of-way/roads/report-it/>

In response to questions (and as Mayor of Tetbury), County Cllr Hirst mentioned that new development in Tetbury has increased traffic through the town, although its position on the edge of town mitigates this. There will be a new doctors' surgery, the primary school will be expanded while the senior school has sufficient capacity. The Council is trying to boost tourism.

## **5. Village Hall Report**

Mr Curtis reported steady bookings but encouraged villagers to use the hall more. An access ramp had been provided. After flooding, a fabric report has recommended renewal of flooring and under-floor ventilation; quotes are being sought. Two events are planned - a concert on 21st April (tickets available) and a band with dancing later in the year. The parish council has information on grant funding.

## **6. Police Report**

PCSO Fellows discussed the police report (see website). She urged residents to sign up for Community Alerts from the police and provided registration details (see website). This is not to be confused with the methods of *reporting incidents* which remain. Asked about thefts from sheds, she recommended shed alarms and marking property boldly with postcode and house number e.g. with Hammerite paint, as a deterrent. Thieves are cloning car number plates and so are difficult to detect, though there is a tracking camera in the area. CCTV for domestic use is now reasonably priced and can be relayed to smart phones; security companies can provide details and consulting other users is a sensible first step. Cirencester Police Station reception staff can demonstrate security equipment (see list on website). They are available 9am-5pm; please park outside and avoid 1pm-2pm. PCSO Fellows can be contacted at [Susan.Fellows@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Susan.Fellows@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk)

## **7. Village Issues - update**

*Defibrillator:* Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Gegg sought the opinion of the meeting on provision of a defibrillator. The location, probably in the Village Hall entrance, would be approved by South West Ambulance. It will cost £1750, but the council would apply to CDC for a £500 grant and had received a very generous donation. There would be additional maintenance, electricity charge and first aid training costs. The meeting agreed that the council should pursue this work.

*Broadband:* Cllr Mitchell reported that Gigaclear cabling work is imminent in May. Residents mentioned that they are already using various 4G solutions, generally with initial outlay of c £300-£400 and ongoing c £30-£35 rental. Villagers will have options.

## **8. Open Forum**

*Car parking:* The car park surface needs renewing and gravelling work was agreed.

*Village well:* The meeting was pleased to accept Mrs Workman's offer to remove the overgrown plants and provide suitable replacements. There were requests to consider planting spring bulbs and respond to email re the mowing rota.

*Email contacts & Data Protection legislation:* Cllr Gegg will seek villagers' permission to use their email addresses, to ensure compliance with forthcoming legislation. She will use blind copy to ensure that addresses remain private.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.35am