

CHURCHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

DRAFT Minutes

17th August 2021

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Newbery, Cllr King and Cllr Freeman sent their apologies

2. To present and sign the minutes of the last meeting

It was AGREED to sign the 2019 minutes. Apologies were made for the length of time taken to hold the meeting due to the pandemic, but the council has been following guidance on when we could meet.

3. To receive the Parish Council's Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported:-

That at the start of the pandemic the parish council set up an emergency helpline and advised all residents by post of routes to obtain help, also the parish used the churcham news Facebook site to disseminate information to parishioners. These measures were successful in supporting parishioners during these strange covid times. It was noted also that people throughout the parish supported neighbours by providing help and support.

The parish dealt with fewer planning applications during this year, due to the pandemic which was to be expected.

There was a proposal made to the FODDC for a large development in Churcham at Stone End Farm. No representations were made to the parish council, The FODDC undertook a consultation on a 'preferred option' after voting to approve the 'preferred option' which was centred around a large housing development of two phases of 2000 homes. The parish started a website to advise people and attracted over 7000 signatures, this level of support was used under the consultation of the FODDC to enable a discussion at council. The result was a re-looking at the 'preferred option' and the formation of community groups across the district to guide the new local plan formation. There also was a formation of the Cross Parish Communication Group (initially 6 parishes) instigated by Churcham Parish. The parish council sought legal advice and commissioned a consultant to advise on the 'preferred option' before making representation to the FODDC. The cost for the consultant was shared between the 6 parishes. There was also the formation of a group in the parish which proved very effective in raising funds and engaging with the FODDC and press outlets to raise profile throughout the district of the proposed Churcham development. They also made a donation to Churcham parish towards legal advice for our input into the FODDC consultation

The 9 bus shelters in the parish had all been renovated and undergone refurbishment

4. To receive questions from members of the public

A member of the public asked about the proposed large development.

A member of the public asked about the state of the pathway and the egress of grass onto the path forcing walkers near to the edge of the A40 down to Halfway Bridge.

A member of the public asked the council when the footpaths throughout the parish had to be registered with the FODDC.

5. Closing remarks

The chairman took the opportunity to thank Cllrs and the clerk for all their help last year.