

Churcham Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the CHURCHAM PARISH COUNCIL Held at Churcham Primary School On the 21st April 2015

- 1.** The chairman thanked councillors, the clerk, Village Agent, District Councillor, Martin Hutchings a Housing Enabler for Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and Keith Chaplin a housing enabler for the Forest of Dean District Councillor who are supporting the proposed affordable housing in the parish, their support in the parish has seen progress in many areas.

Several controversial planning applications were received throughout the year starting with a traveller site in Bulley Lane, a pig unit in Chapel Lane, the old army camp in Church Lane won approval to demolish most of the buildings and build a house, and approval was given for change of use from music room to residential at the Old School of the Lion at Beauchamp House Churcham, and recently permission was granted for a bungalow on a brown field site behind Birdwood Garage.

Sections of Bulley Lane and Solomon's Tump Road have been resurfaced, and part of the A40 in Huntley is due to be resurfaced with proposed overnight closures.

The proposed affordable housing site in Chapel Lane is ongoing and it is hoped that within the next year great progress will be seen on that site.

Sadly we lost our County Councillor Norman Stephens died unexpectedly during the past year.

Our most recent ongoing project is to erect two defibrillators, one each end of the parish on buildings adjacent to the A40.

We have been informed by Royal Mail that the post box that was damaged in Bulley Lane is to be replaced. Royal mail at first reported that it would not replace the box, but ongoing letters from the parish council, our MP Mark Harper and residents persuaded them to change their minds.
- 2.** The clerk reported that the starting balance of the two bank accounts was £3967.49 on the 1st April 2013, and the closing balance was £4127.35 on the 31st March 2014.

The precept received was £8052.65 with a Community Grant of £397.35

Three grants were made, one each for Churcham Churchyard and one for Bulley Churchyard towards the upkeep and grass cutting each for £125.00 and a one off grant for £100.00 was made to keep the Forest Edge parish magazine running.

Insurance increased from £380.01 to £385.84 for the same cover.

Audit fees were £75.00 for the two audits.

There was a small increase in GAPTC membership of £20.97p per year

Interest received for the year amounted to £3.89p.

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

3. County Councillor Robinson reported that since his election road improvements on the A40 going into Gloucester has been completed with an extra lane for traffic approaching from Highnam. Further work is planned to improve traffic flow at the Over roundabout.

He reported that he sits on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who reported that Gloucestershire Hospital Trust were unable to handle Accident and Emergency admissions adequately due to lack of available beds. Health partners including the County Council are working with the Hospital Trust to prevent reoccurrence.

The County Council appointed the contractor Amey to manage road maintenance. Initial set up of works was slow leading the council withholding payment for November. However, Amey are now making good progress.

4. The District Councillor Brian Jones reported that no grants are available from the Forest of Dean District Council at present regarding the defibrillator appeal.

He told the meeting that he has worked hard for the parish by sending planning applications for committee decisions when requested to do so by the parish council, and helped push through planning applications as he is part of the planning committee.

5. The Police report for the period 10th April 2014 to 10th April 2015 reported a increase of 2 in violence, a decrease in dwelling burglary, and a decrease for non-dwelling burglary from 8 to 4, a decrease from 13 to nil for theft from vehicles, other theft increased from 1 to 4.

Fraud/forgery stayed the same at 1, damage decreased from 4 to 1, drug incidents increased by 1 from nil the previous year.

A total of 38 reported crimes were committed in the parish in 2013/14 compared with 21 in 2012/13.

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. Hilary Lyon the Village Agent gave an overview on the village agent service that was started 9 years ago, and now covers the whole county.

The service works in partnership with other local agencies, services and groups to help older people in Gloucestershire more independent, secure and have a better quality of life.

Hilary confirms that she has helped over 158 cases within her area with issues ranging from arranging for home delivery of medical prescriptions, checks on benefit entitlement, bus pass renewals also electric blanket safety checks. She has now become a trusted point of contact for many elderly people in the parishes she covers.

7. Any other business: -

A resident voiced their concerns over the new road work layout at the Over roundabout stating that in their opinion traffic lights are required. It was agreed that once all the schools and Hartpury College are back to full use in September then drivers will see if the road improvements so far are working.

The clerk will pass these comments on County Councillor Brian Robinson.

Councillors voiced their concerns over the nonattendance of the County Councillor to the parish council meetings. He has only attended one meeting since he was elected. The previous county councillor found time to attend many more.

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.

