

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 15 MAY 2019 AT 7PM IN THE READING ROOM

Public present: 11

Public Forum

No comment.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Patrick Boyles chaired the meeting as per the normal protocol that states the chair of the Parish Council, if present, should chair the Annual Assembly.

2. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES OR ABSENCE**

Good evening everyone, welcome to our Annual Parish Assembly, which will be followed by our Annual Parish Council meeting.

Two meetings – the first is when the Parish Council Chair presents a report to the village on the activities of the Parish Council and will invite questions and comments on the work of members over the last year. There will also be an opportunity for village organisations to inform the community about their activities, achievements and future plans.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will take place following the closure of this meeting and while the format is that of a formal meeting of the PC members, everyone is welcome to stay and observe the proceedings should they wish to do so.

Apologies were accepted from: Mrs M Philpott and Mr and Mrs G Miller.

3. **THE MINUTES ON THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 9 MAY 2018** The Chmn proposed the approval, Sir R Packer 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 2018/19**

The Chairman

The Report from the Chair of Chilmark Parish Council, Patrick Boyles

I am pleased to report that we are at our full strength of seven members. Ian Dennis left the Council due to work and career matters and was replaced by the co-option of Bev Small who joined us at our November meeting and Lynn Taylor re-located to Milton in Dorset and was replaced by the co-option of Morag Philpott who joined us at our January meeting. We held our usual six meetings during the year, and your members also attended at various Wiltshire Council events to represent the views of our community on matters ranging from flood prevention, planning applications, highways maintenance and safety issues.

Members have continued in our efforts to minimise HGV traffic through the village, explore possible measures to improve road safety along Becketts Lane and The Street, liaised with Wiltshire Council Officers on behalf of concerned residents on planning matters and have pushed for the correct classification and status on the built-up section of Kents Hill.

With Mike Knight leaving the village, we have concluded a new 3-year grazing agreement for the Three Acre Field that was generously donated to the Parish Council by the Late Diana Forbes. This new agreement will ensure that her wish for the field to be used for

grazing and access land in the long term can be met with no net cost to the precept at present.

I would very much welcome questions and observations on these and any of the normal day to day matters that we deal with, but I would like to draw specific attention the following:

1. During our assembly last year members asked for some input from the community about the level of our reserves and potential increases to our precept (or local taxation) raised through the Council Tax process. The matter was also highlighted through the Village Voice magazine but only a very limited response was forthcoming.
2. Our Parish Clerk, Jenny MacDougal, will present a statement of accounts during the Assembly which will show that overall the precept raised is, in general terms, roughly equivalent to what we spend each year. Our free unencumbered reserves that we hold are roughly half of our normal budgeted expenditure - which means that any large unexpected costs might require a large “one off” increase to the precept as opposed to a number of smaller increases to build up a buffer in advance of need.
3. We are continuing to press Wiltshire Council on action to reduce HGV traffic through the central part of the village. Improved signage has been put up on the A303, B3089 and A30 by Wiltshire Council to minimise HGV traffic to and from Tisbury - but we have been unable to obtain improvements to local directional signage in respect of EHD at the old RAF Chilmark site. The team at County Hall dealing with improvements to HGV routing has recently been disbanded and whilst the owners of the EHD site have been pro-active and helpful in the matter, it is an ongoing issue and we probably need to restart our efforts to obtain local informative signs. Should we be successful in this we will probably need to contribute significantly towards their costs.
4. In a few years’ time consideration will need to be given to replacement of the Play Equipment at Frickers Paddock and whilst a steady grant of £500.00 per annum has been made to the Claybush Playground Management Committee, no similar sum has been put aside each year in respect of Frickers Paddock.
5. Your Parish Council is currently working with the Community Area Transport Group within the Wiltshire South Western Area Board on the feasibility of establishing a 20mph speed limit through Becketts Lane and The Street - which if actioned will mean an initial outlay from reserves of some £1,000 towards the cost of the study. In addition, should a full scheme go ahead, several thousand pounds would be needed for infrastructure work. This would pretty much wipe out any reserves that we hold.
6. Members of the Parish Council will of course make the necessary decisions to either proceed or curtail work on these issues as and when they arise – but any input from the community would be much appreciated.

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.

