

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 9 MAY 2018 AT 7PM IN
THE READING ROOM**

Public present: 15

Public Forum

Tim Barter asked where the emergency equipment is to be kept. The Chairman explained that it is split in to two packages and one will be held at a farm in Ridge and the other in the Reading Room. The Reading Room Cttee has a set of keys, Jenny Gavin and Sarah Miller are the holders. Michael Eke will convene a meeting of the emergency group to try out procedures and the equipment but a replacement for him is required as he is moving to another area.

Sarah Miller has received confirmation that Wiltshire Council will no longer provide a free rubbish collection service from village halls. Wilts Cllr Wayman clarified that it is commercial waste that the Cttee will have to pay for as Wilts Council has to make savings of £27million this year.

Tim Barter thanked Wilts Cllr Wayman for the recent free parking in Salisbury and the new road surface in Dinton and Teffont. Parking is to be free from midday – 6pm onwards after next week.

It was commented that oil tanks are being targeted via google earth by thieves and so need to be properly alarmed.

1. Appointment of Chairman

The usual protocol is that, if present, the chair of the Parish Council should chair the Annual Assembly. Patrick Boyles was proposed by L Taylor and seconded by E Jack.

2. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Welcome everyone to Chilmark's Annual Parish Assembly. This meeting, which is separate and different from the Annual Parish Council meeting, is when the Parish Council Chair presents a report to the electorate on the activities of the Council over the last year.

It also provides an opportunity for any community organisations to inform the meeting about their activities, achievements and future plans.

The meeting can, hopefully, be less formal than a Parish Council Meeting and questions, comments and observations are very welcome at any time on matters of interest within the community.

It is normal for the Annual Parish Assembly to be chaired by the current chair of the Parish Council – so subject to any objection, I will carry out that role.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place following the closure of this meeting and of course everyone is welcome to stay to observe the proceedings should they wish to do so.

Apologies were accepted from: Mr and Mrs M Eke, Mrs Pelham and Mrs McGrail

3. **The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 10 May 2017** Cllr LT proposed, Cllr ID seconded and they were agreed and signed – these will be uploaded to the Parish Council website, displayed on the notice boards and copies are available in the Reading Room tonight.

4. **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Chairman

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The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place following the closure of this meeting and of course everyone is welcome to stay to observe the proceedings should they wish to do so.

So, to get matters underway I would ask that the meeting accept and approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly. These have been uploaded to our website, displayed on our notice boards and copies are available in the Reading Room tonight.

Parish Council Report;

The year started with two vacancies on the Parish Council but I am pleased to say that we are at present at full strength with Anne McGrail and Ian Dennis joining us by co-option in August and November respectively.

We held our usual six meetings during the year and dealt with the normal tasks required to discharge our duties, including comments on planning matters and responding on behalf of residents in respect of various matters of concern to the village.

Sometimes achieving a favourable result, but in other cases continuing to work towards a suitable outcome over the longer term.

These include ongoing work to increase highway safety, reduce flood risk, and minimise HGV access through the village – often a somewhat long hard slog.

This year saw the completion of an updated village emergency plan, undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council by Mr. Michael Eke who gave his time and energy to get a fully comprehensive plan in place. Michael also prepared, submitted and steered a grant application to Southern and Scottish Energy on our behalf - with a tremendous result. We now have in place emergency lighting, communication and power generation equipment for use in emergency situations – hopefully as a reserve, but on hand if needed. Our thanks are due for a job well done, the only downside being that Michael and Jenny are in process of moving on and we will need someone to continue his work.

Over the years we have attempted, in overall terms, to raise through the precept only what we spend each year. However, it seems that with a continual pressure on Local Authority funding it is likely that Parish Councils will be called upon to raise more money themselves and not be able to fund a great deal from Local Authority grants. In our case it probably means that we will not be able to provide the same quality and scope of playground equipment that we currently enjoy - unless we start to build up reserves for that purpose. Members of the Parish Council would welcome input from residents on this matter.

A statement of accounts will be presented by our Parish Clerk before the end of the meeting and you will be able to see the current position.

My thanks as usual to all members for giving of their time and effort in support of the community – and once again to Jenny MacDougall, our Parish Clerk for her guidance and assistance in running our meetings and for preparation of the accounts - along with Mr. James Lock who kindly agreed to continue as our internal auditor.

