

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10 MAY 2017 AT 7PM IN  
THE READING ROOM**

**Public Forum**

- There was some discussion about EHD road signage which the Chmn explained has not yet been resolved and the Wilts Councillor and Senior Traffic Engineer are progressing with the matter. A lesson must be learnt for the future that if there are further plans for development at RAF Chilmark they must be closely scrutinised to guard against increased volume of traffic.
- The stretch of road between Rock Cottage and Railway Cottage has never had a weight limit sign and one might prove useful.
- A complaint was made about the number of potholes in local roads, particularly at Churchfields, Salisbury.
- A question was asked about the PC policy on footpaths. Mrs Pelham explained that the landowner is responsible for the sides and the Wilts Council for the surface. However Wilts Council do not have the resources and so volunteers help is welcome. Any problems could be referred to Mrs Pelham.
- It was reported that there have been a number of disputes over access along the track in front of Barn Hill bungalows leading to Dianna Forbes old property known as Cheriton. These disputes have led to Wiltshire Council giving up their rights of way along the track. The reasons and details for giving up their rights are published on the internet as a decision notice. Concerns were raised that the elderly and vulnerable residents, whose access rights were removed, had not been fully supported and consulted by Wiltshire Council prior to the access rights being given up. It was suggested that these residents felt somewhat hurt and threatened by the tone and content of letters issued by Wiltshire Council over the matter. It was also felt that the cost of providing for the fuel transfer station should not be borne by council tax payers. Wilts Cllr Wayman agreed to arrange a meeting between the tenants and interested parties.

Public present: 17

**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 is also intended to provide 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.

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.

3. **The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 11 May 2016** Cllr Sir RP proposed, Cllr EJ seconded and they were agreed and signed – these will be uploaded to the Parish Council website, displayed on our notice boards and so a couple of copies are available in the Reading Room tonight.

#### 4. ANNUAL REPORTS

##### The Chairman

Following the recent Local Government elections, I can report that your Parish Council is now comprised of five councillors who were elected unopposed, with Cllr Kevin Hawkins standing down due to work commitments and Cllr Mike Lennard having moved home to Salisbury being unable to stand for election this time. This means that there are currently two vacancies that can be filled by co-option.

During the last year, we have held the usual six meetings dealing with the normal Parish Council matters including the provision of grants to village organisations, working with our Parish Steward on maintenance issues, clearance and strimming of some of our public rights of way and the provision of comments and observations to Wiltshire Council on planning matters. We have also had some success with work carried out by Wessex Water to reduce the risk of groundwater flooding infiltration of the sewer network, but have still not been able to get Wiltshire Council to fully resolve issues as to responsibility of maintenance and grading of the Winterbourne from The Cross to The Old Post Office boundary.

We are still suffering from the incidence of large HGVs getting stuck within the village and the potential damage to the fabric of some of the historic buildings along the route of The Street/Becketts Lane. This has been raised as an issue with the Southern Area Community Area Transport Group - but has not yet been accepted as a top 5 priority matter for the installation of Blue Signs indicating the unsuitability of the route for HGVs. A great deal of time and effort has been made by Cllr Mike Lennard in this regard and we will miss his very valuable knowledge and expertise on highway issues, but we will of course continue his work and push for action on the matter with support from our local Wiltshire Council member.

Another unresolved issue is the matter of appropriate maintenance of the road surface of that section of Kents Hill from the junction of The Street and Hindon Lane up to the parking area next to the bungalows at Barn Hill. While we have been successful in getting the highways department to carry out potholes repairs, as if it were adopted highway, we are still concerned that such repairs as may become necessary will not be undertaken in the normal course of highway maintenance. We will continue efforts to resolve the issue.

On a more positive note - your Parish Council is supporting a small group of residents who have volunteered to join the Community Speedwatch programme to reduce the incidence of vehicles travelling at excessive speed along the B3089. Our Parish Clerk is planning for the necessary surveys to be carried out shortly to get the scheme up and running. Please let any member of the Parish Council know if you would like to be part of the volunteer group.

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 for taking on the role of internal auditor.

The Chairman then read out a contribution from Michael Eke about the The Emergency Plan.

The Plan went live during March 2017 and is available to view on-line at <http://www.southwilts.com/site/chilmarkparishcouncil>

All residents are encouraged to read this document and a hard copy can be obtained on request. The Plan should be of significant benefit to the Community as a whole but does rely on goodwill and cooperation at all levels. Please make your neighbour aware of its existence. Volunteer assistance would be much appreciated in particular to act as Area Coordinators in the event of an emergency.