Report from Bridget Wayman, Wiltshire Councillor for Nadder & East Knoyle Division

The majority of our funding now comes from Council Tax and business rates (although we only get to keep about 36% of the actual business rates we collect on behalf of the government). Our total budget is £332m and is forecast to increase by about £10m p.a. but we have to work hard to reduce our costs, bearing in mind that, for example, growth in adult social care alone is £16m. The council is looking to manage future growth, looking at investing in commercial activities to bring a financial return and reduce our fixed costs by increasing efficiency through digitization, self-service and automated services. We are introducing robotics to carry out repetitive tasks that staff have to do, and these robots can work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Planning Policy – The council is in the process of reviewing the Local Plan for the period 2016-2036. On the most recent evidence, a local housing need assessment of 45,500 homes would require sites for 18,000 more dwellings (there are already sites and permissions for 27,500 dwellings for delivery in this period). The Sustainability Appraisal will be completed for emerging strategies and then informal consultation, discussions with service and infrastructure providers, and transport assessments will be undertaken.

Within the Salisbury Housing Market Area evidence suggests a decrease of around 11% in housing numbers. In the Core Strategy for 2006-2026 the total number of dwellings required was 12,340; rolling forward the evidence suggests 10,965 dwellings for 2016-36. However, the vast majority of indicators support testing a higher share of HMA growth in areas outside Salisbury, Amesbury, Tidworth and Ludgershall. Various options are to be appraised from between 1855 and 3145 dwellings in the rest of the HMA.

Adult Social Care, Public Health & Public Protection.

We have a higher number than average of people aged over 65 and this puts pressure on the NHS and council services. The council is obliged under the Care Act 2014 to provide the appropriate level of care for individuals and costs the council about £140m (about 42% of our budget). We have a new way of working in the county to deliver intensive, re-abling support to help people maximize their independence and it reduces the need for ongoing care. Occupational therapists have worked closely with key domiciliary care providers to support people when they leave hospital to ensure they are helped back to independence.

Highways

The revenue budget was £18m, of which £11m was spent on routine highway maintenance, litter picking (£2.5m), grass cutting, safety inspections, and gully emptying, £5m on Streetworks co-ordination, road safety monitoring, road and bridge maintenance, drainage and flooding, £1m on winter and emergencies and £1m on sustainable transport.

With a capital budget for maintenance of £16m, £8.8m was allocated for identified surfacing and surface dressing sites. There were also a substantial number of reactive patching sites, skid resistance sites, patching sites, velocity patcher sites, as well as footways, drainage, lining and signing schemes that were not on the major maintenance list, and pothole expenditure. The council surfaced 146km of road and carried out repair totalling over 55,000 square metres at numerous sites to keep the roads safe. We also received £3m for bridge maintenance and £2m for integrated transport (CATGs and all safety schemes).

You will recall the terrible weather we had in March 2018 and the arrival of the Beast from the East. Our gritter drivers were out regularly over the winter and we used virtually all our allocation of salt, about 10,000 tonnes. The bad weather severely damaged the roads and all the parish stewards were diverted from normal work to find and fill potholes for a few weeks.

In 2018, 12,786 potholes were filled at a cost of over £1m, compared with 11488 in 2017 – also a bad winter, and 5951 in 2016 – a mild winter.

We then had a long spell of dry weather and there were 58 sites with serious heat damage, many of which had to be treated with sand. 44 of the sites were treated with the velocity patcher and 38 require extensive patching, with 2 requiring resurfacing. It is estimated that over £1m of damage occurred to the roads in the summer.

Over 3.8km of damaged rural road verges were repaired.

Major road marking schemes were carried out on main roads in Chippenham and Salisbury, with a programme of lining renewal at the worst sites across the county.

Late in the year, we also received £7.358m from DfT for local highways maintenance, including the repair of potholes, to keep local bridges and structures open and safe as well as to aid other minor highways works that may be needed. The Council added additional funding to top up the fund to £0.5m from 2019/20 budget (subject to approval of the budget) to help improve the cleanliness of the streets, lines and signs etc, all of which is detailed in my decision emailed to all members on 27th February. Work already carried out in January & February can be found at this link <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-asset-management> and will continue during 2019/20.

Transport & Parking

We continue to maintain our support for non-commercial bus services to help those 20,000 households with no car, and the 80,000+ households with only one car. This is particularly important for the elderly and for young people, often in rural isolation, who cannot drive. As you are all aware, we use the surplus income from parking charges to fund these bus services, although this only covers about half of the cost, the remainder coming from council funding.

With bus companies under inflationary pressure and increasing their charges to us for the non-commercial routes, we had to raise the parking charges (from 1st February 2018) having not raised them by inflation since 2011. Other charges, including season tickets were increased on 19th November 2018. Season tickets had been offered at 25% of the daily rate and the proposal was to increase them to 50% of the daily rate, which was still a more substantial discount than offered by neighbouring councils. After listening to objections and to try to help ease the burden, I decided to phase the increase over 2 years.

Waste

July 2018 saw the introduction of additional items (plastic pots, tubs and trays, food and drinks cartons) that can be included in the blue lidded bin. As these are very lightweight it is difficult to see whether this has made much discernable difference in tonnages collected for recycling.

