

# Churcham Parish Council

**Clerk**  
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## **Minutes of the Annual Churcham Parish Council Meeting Held at Churcham Primary School On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Those attending were: - Councillors Reeves, Price, Baber, Freeman, Newbery and Brookes along with the clerk Marilyn King and 3 members of the public.

Apologies were received from Councillor Francis and District Councillor Jones.

### **1. The Annual Report from the Chairman.**

The Chairman thanked Councillors, the Clerk, County Councillor Robinson, District Councillor Jones and our Village Agent Hilary Lyon who has now retired from the job

A controversial planning application for a pig unit in Chapel Lane was approved by the Planning Committee. This has had an adverse impact on several properties nearby. Odour can be smelt one mile away at Churcham Church when the wind is in a certain direction.

The site for affordable housing has been confirmed as Chapel Lane Churcham, with a planning application being processed at present by the Forest of Dean Planning Department.

A Parish Council Website has been designed and is hosted by Mr Nigel Steele.

### **2. The Clerks financial Report.**

The clerk reported that the starting balance of the two bank accounts was £4218.00 on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, and the closing balance was £4682.76 on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The precept received was £8400.00 with a Community Grant of £335.00.

Two grants were received.

£500.00 from the Forest of Dean District Council towards the cost of the two defibrillators.

£445.00 from the government towards the cost of website design and hosting.

A total of 4158.37 was raised by donations for the defibrillator appeal

The total cost of the two defibrillators and their secure boxes was £3595.00p, new replacement glass for the telephone kiosk amounted to £658.47p.

A total of £404.90p will be held in reserve for replacement batteries/ pads for the defibrillators in future.

Two grants were made, one each for Churcham Churchyard and one for Bulley Churchyard towards the upkeep and grass cutting each for £125.00.

Insurance increased from £385.84 to £456.85 due to the fact that the 9 bus shelters were revalued on a rebuild. Their value for insurance purposes is now £72000.00.

Internal Audit fees were £45.00.

There was a small increase in GAPTC membership.

There was an increase in payments for the schoolroom use for meetings as 14 meetings were held.

Interest received for the year amounted to £4.41p

No councillors claimed any allowances for the work they have done for the parish.

No parish funds were used for the party hosted by the parish council for business owners and residents who contributed to the defibrillator appeal, this was paid for by councillors, the clerk & Mr Reeves, the chairman's husband.

**3. The County Councillors Annual Report.** County Councillor Robinson did not attend the meeting and no report was available.

**4. The District Councillors Annual Report.** District Councillor Brian Jones was unable to attend and give a report due to ill health.

**5. The Annual Report from the Police.** The Police report for the period 5<sup>th</sup> April 2015 to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 reported 6 violence incidents. Dwelling burglary saw 4 offences, 5 non-dwelling burglary offences, 1 theft from a vehicle, other theft saw 3 offences, criminal damage saw 4 offences, and 1 other offence, making a total of 24 offences in total were committed in the parish in 2015/16..

The above figures are those incidents that have been reported to Police. If a crime is not reported then it does not appear on the statistics, which in turn means that as far as the Police are aware it has not occurred. This causes problems in prioritising matters. Please report everything that occurs and ask for a Crime Reference Number if a crime has been committed, not just an Incident Number.

**6. The Village Agents Annual Report.** Our Village Agent has retired and has been replaced by Sarah Davies who started her job on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 so no annual report was available.

**7. Any other business: -**

A resident of Bulley raised his objections to the rise in the parish councils charge on the council tax. It was explained that any increase that was raised was due to extra expenses.

He also was unhappy that a donation had been offered to the Parish Edge News Magazine. The cheque offered was returned as now the magazine is running at a small profit.

The same resident did not agree that all the children in Churcham Parish should be given a Queen Elizabeth 11 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commemorative Medal.

The vice chairman thanked Do Reeves on behalf of the parish council for her leadership and support as chairman of the parish council during the past year.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.**