The Parish Council also recognises the special needs of vulnerable persons who, on a voluntary basis, may request inclusion on a confidential database. The Plan also identifies self help opportunities, one of which explains how to sign up for emergency help in the event of a power cut.

The Village Voice has already carried several introductory articles and the Editorial Team has kindly agreed to continue to do so in future editions.

For all queries and questions relating to the Plan and its operation, residents should contact either the Parish Council Chairman (Patrick Boyles on 01722 716416) or the Emergency Planning Coordinator (Michael Eke on 01722 716862)

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

The Reading Room has had a good year, with seven fund-raising events in all and a steady level of hire activity. The Christmas Bazaar and the Quiz Night & Supper continue to be our biggest one-off 'earners' but in terms of pure village enjoyment and participation, the highlight of the year was the Queen's Tea Party last May. This was the brainchild of committee member Viv Lowe who sadly died last month.

We also had a visit from a stand-up Comedian, who just happened to be scheduled to come on EU Referendum results day; a group of Sea Shanty singers from the Channel Island entertained a full house in September. We held another popular Cheese Tasting evening before Christmas and, most recently at Easter, a touring play produced in conjunction with Salisbury Playhouse, performed to a packed audience.

Hire of the Reading Room by regular users, such as Social Stitchers, the Art Group and a Wednesday morning exercise class, has continued at a good level. In addition, a Monday evening Pilates class has recently started and there has been a steady flow of bookings by individuals for special events such as birthday parties, christenings, and even a baroque concert. There has also been a number of CPR training sessions, as well as a Defibrillator familiarization morning, all kindly organised by Lynn Menzies, with the support of the Parish Council.

Essential maintenance work in the year included the upgrading of the Electricity fusebox to comply with current regulations and the external redecoration of the Reading Room's sash windows, at a total cost of just under £1,000.

The flash flood that struck Chilmark last August exposed some Reading Room damp course issues that are to be addressed in the next couple of months, at a cost of around £900. All our recent fund-raising events have been with this expenditure in mind. In addition, two committee members have kindly volunteered to take on the redecoration of the Disabled Toilet so that, bar the purchase of the paint, there will be no further drain on Reading Room funds.

When setting our budget last autumn for the current financial year, the committee agreed to our Treasurer's recommendation that we have a Reserves policy as a way of ensuring we can withstand any unexpected adverse circumstances. These reserves mean that in essence we have at least one year's expenditure in hand but we continue to be very grateful to the Parish Council for the £500 grant awarded in recent years to help cover the expense of our annual insurance policy. We have managed to negotiate an insurance premium reduction for the coming year. However, our electricity bills are set to rise in coming months and will almost certainly eat up any of the savings made on the insurance front.

The management committee currently consists of 12 members, three of whom were newly elected at the last AGM in November and it's good to have some fresh blood on board. We are all appreciative of the Parish Council's continued support.

The Chmn thanked the Committee and emphasised that it is a resource that is much valued. Sir RP complimented the refurbishment of the Hall.

### **The Playground Committee Report from Sally Butcher**

The financial year for the Playground committee runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year and the accounts for the 2016 are attached.

2016 was a relatively quiet year for the committee. Having had a new bark surface in 2015, the playground was generally in good order. In February we received £300 from Lloyds Bank as compensation for a mistake that they had made with our account. While at the time it was extremely inconvenient and involved many phone calls and visits to the bank, once it was resolved the addition to our account was very welcome. Our fundraising for last year was a village quiz followed by tea and cakes in the spring which raised £209.50 and a stall of children's games at the Flower Show which raised £51.10. While this doesn't seem to be very much, anyone who remembers the weather at the show last year will realise that it was not too bad. We paid our usual expenses of a playground inspection by RoSPA and public liability insurance.

We continue to have occasional working parties at the play area to keep weed growth and the hedges under control. We had a very good blitz on the Lonicera hedge this year which should result in easier ongoing maintenance.

We held a duck race in March 2017, which is becoming a biennial event for the playground committee. We were blessed with wonderful weather, probably the first sunny day of spring, and had a very good turnout of village folk and some from further afield. Somehow we attracted the attention of the Salisbury Journal who sent a photographer out. He snapped lots of photos and the result was a page of pictures in the paper.

We are currently investigating the possibility of some more equipment in the play area as our funds are relatively buoyant at the moment. This might involve replacing one of the

older pieces of equipment or adding another small piece if we have room. We have arranged for an equipment company to visit and advise.

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 Management Committee  
Accounts for the year 1st January to 31st December 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Out</b>	<b>Balance</b>
01-01-16		<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£2,781.10</b>
11-02-16		Compensation	£300.00	
20-04-16		Fundraising - photo quiz	£209.50	
21-07-16		Parish Council grant	£500.00	
07-09-16		Fundraising - Flower Show	£51.10	
		games		
18-10-16		Inspection	£96.60	
19-10-16		Insurance	£182.89	
£1,060.60			£279.49	
31-12-16		<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>£3,562.12</b>

The Chmn thanked the Committee for all their hard work and the improvements in the playground.