That concludes my report and I would be happy to take any questions or observations before we hear from our other village organisations and groups.

The Reading Room Report from Sarah Miller Chair of the Reading Room Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the Reading Room's past year which has been a good one, though relatively quiet.

Fund-raising events have included a popular children's Halloween Party, a Fish 'n Chips and Quiz evening, a fascinating talk on the history of costume, and our most successful Christmas Bazaar to date.

We've been lucky to have the ongoing support of our regular hirers including Social Stitchers, the Art Group, a weekly Pilates class, the Wednesday morning exercise group and of course the Parish Council. Plus, as of a few weeks ago, the Reading Room has become the weekly band practice venue for a local young group, Stolen Jam. So we're catering for all ages.

Essential works in the last year included repairs and damp proofing to one of the external walls, at a cost of £990. Looking ahead, and having said at last year's Annual Assembly that the Disabled Toilet was to be redecorated by volunteer committee members, it has subsequently been agreed that a 'professional decorator' should be employed for this job. This work is expected to take place in the next couple of months. And at some point in the coming year, we will need to look at the replacement of the overhead strip lighting which is gradually failing through age.

Our financial year runs from 1st October to 30th September. Thanks to our Treasurer's rigorous budgeting and recommended Reserves policy, the bank account is in a healthy condition, with a balance of £7,828 at our last year end. This was partly down to a number of generous one-off donations.

We are grateful for the Parish Council's £500 grant awarded in recent years to help cover the expense of our annual insurance policy. We have in fact seen a small drop in the annual premium for the 2nd year running but, as predicted last year, we are now experiencing a sharp increase in electricity bills following rate rises. An additional running cost, from July this year, will be a bill for waste disposal in the wake of Wiltshire Council's decision to stop free rubbish collection from village halls.

Looking ahead, future fund-raising events are to include a Pop-Up Cream Tea, a possible barbecue in September and the return of the Sea Shanty group Jenkins' Ear in November, as well as the repeat of the children's Halloween Party.

In recent weeks, we were sad to learn of the death of Kath Acreman, of Fonthill Bishop, who was a stalwart member of the Reading Room committee for more than 20 years. The management committee now has nine members. We thank the Parish Council for its ongoing support.

The Chilmark Playground Management Committee Report from Sally Butcher

The financial year for the Playground committee runs from the 1st January to 31st December each year and the accounts for 2017 are attached.

In 2017, we benefitted from some funds from the youth club that used to be run in Chilmark. The club closed and there was a balance of funds remaining which the club kindly donated to us. We continued to receive contributions from the George Young Trust as well as the grant from Chilmark Parish Council. We had two fundraisers last year: a duck race for which we were blessed with lovely weather, and a stall at the flower show. We paid our usual expenses of a playground inspection by RoSPA and public liability insurance.

The bark surface installed in 2015 continues to be in good order. We try to keep on top of the weed growth in the play area by manual removal and occasional herbicide spraying. At the moment there is a broken swing at the playground for which a replacement has been ordered. As we have relatively comfortable funds at the moment, we are looking to buy an extra piece of equipment for the area.

At the end of last year, we designed a survey which was distributed with Village Voice and also available for completion on line. The main reason for this was to try to establish whether the people of the village wanted a play area at the playing field, as it is very difficult to assess the amount of times it is used. We received 29 responses to the survey and here is a summary of the views expressed:

- Over a third of responders had no children or visitors who used the playground.
- Only 8 had children who used the playground.
- 10 had grandchildren or visiting relatives/friends who used the playground.
- Only a third of users visit more than once a month.
- Nearly 80% wanted the play area to remain as a playground.
- Were the playground not to remain, the most popular alternative uses for the area were outdoor gym equipment and netball or basketball posts.

- Most knew that there is another playground in Chilmark but 10 people felt that Chilmark doesn't need two playgrounds.

The results showed that there is a desire in the village for a play area at the playing field, and it is valued by a majority of those who returned the survey. We were given some useful contact details by some of the responders.

We are grateful as always for all the help and support that we receive from Chilmark Parish Council and I would like to pass on our thanks to all members of the Parish Council for their ongoing support.

