



Burbage Parish Council

Notes of the Burbage Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11 May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Burbage

PRESENT: Cllrs Colling (in the chair), Acheson, Giddings, Pearce, Rowland, Thornton, Chris Wheeler, Joyce Turner (Clerk), Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Martin Cook, Nicola Coupe, Gavin Ketchen, Teresa Herbert, Reverend Andy Thewlis, Louise Clarke, and 24 members of the public

1 Chairman's introduction

Parish Council achievements

Cllr Colling welcomed everyone to the meeting, and said that it was good to see so many representatives from other groups in the village at the meeting, as he felt it would be beneficial to the whole parish if all the different groups could work together more.

He then introduced the Parish Councillors, and welcomed Cllr Andrew Fellows on to the Parish Council, following the recent elections. He informed the meeting that Cllr Tony Parmenter and Cllr Richard Lewis had stood down at the end of the term of office, and thanked them very much for all their hard work for the Parish Council. Cllr Parmenter had been a member of the Parish Council for more than 20 years, and his local knowledge and village experience will be greatly missed as they have been invaluable in providing background for some of the issues that have arisen. Cllr Richard Lewis took charge of the planning processes, and his legal expertise added greatly to the advice he was able to give to the Parish Council.

The Chairman then presented details of the Parish Council finances for 2016/17, showing where the income had come from, and how it had been spent during the year. There have been several expenses for the completion and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, where outside experts have been employed, but these have been largely covered, so far, by a grant from Wiltshire Council. It is hoped that there will still be a large surplus from the funds originally set aside for the Neighbourhood Plan, which will then be spent on other projects in the village. The village will be asked for suggestions as to the best areas to use any remaining money from this fund.

The Chairman has organised a team of people to help test and maintain all the defibrillators in the parish, and this is working well. The defibrillators are now of an age when they require some maintenance of the replaceable parts, and this is being done as soon as is necessary for each one.

The Parish Council time has been working hard on getting a 40mph speed limit in Durley, and this has finally been approved. Wiltshire Council will cover most of the £3,000 cost of implementing the speed limit, but the Parish Council has to contribute 10%.

The Parish Council is also finalising the Emergency Plan, to be able to provide essential services and pre-planned actions in the event of any major emergency.

The main concerns of the Parish Council going forward are maintaining the playgrounds and pathways; appropriate care of Seymour Pond and Westcourt Pond; the potential provision of a CCTV system on the outskirts of the village; a possible 20mph limit in certain areas of Burbage; and the lack of Parish Councillors. The Parish Council currently has 3 vacancies, and the Chairman said he would really like to have some representation from the outer parts of the parish, particularly Durley, Savernake, and Ram Alley. He asked anyone who might be interested to contact either him or the Clerk.

The Chairman finished his introduction by asking the village to notify the Parish Council of any problems within the parish, by contacting the Clerk. If there are issues with items or services looked after by Wiltshire Council then people are asked to report them directly to Wiltshire Council via the MyWiltshire webpage.

2 Burbage News

Gavin Ketchen asked the village to contribute articles for the monthly magazine. He mentioned the Burbage News Quarterly, which is an on-line magazine, which is particularly suited to articles with a lot of photographs; or to longer pieces than can be accommodated easily in the monthly magazine. There is a link to the on-line magazine on the village website.

Mr Ketchen then updated the meeting on the arrangements that are being made for the Gala Week, running from Saturday 1st July to Sunday 9th July. A large number of events have already been organised, and details of those can be found in the Burbage News. Anyone wanting to add further events should contact Gavin or the committee, and their event will be added to the published timetable.

Gavin was thanked for all the work that he does for the village, particularly for the time and effort put into the Burbage News, and into organising local events. The meeting gave him a round of applause, in appreciation of all his efforts.

3 Police Report

WPC Teresa Herbert began by outlining the new policing structure in the Pewsey Vale area. 10 officers now cover Marlborough and the Pewsey villages, with an inspector heading up the team. This is felt to be working very well, and to be an efficient way of providing policing support in the area. The police have also been equipped with body video cameras and with tasers. The video cameras, in particular, are a very useful tool.

She told the meeting about the new Community Messaging service. Members of the public can sign up to this; and the police can then send texts and emails to members in each area whenever necessary.

WPC Herbert reported on some of the police activity in the area over the last year, and requested that if anyone notices anything suspicious, could they please report it to the police, by phoning 101.

The full police report will be published on the Parish Council website.

4 Wiltshire Council

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Stuart Wheeler on retaining his seat at the recent council elections, and welcomed him to the meeting. Cllr Wheeler then gave an update on what Wiltshire Council had been working on over the past year, and what its plans are for the coming year. The most notable success in the local area has been the full resurfacing of the badly damaged areas of the road to Marlborough, which had been the subject of many local complaints.

The full Wiltshire Council report will be published on the Parish Council website.