**The Cricket Club Report**

Chilmark Cricket Club has enjoyed another successful year at Cleaves Farm with over 50 adults and juniors from the village and surrounding areas participating in and enjoying the game of cricket. It is particularly satisfying to see that a number of previous junior players are now starting to play regularly in the adult side. Several of the boys and girls who have been coached at Chilmark are now playing either district or county cricket. We continue to be a strong club focused on the enjoyment of the game of cricket. We would publicly like to thank Henry and Elizabeth Pelham for their on-going support of the club and for the use of the beautiful ground. There are also lots of other people from the village who help us and we are very grateful!

The Chmn agreed that it is a very successful Club.

**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.

In my report last year I outlined the objectives which we had set ourselves. Our second year has been one of consolidation. We continue to produce 10 editions a year and free hard copies are distributed to each household which requires one in Ridge and Chilmark. A limited number have opted for online access only.

The Village Diary is much appreciated and the Cricket Club feature is hugely popular.

Also, we are gratified by the responses we receive; to give two examples:

“The Village Voice is the highlight of my month!” and

“Thanks for another excellent copy of the Voice”.

We are extremely grateful for the Parish Council's support as we continue to be dependant on grants and donations in order to remain viable as our printing costs exceed our income from advertisements and Goods and Services. Grateful thanks go to Sarah and Glen Miller for their major contribution to its success.

### **The Chilmark Horticultural Society**

Ntr

### **Wilts County Cllr Bridget Wayman's Report**

With the reduction in government funding and the resultant increase in your council tax, I want to report to you on the 3 priority areas for the Council:

Protecting those who are most vulnerable  
Boosting the local economy  
Working closely with our communities to encourage them & help them do more for themselves.

Protecting the most vulnerable – this means safeguarding children and young people and also older people. It means improving their health & well-being and helping older people stay in their own homes for as long as possible.

The drive is to help people improve their health & fitness to meet the challenges of older age and remain active for longer.

In this area we have seen the planning and now the opening of the new leisure facilities at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury. I have said it many times; the Centre is well worth a visit & I hope many people take up the offer and use the facilities. It's up to you to remain healthy!

There is also a new library in the Nadder Centre. It is open much longer and is often staffed by some of the 867 volunteers who help keep all our libraries open.

We need decent roads to help boost the economy. The Council has spent £84m in the last 4 years maintaining roads (substantially higher than the pre-2000 expenditure). As Chairman of the Environment Select Committee, we received a report last autumn on the results of the first 2 years' increased expenditure on roads and there has been a marked improvement in their condition. We have completed 3 years of additional expenditure and will receive a further report in the autumn on progress. We know that roads are a key priority for residents and plan to continue the additional spending for another 3 years.

Last year more than 4,100 potholes were filled. The MyWiltshire phone app was introduced to make it easier for residents to report issues, not just potholes. Or you can go online and report them on the Council's website. It is quicker and cheaper for the Council if you use these methods rather than phoning Customer Services.

Littering, dog-poo and fly-tipping are unacceptable. Volunteers who go out and litter-pick do a valuable job, but shouldn't have to do it. Wiltshire Council spends £2.5m litter-picking the main roads where volunteers shouldn't go – that £2.5m could be better spent, especially when money is tight.

Fly-tipping is a blight on our landscape – I have written an article which should be appearing in the next Village Voice, so won't elaborate here.

There is much more that I could report, but I am happy to answer any questions.

#### **4. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2016/17**

The Clerk explained in detail the breakdown of the accounts for the FY 2016-17. As at 31 March 2016 the total expenditure was £7,378.29 and the total receipts £15,787.87. After the final Bank Reconciliation this leaves a balance of £8,409.58. There were no unrepresented cheques.

Of note, last year was the grant to the Reading Room: £500, Grant to Village Voice: £300, Grant to Playground Management Committee £500, the purchase of defibrillator paddles of £186.80 and £320 spent on the clearing of the footpaths.

The precept was set at £7,218.99 and the Clerk reclaimed £548.80 VAT from HMRC

Grant Thornton are the National Auditors and the accounts will be audited on 12 June. James Lock kindly agreed to undertake the internal audit in April. In accordance with Electoral Rights the accounts will be available to the public for inspection as publicised on the noticeboard from 5 June – 14 July inclusive. They will also be available to view on the website in accordance with the Code of Transparency.

**Date:**

**Chairman**