Accounts for the year 1st January to 31st December 2017

Date	Details	In	Out	Balance
01/01/17	Opening Balance			£3,562.21
13/03/17	Donation - Youth Club	£217.33		
29/03/17	Donation - George Young Charity	£35.00		
03/04/17	Fundraising - Duck race	£282.00		
08/06/17	Donation - George Young Charity	£35.00		
17/07/17	Grant -Chilmark Parish Council	£500.00		
06/09/17	Fundraising - Flower show stall	£78.10		
10/10/17	RoSPA inspection		£96.60	
30/10/17	Insurance		£183.91	
28/11/17	Survey printing		£30.00	
		Total	£1,147.43	£310.51
31/12/17	Closing balance			£4,399.13

The Cricket Club Report from the Chairman Carl Jacobs

The 2018 season was the normal mixed bag of cricket with both highs and lows. A total of 38 different adult players played cricket for Chilmark in 2017 and these were of mixed ages and abilities competing regularly. It was great to see the younger players continuing to become good cricketers and still wanting to play for Chilmark. The standard of cricketing teas was fantastic and often eclipsed the rather ordinary but fun cricket on display on the field.

We are looking forward to the 2018 season and we will welcome a new team to Chilmark representing the Victoria & Albert Museum. Other highlights include a cricket tour with a prestigious game at Chatsworth and a drinks party at Cleaves Farm on the 14th June an event to which we hope many of the Chilmark villagers will attend.

On behalf of the club I would like to say thank you for the support offered to the club by the Chilmark village community. The club continues to be strong and viable providing regular fun and sociable exercise in a beautiful setting.

Village Voice Report from Sir Peter Jennings on behalf of the Management

Committee

I am pleased to make my annual report to the Parish Council.

The printed edition of The Village Voice continues to be very popular and in addition we have a number of online contacts, both in the village and outside it in the local community. The print run has been reduced marginally from 250 to 240, we continue to produce 10 editions a year.

We have recently begun to include Planning Applications and this has proved a welcome addition. Also, we are able to spread up to date news electronically to those registered with us; an example of this has been an alert about recent thefts of fuel oil.

We have held our advertisements at their current level for some time now, as we do not want to overload issues with them, but this has meant that we are dependent on grants and donations to balance our books. It follows that we are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for the support you give us.

The Chilmark Horticultural Society Report from Jo Scott, Acting Chair

It is a pleasure to report another very successful year for the Society. Aided by some wonderful weather the annual show proved to be a wonderful success, achieving record takings from the show. The Show made £2,104.64 which enabled us to donate £2000 to our nominated charity for the year 'Team Rubicon'. As it happens, this proved to be an apt choice, as the funds were provided just as hurricanes ripped through the Caribbean necessitating several support teams to be sent out. We were also able to give Naomi House Children's Hospital £77 from the bear raffle. Due to the number of contributions we held an additional Bric a Brac Sale which raised £192.94. Thanks to Chrissie Eden we had another fabulous wreath making evening prior to Christmas which was not only immensely enjoyable but raised £180.00

Future activities of the Society were discussed at the AGM following which a questionnaire was sent to all houses in the Village seeking opinions and offers of help. Two key members of the Show Committee have left the village and without offers of help to run the show, the decision was taken to have a rest year this year. Smaller scale events are still being discussed but the focus is now on 2019 which is the 400th anniversary of village events on Fairmead and provides a good opportunity for a village celebration. Whilst the large scale show was much enjoyed it does take a lot of work to organise which needs to be shared by a team of people. Suggestions of a way forward are always welcome!

Jo Scott (Acting Chair) April 2018

Wilts County Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report

Looking back to the Council's May elections last year, I am honoured to represent the Nadder & East Knoyle Division again. It is a huge privilege and I am always happy to try to help where I can.

I am also extremely pleased to have been invited to join Wiltshire Council's Cabinet with the Highways, Transport and Waste portfolio. It has been a steep learning curve, but, on the whole, enjoyable and also helps gain a bit more recognition for our part of the County. It is also the portfolio that touches everyone as we all use the roads and all have our rubbish collected.

2017/18 saw the continued increase in expenditure in major highway maintenance. £21m was spent last year resurfacing 181km of roads, making a total of 761km since 2014, about 17% of the network. We still have some way to go to reduce the historic backlog but there has been a significant improvement since we increased spending 4 years ago.

