

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**9th May 2017 at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall, North Cerney**

- PRESENT:** Councillors M Tufnell, N Wilkes, E Russell-Brown, P Sergeant and C Wakefield, County Councillor P Hodgkinson and District Councillor J Forde  
3 Parishioners
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Stoten and PCSO A Shutt
- PRESIDING:** Councillor M Tufnell, Chairman
- CLERK / RFO:** V Hancock / B Koch

**1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Chairman proposed and the Meeting resolved THAT the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 10th May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

**2. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Councillor J Forde reported as follows:

1. The planning application had been lodged for affordable housing and it was hoped that construction would start by the end of this year
2. Information about car parking in Cirencester was available on the District Council website. The aim was to provide decked parking on one of the present car park sites.
3. She thanked the Council for its support of the recent litter-pick, and said that members of the public should report to the police litter thrown from cars, etc.
4. The District Council was reviewing its policy on planning enforcement, and trying to improve the perception of planning procedures
5. She stressed the value of rural communities, and the support of local schools, pubs, doctors surgeries, etc, and said she felt privileged to represent the local community.

Councillor P Hodgkinson reported as follows:

1. He was pleased to still be a member of the County Council. The Chairman congratulated him on his recent re-election.
2. A key challenge for the County Council was the provision of social care. The budget had increased by 4% this year, including the 2% special levy for social care.
3. Road safety was high on his agenda, and he was pleased to see the "gates" installed in North Cerney. He felt they "made a statement" which would encourage drivers to observe the speed limit.
4. He was not happy with the performance of Ameys, as highway contractors. He mentioned that he would shortly be allocated "lengthmen" services for three weeks, and he asked that the Clerk notify him of any matters needing attention
5. He had funds available to be spent in his area, and would be happy to spend some in North Cerney parishes
6. High speed broadband should soon be available to the more isolated parts of the parish
7. He was disappointed that Stagecoach had not reinstated the evening bus service, which they said was uneconomic. He asked that residents use the bus services as much as possible, so they were maintained.
8. Design work had started on solving the "missing link" on the A417, and there would be full consultation with local parishes. The work was scheduled to start in 2020, and was likely to take about three years to complete.

### **3 REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman reported as follows;

1. For the second successive year, a grain lorry had become stuck in Chapel lane, and there appeared to be a need for improved signage at the top of the lane.
2. The proposed new LED street lighting had not yet been installed in North Cerney (although it was reported that the light in Hill View had been changed to LED). It was essential that, if the new lights were installed, they adequately lit the village roads and footpaths.
3. The litter pick had been a success, but could have been more widely advertised.
4. The Parish Council are consulted on all planning applications in the parish. The Council's policy is not to object unless there are good planning grounds for doing so.
5. The skateboard half-pipe had been removed from Woodmancote playground for safety reasons, but the Council were hoping to obtain grant funding for new equipment. He thanked Ross Collins for his work in maintaining the playground.
6. A change of route of the public footpath at Woodmancote Park had been approved
7. Councillor Smith had resigned as she was moving from the area. The Council would take steps to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy
8. Bathurst Estates had carried out works to the car park at Broad Close, and the parking problems in North Cerney appeared to have reduced at present.
9. He thanked Elmore Crump for his work in maintaining the village green, Veronika Forte for carrying out the internal audit, and the District and County Councillors. He also thanked the Parish Councillors, Barry Koch and Valerie Hancock for their work over the past year.

### **4 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The RFO presented the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2017. The Council held a balance of £2,218 at the start of the year, had received the precept of £5,500 (including the Council Tax Support Grant), and had a balance of £2,141 at the end of the year. Expenditure had been in accordance with the budget. The precept had been increased to £6,000 for the current year, as the two telephone boxes needed repainting, and it was anticipated that the new play equipment for Woodmancote might not be fully grant-funded.

The Internal Audit Report was produced to the meeting.

### **5 REPORT FROM NORTH CERNEY SCHOOL**

No report was available to the meeting. A question was raised as to why the school playground was no longer available out of school hours. Councillor Forde said that it had been fenced to keep cows out of it, and was closed for safeguarding reasons. The school would like to make it available out of school hours, and were looking for a solution to make this possible.

### **6 ACCOUNTS OF THE MEMORIAL HALL CHARITY**

Jessica James, Chair of the Trustees, presented a copy of the Annual Accounts to September 2016 which would shortly be available on the Memorial Hall website.

At the end of the year, the accounts showed a balance of almost £14,000. The roof had been replaced at a cost of £28,800, but the internal water damage had yet to be dealt with. New ceiling panels and lights were to be installed.

Income from bookings had been £5,416. This was largely from the fitness classes, and the Committee would like to see more use of the Hall made by the community.

**7 ACCOUNTS OF THE CALMSDEN POOR DOWNS TRUST**

The Chairman presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016. At that time the Trust held capital of £17,657 and income of £172. He explained that the income is distributed to the poor of Calmsden when a sufficient amount has accumulated

**8 REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Nigel Wilkes reported that there had been little crime in North Cerney. There were still very few residents signed up to Neighbourhood Watch. An item would appear in the next "Churn News", and he would be going round the village with PCSO Shutt to try to encourage more to join.

Colin Wakefield reported that a Land Rover had recently been stolen from Woodmancote, but otherwise there had been very little crime. A large number of Woodmancote residents were in the scheme, and he felt it important that all residents were alert to suspicious activity. He passed on to them the alerts received from the police. The possibility of installing cameras at the entrances to the village had been considered, but he understood this was not permissible

The Chairman reported on rural crime. There had been a lot of criminal activity – thefts of tools, chainsaws, Land Rovers, etc, as well as hare coursing and a number of suspicious vehicles.

Messages from the police were passed to farmers and other rural residents, and the police used unmarked cars in the area.

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.09 pm

Signed: .....  
(Chairman)

Date: .....