

Churcham Parish Council

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Clerk
Mrs Marilyn King
Birdwood Villa Farm
Birdwood
Gloucestershire
GL19 3EQ
Tel: 01452 750 451
Email:
Birdwood.villafarm@virgin.net

Minutes of CHURCHAM ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held at Churcham Primary School On the 15th May at 7.30pm

Those Present:-

Councillors Francis, Newbery, Baber, Reeves, Freeman and Price along with their clerk Marilyn King. Also attending were County Councillor Robinson, and three members of the public.

1. Election of Chairman.

Councillor Reeves proposed that Councillor John Francis be re-elected, this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

2. Election of Vice Chairman.

Councillor Reeves proposed that Councillor Robert Newbery be re-elected, this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously agreed.

3. To receive apologies for absence.

Councillor Brookes tendered his apologies.

4. To record any Declarations of Interest by members in items to be discussed.

There were no declarations.

5. To approve the minutes of previous Meetings. Councillor Reeves proposed that they be signed as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

6. To consider matters arising from those minutes.

External Audit.

A Certificate of Exemption was completed as the gross income of the Parish Council did not exceed £25,000 in the year of account ended 31st March 2018 and that the Parish Council certified themselves exempt from limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit Regulations 2015.

Councillor Baber proposed this be signed by the chairman, this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously agreed.

7. To receive the Chairman's Annual Report.

The chairman told the meeting that the affordable Housing site at Henry Hook VC Close was completed during the past year and was opened by members of Henry Hook's family. Two Rivers Housing staff along with Parish Councillors and members of the public attended the opening.

It was a busy year for planning applications, with decisions being made on 28 of them.

The clerk Marilyn King retired on October 17th but due to health problems the new clerk was unable to continue the job so Mrs King took over the job again temporarily on the 16th January until a new clerk can be appointed.

Faster Broadband took up a lot of time for Councillors Brookes and Newbery with slow progress being made.

The parish council are currently looking at the best way to progress with the project in regards to the build being done in the best possible way in the quickest time.

The council is looking at future planning for the parish to make is a sustainable multigenerational community with the need to engage and plan for the future.

The Chairman thanked all of the councillors for their work and support during the past year, especially Councillors Baber, Newbery and Reeves.

8. The Clerk's Financial Report.

The clerk reported that grants were paid to Churcham PCC, Bulley PCC, Forest of Dean Road Safety Project, Forest of Dean Citizens Advice and West Gloucestershire Neighbour Watch.

There was an increase in spending on hire of the schoolroom for meetings, insurance and website hosting and salary.

Overall receipts and payments stayed much the same.

9. To receive Councillor's Reports.

County Councillor Robinson told the meeting that after he was re-elected Children's Services was ruled inadequate in an OFSTEAD report, so more training has been undertaken and a new Head of Children's Service was appointed, with work continuing to improve the situation.

Demand for more adult services is going up, and an extra 2% was added on to council tax to fund this, With more adults are being cared for in their own homes.

10. District Councillors Report.

No report was available.

11. Police Report.

It was reported that Anti-social behaviour, thefts and violence decrease by one incident in the past 12 months, with a total of 16 offences reported.

The clerk was asked to clarify with the Police what offences anti-social behaviour covered.

12. Planning applications notified by Forest of Dean District Council.

There were no applications.

13. Planning Decisions notified by Forest of Dean District Council.

There were no decisions.

14. To receive Councillors Reports.

The clerk was asked to write to the manager of Coppice House to ask them to investigate the effluent flooding the footpath in Birdwood Coppice.

Councillor Robinson was asked to get the footpath cleared between Lobstock and Churcham School as vegetation is encroaching and narrowing it, and also to get a pot hole repaired in the footpath.

Councillor Baber raised concerns over the road work at Over roundabout and the queues of traffic, Councillor Robinson replied that it would take several months, but the main of the work would be carried out between 9.30am and 4pm, in between the rush hours.

Councillor Price thanked Councillors Francis and Newbery on behalf of the other parish councils for their work as both Chairman and Vice Chairman.

15. Financial Matters.

15.1 Councillor Baber proposed that the three cheques below be approved for payment, this was seconded by Councillor Freeman and unanimously agreed.

Mrs M King £659.84 Clerks stipend/office expenses.

Mr J Francis £75.00 printing of flyers.

Mrs S Fowler £50.00 Internal Audit.

The balance of the two bank accounts after the above cheques are processed will be £13154.72

15.2 Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statement then Councillor Newbery proposed approval this was seconded by Councillor Price and unanimously agreed.

15.3 Councillors considered the Annual Accounting Statement.

15.4 Councillor Baber proposed that the Annual Accounting Statement be approved, Councillor Reeves seconded this and it was unanimously approved.

15.5 The clerk reported that a precept payment of £9270.00 had been received and banked.

16. Correspondence Received.

16.1 SLCC welcomed the news that the House of Commons accepted that all Parish Councils will be exempt from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer. All other requirements of the GDPR will apply from 25th May.

16.2 Councillor Robinson reported that repairs to pot holes in Bulley Lane are being investigated by a Highways Manager after they were not repaired to a good standard.

16.3 Forest of Dean District Council is to phase out pest control services to reduce expenditure.

Councillors thought that this was a retrograde step.

16.4 NHS Gloucestershire report that discussions regarding the location of a new community hospital in the Forest of Dean will start on 21st May.

The location of local events nearby are 13th June at Newent Library from 10am to 3pm and at Mitcheldean Library on 14th June 10am to 3pm.

12. Matters raised for discussion at next meeting.

The appointment of a new clerk.

13. Any other business.

There was no other business to discuss.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm

The date of the next meeting is to be held on the 19th June.

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