The reintroduction of the Parish Steward scheme continues to give good levels of satisfaction for parishes. Issues can be reported by anyone on the MyWiltshire system (either on the Council's website or by using the MyWilts phone app) and are fed through directly to the parish stewards where they are matters that they can deal with and each parish can produce their own issues sheet that they can ask the Steward to attend to on their regular visits.

The parish stewards are also our gritter drivers and they have worked tirelessly over the winter gritting and clearing our roads. Even before we had snow, we had a lot of freezing nights and they were out gritting. Following that, the stewards were deployed until the middle of April purely on pothole filling. The combination of freezing and wet weather saw a jump in the number of potholes appearing. Last year over 9000 potholes were filled, with about half of them being done by the parish stewards.

Naturally, I have been very conscious of the pressures of the Council's budget, particularly from adult social care, as well as the reduction in government funding. Wiltshire is an ageing population, more so than many other counties, and demand for social care is rising. This, in turn, has added pressure on my budgets and I have had the unwelcome task of increasing parking charges. Surplus income from parking charges is used to support passenger transport, particularly rural bus services where they are uneconomic for the bus companies to run. These costs are increasing too, with fuel and salary increases and whereas many other counties have slashed their supported bus routes, Wiltshire is one of the few maintaining them.

I have found the waste portfolio similarly interesting. There is a myth I hear that all our waste goes to landfill, even stuff we recycle. It is simply not true. Very little goes to landfill, mostly only material that is inert, such as builders rubble or large items that cannot be recycled or sent to the Microbiological Treatment Plant in Westbury, such as mattresses. Landfill tax makes it prohibitively expensive. 50,000 tonnes of residual waste goes to the Lakeside waste to energy plant every year, and 60,000 tonnes goes to the MBT where it is converted into fuel. Recyclable materials are sorted and sent around the country to various different plants for recycling. There is an interesting map of the Council's waste section of the website which shows where all the recyclables are sent in the UK.

The Household Recycling Centres have all been refurbished to allow larger containers and improved traffic flows. This should reduce or stop traffic backing up on the access roads and prevent closures during operating hours when containers were changed.

You may have noticed that you received a leaflet with your council tax bill advising you that ID may be required to show you are a Wiltshire resident when you go to a Recycling Centre after 9th April. We estimate that by preventing materials being brought to our HRCs from outside the County will save about £200k but I have said that I will look at this again if there is a prolonged period of increased fly-tipping. I believe other counties have also introduced the ID requirement, so any of you going to Shaftesbury may be turned away.

As the vast majority of my Division lies with the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural beauty, I am pleased to be a member of the Cranborne Chase Partnership Panel. I feel very strongly about protecting and enhancing this beautiful landscape, particularly from inappropriate development. There is a balance to be had, however, in trying to achieve sustainable communities and I do support the provision of affordable housing to attract younger people and families where they can live closer to their employment and keep our village schools alive. We need younger people to prevent our villages from atrophy. It is however an uphill struggle to achieve acceptance

of this as I know to my cost from a very recent experience in another parish – you do need buy-in from the village.

I am always happy to try to help, so please let me know if there are any problems that need resolving and I will try my best to sort things out.

4. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2017/18

The Clerk explained in detail the breakdown of the accounts for the FY 2017-18. As at 31 March 2018 the total expenditure was £9,366.73 and the total receipts £18,561.52. After the final Bank Reconciliation the balance was £9,194.79. There were no unrepresented cheques. This compares favourably with the previous year when the balance brought forward was £8409.58.

Of note, last year was the equipment purchased for Emergency Planning. A grant of £2,659.94 was received from SSE to pay for this. £1,529.03 has been spent and £1,130.91 remains to be spent. Some vat is reclaimable on these items and the clerk is reclaiming £459.60 from HMRC.

Last year the precept was set at £7,300 and this coming financial year there is a slight increase to £7,750.

For the first time, PKF Littlejohn are the National External Auditors and the accounts have again been internally audited by James Lock. In accordance with regulations the electorate will be able to inspect the accounts from 2 July – 10 Aug inclusive and the forms will be posted on the website before 2 July. This Parish Council qualifies as a smaller authority where the gross income or expenditure did not exceed £25,000. This means that we can certify it as exempt for a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit Regulation 2015. These documents will be presented at the AGM to follow.

The Chmn mentioned that the balance includes funds ringfenced for the Millennium Cross and Forbes Field. There being no further questions, the meeting was closed.

Date:

Chairman