

**MINUTES OF CHILMARK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10 MAY
2012 AT 7PM IN THE READING ROOM**

Present: Chairman: Cllr P Boyles, Cllr E Jack, Cllr L Taylor, Cllr Sir R Packer, Cllr M Lennard

Public Present: 3

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and accepted apologies from the Vice Chairman, E Pelham, Cllr N Hayward and Wilts Cllr B Wayman.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 19 May 2011 were proposed for adoption by Cllr ML and seconded by Sir RP and agreed.
3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
Cllr ML proposed Cllr Patrick Boyles as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Sir RP and all agreed. The Chairman proposed Cllr Elizabeth Jack as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr LT and all agreed.

4. Annual Reports

Chairman's Report to Annual Assembly

Good Evening everyone,

Welcome to our Annual Assembly, which is additional and separate from our regular Parish Council meetings, and where there is an opportunity for any of the organisations within the Parish of Chilmark and Ridge to provide parishioners with information on their activities.

This meeting also gives me the chance to report on the business carried out by your Parish Council on behalf of our residents - as well as the opportunity for questions to be put from the floor on village matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to members of the Parish Council for their continued support, to Tim Thompson for his work as our internal auditor, our Parish Clerk Jenny MacDougall, for all her work in dealing with the management of Parish Council matters and last but not least to Cllr Bridget Wayman our Ward Member for all her work in representing us at Wiltshire Council.

Members of the Parish Council have represented Chilmark and Ridge at various events and meetings throughout the year and have tried to keep abreast of changes resulting from the change to a unitary authority system of local government.

Concern continues to be expressed about the incidence of excess speed on the B3089 and to this end the Parish Council has been working with the Tisbury Community Safety Partnership and Wiltshire Police to access regular use of Speed Indication Devices and increased enforcement of the 30mph limit.

During the year we have provided support from the precept to The Reading Room Management Committee and to the Chilmark Playground Management Committee, with both groups making very valuable contributions to village life. We have also supported and assisted Chilmark Horticultural Society, Chilmark Cricket Club Juniors and the Chilmark Playground Management Committee to access community funding from Wiltshire Council South West Area Board. We would urge all Chilmark community groups and organisations to give very serious consideration to making suitable applications for funding.

Finally I am pleased to report that Chilmark Parish Council, with financial assistance from Wiltshire Council South West Area Board, is active in the organisation of community celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The Reading Room Representative – Chrissie Eden

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I was on “overload” last year, I had a senior moment (or an intellectual lapse as some prefer to call it) and forgot to come! So I do apologise and I am just going to précis the two years together.

Firstly can I say a “big thank you” for your most generous cheque which pays our annual insurance. We do not presume that this will be done on an annual basis but we do appreciate it enormously.

Since May 2010 we have had two Christmas Bazaars, two Bring and Buy Sales, two quiz nights, a Bingo Evening, a Mini Market and a Grand Sale and Cake Stall. Each time we have made more money than the previous year and have introduced more raffles as this improves our income.

Our regular bookings, the Art Group, Social Stitchers, Chilmark Opera and CADS – the Chilmark Amateur Dramatic Society continue to support us. However, we have lost the yoga and the Zumba classes. The Youth Club ran for eighteen months but sadly came to an end.

During this time we have had to pay for electrical repairs, two new night storage heaters, three new water heaters; jackdaw proofing and clearing gutters. We are in the process of buying new curtain rails for the stage in time for the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee CADS production.

There are times when I worry about the future of the Reading Room because there is no point in heating a building if no one is going to use it. It is a case of use it or lose it. However, the village always come up trumps on the day. We are going to advertise now in the hope of increasing our bookings.

I do hope that we have your continued support and that of your committee in future, because it means a lot to us.

The Chairman thanked the committee for their hard work to refurbish the Reading Room to such a high standard. He enquired if there are any financial concerns at present? Chris confirmed that their bank balance was healthy and that the parishioners support the village fundraising. However they were very grateful for the PC grant. The Chmn recommended applying to the Area Board for a further grant but requests over £1,000 have to be match funded. Chrissie said that the kitchen is in need of refurbishment and Sally Butcher suggested they apply for grants under £1000 and undertake the project in small stages.

The Playground Committee Representative - Sally Butcher Chilmark Playground Management Committee

2011 was a busy year for the Playground Committee. We held two fundraising events, a Duck Race and a Pimms stall at the Flower show. We received donations from the George Young Charity and grants from Chilmark Parish Council and from the Wiltshire Council Community Fund.

The duck race is a popular village event and was well supported. We hoped to restage the event this year, but the dry winter lead to the Winterbourne drying up early and there was not enough water for the race.

The toddler swing seats, which were part of the community Area grant in 2010, were installed in the spring. We applied for another Community Area Grant in 2011 which contributed to the cost of the tyre crossing, which was installed in the summer.

In September, we were lucky enough to be awarded R2 funding by the Parish Council, and a wobble bridge, some stepping stones and a balance beam were installed.

We also reconsidered our insurance and decided that a solely Public Liability policy was more cost effective than our previous arrangement, so managed to make a significant saving on our overheads.

As always we are very grateful for the support of Chilmark Parish Council, and also the Parochial Church Council for funding from the George Young Charity. The fact that we do have support from local organisations and income from our fundraising enables us to pay our regular expenses and also helps to secure grants from other organisations.

The Chairman commented on the excellent new equipment in the playground and congratulated the committee. Sally Butcher said it looks complete but they need a seat for parents to sit on whilst their children play. Various helpful suggestions were made.

4. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2011/12

The Clerk/RFO presented the accounts for the financial year 2011-12 as per attached summary. The balance b/f from March 2011 was £7,543.74. The precept was set at £6,500 and we received £192.00 in rent from grazing at Forbes Field making the total income for the year: £14,235.74.

Running down the list of expenditure the total was £7176.17. After the final Bank Reconciliation this leaves a balance of £6,519.57 which tallies with the bank statement. The Funds for Forbes Field of £2,276 and those for the Millennium Cross of £1,400.24 are ring fenced.

The Clerk mentioned in reply to a question from Cllr Sir RP that VAT would be reclaimed this coming year. Last year according to the government regulations there was an insufficient amount to make a claim.

The Chairman explained that PAYE and NIC is being implemented in accord with new government regulations.

The Chairman also explained that the rent from grazing Forbes Field was deliberately low, in keeping with Miss Forbes wishes that it would not become a commercial enterprise. As part of the agreement, the lessee is required to maintain the boundary fences and cut back the foliage. Miss Forbes willed that it should be kept for posterity as an open space for parishioners which cannot be developed and is protected by a ransom strip.

The accounts were proposed by Cllr Sir RP, seconded by Cllr ML agreed and signed.

5. AOB

None.

The meeting ended at 7.35pm.

The date of the next Annual Assembly will be Thursday 9 May 2013.

Date:

Chairman

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