5 Neighbourhood Planning

Martin Cook gave an update on the current status of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is almost complete, apart from three plans which have been requested from Wiltshire Council, which are still being waited for. Once these have been added, the Plan will then be passed to Wiltshire Council, and will be out of the hands of the Burbage Steering Group. Wiltshire Council will arrange another 6 week consultation period, during which time parishioners will be able to send Wiltshire Council any comments or concerns that they want Wiltshire Council to be aware of. Once that 6 week consultation is complete, the Plan is passed to an independent examiner for a full review. The Burbage Steering Group then get another month to deal with any suggested changes. After that, Wiltshire Council will organise the referendum on the final Plan, and it will be a straightforward vote on whether to accept it or not. It is hoped that this vote will take place sometime in September.

Councillor Stuart Wheeler thanked the Steering Group, and particularly Mr Martin Cook, for the huge amount of work that has been done to get the Plan to this stage, all on a voluntary basis.

6 Burbage Parish Church

The Chairman welcomed the Reverend Andy Thewlis to the meeting, and to the village. Andy began by outlining his previous incumbency, in the Channel Islands, and contrasting it with the way things are done on the mainland. There, the Church is very much involved in the life of the whole community, and this is something that he would very much like to bring to Burbage parish. He echoed the Chairman's sentiments about the various, very active, village groups working together as much as possible, to identify the needs in the parish, working out how they can be addressed, and then getting on and doing it. He finished by reminding the parish that Burbage parish church is very much open, and does still hold regular services, to which everyone is invited.

7 Burbage Primary School

Nicola Coupe, the Principal, began by paying tribute to a Year 6 pupil, Mikey Britten, who had fought a brave battle with cancer, but who sadly recently passed away. The

school is creating a butterfly garden which will serve as a quiet, reflective space for anyone to visit and will be in Mikey's name.

She then gave an update on the progress of the school. There are now 138 pupils at the school, up from 132 this time last year. Everyone who has applied to the school for next year has got a place. All the children moving on to secondary school have also got places at their first choice schools. Burbage Primary School is a catchment school for St Johns, Pewsey Vale, John O'Gaunt school in Hungerford, and Wellington Academy. It has also supported the "11+" style entrance exams for parents who want their children to go to the independent sector.

The school is using every available teaching space, including the outside environment. Plans for an additional classroom are underway thanks to the Section 106 monies from the village new build. It is hoped this will be in place by October half term at the latest. It will be for the youngest children.

The school offers both a Breakfast and After School care club, both of which are extremely popular and well-attended. These are of great help to working families.

The budget for schools is based on Number on Roll from the previous October, so it lags a year behind. Together with cuts in budget, the school is very short of cash.

They cannot afford photocopier paper currently!. They have a number of fundraising plans – including the Head teacher doing a tandem skydive (facing a childhood fear of heights) on Saturday 17th June.

The full school report will be published on the Parish Council website.

8 Burbage Village Hall

Louise Clarke, one of the Trustees of the Village Hall, gave an update on its current status. The new Committee are looking to improve the village hall. They now have 8 Trustees in place, and 12 volunteers, plus 2 staff. There is currently no Chairman; and they are looking for a new Treasurer, as the current one wishes to stand down.

Louise thanked the 80+ people who attended the recent meeting about the future of the village hall. The overall consensus was that people want to keep the facility that they have now, and restore it, rather than demolish it and try to build something new. The main focus, therefore, is on maintenance of the existing building.

The Committee is looking at problems with the roof and the gully, first. Then it wants to improve the kitchen and the bar area, so that the hall can be used for larger events, such as wedding receptions. The team is looking at fundraising possibilities. A grass cutting contract has already been agreed for the next 3 years. An engineer has been recruited to go over the previous Hall survey, to make sure that the building is fit for use.

If anyone wishes to get involved with the Village Hall, please contact Lousie.

9 CCTV proposal for Burbage village

The Chairman outlined a proposal to install a CCTV system on the outskirts of the village, following a suggestion from the police. The intention would be to put one camera on each road out of the village, facing outwards, so that the police could, if necessary, monitor traffic in and out of the village following any criminal activity.

This would require 6 or 7 cameras, digitally linked to a remote server which would be accessed by the police, and not by village residents. The approximate cost is likely to be around £25,000.

There was considerable discussion at the meeting about this proposal, and a variety of views were expressed. The meeting attendees were generally supportive of the proposal. The Parish Council will continue to explore the possible options, but will ask the village for its views before taking any decisions on whether to actually implement a system.

10 Summing Up

Cllr Colling thanked everyone for coming. He said that Burbage needs people to take part in doing things in the village. The Parish Council and the Village Hall are both short-handed, and need volunteers to come forward.

There being no questions, the meeting finished at 21.40 hrs with the Chairman thanking all participants.