The amount of recycling varies during the year, mainly because the composting element is very heavily weather dependent. We had a prolonged dry spell during the summer which meant that the grass stopped growing and residents were putting less in their green bins or taking less to the Household Recycling Centres. Composting material makes up about 41% of all recycling materials.

We set a target in 2014 of sending only 25% of all waste to landfill. In 2014/15 we achieved the target with 20.28% going to landfill. In 2018/19 it seems likely that the figure will be 16%.

We send 50,000 tonnes of residual waste to the Lakeside Energy from Waste plant in Slough and 60,000 tonnes to the MBT (Mechanical & Biological Treatment) plant in Westbury where it is treated and converted into fuel for export to northern Europe. Green waste makes up about 8.8% of total fly-tips and I am pleased to report that the cumulative number of fly-tips has reduced compared with the previous year. We have made great efforts to prosecute fly-tippers where we can find the evidence and to publicise this heavily to try to deter offenders.

Over the last year, our Enforcement Team have investigated over 2,500 fly-tipping investigations. Many do not contain evidence due to the type of material, but wherever possible the team will take action, including issuing warning letters, statutory notices, fixed penalty notices and prosecution. The team are also responsible for unlicensed waste carrying, unlicensed scrap metal dealing, and abandoned vehicles.

Questions from the public:

Could the leaf mould that collects up the Hollows be removed by the Parish Steward? Wilts Cllr Wayman replied that it was not a job for the PS and she would report it.

Does the Council sell the waste that goes in to the wheelie bin? It costs £30m to collect the waste so any plastics etc that can be recycled help to offset the cost. Aluminium cans are most valuable.

The repairs on the road overruns at Cow Drove will not last long. What can be done? Wiltshire Council has no further improvement plans and would require a new instruction via MyWiltsApp or the website.

The Reading Room Report from the Chairman Kirk Murray-Jones

Very recently Salisbury has been named as the best place in Britain to live, however I would strongly suggest that Chilmark is the best place to live, it's just a little too far from Salisbury train station for Sunday Times Journalists. And we've not even had a massive drugs factory this year, never mind nerve agent.

We have had a successful year in the Reading Room, doing our part to increase the community spirit within the village. We have held a number of events in the last year, Jenkins Ear proving to be very popular, as was the Quiz night. The reading room has become a favourite at Halloween with the younger population of the village and surrounding area. As a fund raising event this was not vastly successful, however we are focusing on community spirit rather than just on fund raising. The Christmas Bazaar was also very well attended and provided an opportunity for people to catch up and chat. Whenever there is an event at the reading room there is a real buzz about the place.

We provide a space for regular users – with a reported visit from an unwanted user who had a nibble on items stored in the shed.

In light of recent events at the Black Dog, the Reading Room and Patrick stepped up, again keeping the RR very much the beating heart of our community.

We were very fortunate to get a one off donation to cover purchasing a new, light-weight stage, which prevents the herculean effort in moving the Schools stage to the Reading Room.

We are now the custodians of an emergency generator, which is housed next to the shed. We have redecorated the disabled toilet, which is the tip of the iceberg with respect to improvements to the Reading Room which are planned. This coming year will need us to

invest in sorting out various damp issues with our 109 year old building, ensuring that it continues to serve our community. We are also looking to up-date the lighting, as the old lights are out-dated and far from being efficient. We would like to thank the parish council for their on-going financial support.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and dedication and to those who use the Reading Room.

The Village Voice Management Committee Report from the Chairman Sir Peter Jennings

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

Unsolicited feed-back, both from the village and further afield, continues to be very positive. We continue to print 240 copies of each of the 10 editions we produce annually. Somewhat surprisingly, there has not been any increase in those requesting electronic access. Visits to our website appear to be stable at around 115 monthly.

Our financial position remains stable; it is fortunate that our production costs have only increased marginally. There is a waiting list for advertisers; we have 16 currently. We have decided that any increase in the former would unbalance the editorial/advertising ratio. The income which advertising generates covers 80% of our costs. It follows that we are very much indebted to The Parish Council for the annual grant which we rely on to balance annual income against expenditure. We hope very much that it will continue its current level.

Finally, I should pay tribute to the editorial/production team who put so much time and effort into the Village Voice. I know how much we all appreciate what they do.

The Cricket Club Report from the Chairman Carl Jacobs

“We only come here for the sandwiches.” - Opposition Player, June

“There’s wine, right?” - Sceptical Girlfriend, August

“Can I play with the chickens?” - Child Supporter, July

There are many reasons why visitors came to Cleeves Farm on game days, most of them not involving cricket. With plenty of cold drinks, a legendary spread of sandwiches and cakes for tea, and plenty of room to stretch out and relax in the sun, there was simply no better place to have a day out in the village during what was a long hot summer.

For those interested in the game itself though, the competition was...placid. Everyone got a go, one way or the other, and though winning was more fun than losing, having a good time was paramount. Players came from all walks of life, from age 14 up to, well, far older than that.

Brand King -Author

The 2018 was an excellent season for Chilmark Cricket Club with over 26 players participating in games and lots of fun had by all. An excellent drinks party was hosted at Cleeves Farm during which we celebrated the life of the late John Wilcox a founder member and vice president of the cricket club.

The club continues to be strong and sustainable and we would like to thank all of those (there are simply too many to mention) who continue to support us. We look forward to an excellent 2019 season.

The Chilmark Horticultural Society Report from Chair Jo Scott

Activities over the previous year since our last report have been very limited as the decision was taken not to hold the Horticultural Show in 2018. We were however able to make a donation of £300 towards the Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop School's horticultural activities. They had already received a Class 5 (the top) commendation from the Royal Horticultural Society. We were very happy to be able to further support these activities especially as it allows them to grow plants for the forthcoming 400th anniversary Fayre. Activities are going apace for the Fayre being held on the 20th July in combination with the church and the school. As a significant historical event we are hoping that many of the villagers will be attired in traditional 17th century costume and the church will house a whole host of historical exhibits ranging from archaeological finds, photos, a history talk and live music of the period. The Fayre will include the traditional Horticultural exhibits tent with a wide range of classes as well as many other stalls, craft activities, dog show and children's races.

We very much appreciate the grant from the Parish Council which has helped us expand the scope of the event and the celebration of village life, a very important community event involving so many people in the village.

The Chilmark Playground Management Committee Report from Chair Sally Butcher

The financial year for the Playground Committee runs from the 1st January to 31st December each year and the accounts for 2018 are attached. The last year has been a relatively quiet year for the Playground Committee. We asked Trevor Clark from Dinton to make some repairs to the tower unit which had been highlighted in the inspection report from 2017. The repairs have resulted in the unit looking better and some of the highlighted minor risks eliminated. His costs are recorded in the accounts as well as the usual expenses of a playground inspection by RoSPA and public liability insurance. The bark surface installed in 2015 continues to be assessed as satisfactory in the inspection report. Weed growth, particularly mare's tail, continues to be a problem, but we held a couple of weeding sessions and made some impression on it during the summer. It is starting to regrow this year and we intend to use the same approach to prevent it getting out of hand.

We are aware of the need to reconsider our fundraising strategy. We didn't hold any fundraising events in 2018. The duck race is usually a biennial event for us and after a successful event in 2017, we would usually expect to hold another in 2019. However, this year the Riverbarn at Fonthill Bishop decided to have a duck race. The event was publicised at school and many of the school families who we would expect to support us, were involved with that event, so it was decided not to proceed. Similarly there was no flower show in the village in 2018, and the combined church fete and flower show this year will not be including stalls by village organisations. Therefore our usual sources of fundraising have not been available to us and we need to consider alternative events.

Last year, following a request from a resident living close to the playground, we put a notice in the Village Voice requesting that the play area is not used after dusk. We will do the same this year as the long summer evenings approach.

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.

**Chilmark Playground Accounts
For the year 1st January to 31st December 2018**

Date	Details	In	Out	Balance
01/01/18	Opening Balance			£4,399.13
23/07/18	Grant -Chilmark Parish Council	£500.00		
03/09/18	Equipment repairs - Trevor Clark		£120.00	
22/10/18	Insurance		£190.02	
24/10/18	RoSPA inspection		£96.60	
		Total	£500.00 £406.62	
31/12/18	Closing balance			£4,492.51

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2018/19

The Clerk presented the detailed breakdown of the accounts for the FY 2018-19 as per attached document. As at 31 March 2019 the total expenditure for the year was £8,649.15 and the total receipts £17,599.31. After the final Bank Reconciliation the balance was £8,950.16. There were no unrepresented cheques. To date, £3,625 is ringfenced for Forbes Field and £1,290 remains safeguarded for the Millennium Cross. There is only £360.91 remaining unspent from the SSE Grant for the emergency equipment which amounted to £2,659.94. VAT of £201.29 will be reclaimed.

In addition to the regular grants to village organisations £300 was made available for the Chilmark Fayre and £407.51 was spent on improving the Claybush/Ridgeway signage.

Again this year the gross income and expenditure did not exceed £25,000 and so the PC Accounts are exempt from a limited assurance review by LPK Littlejohn who are the national auditors. The internal audit was conducted by Mr James Lock and there were no comments raised. The audit documents will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which follows. No questions were raised by the members of the public.

Date:

Chairman