

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
on 13th May 2019 at 7.15pm in The Memorial Hall, North Cerney**

PRESENT: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Nigel Wilkes, Adam Stoten Cathy Martin and Clare Cannock, County Councillor P Hodgkinson
3 Parishioners

APOLOGIES: District Councillor Jenny Forde

PRESIDING: Councillor Mark Tufnell, Chairman

CLERK / RFO: Valerie Hancock / Barry Koch

1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chairman proposed and the Meeting **resolved that** the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2.1 District Council: On behalf of Councillor Forde, Councillor Hodgkinson reported as follows:

In the recent election she had been returned with an increased majority. For the first time, Cotswold District Council was now under control of Liberal Democrats.

The affordable housing development was now progressing.

She was concerned about litter and people failing to clear up after their dogs.

Progress was being made towards a multi-storey car park in Cirencester, with cycle parking, electric charging points and accessible toilets.

She was keen to support rural communities and help them thrive.

The Chairman thanked those who had been involved in the recent litter-pick. The Clerk would chase up the replacement of the Hillview sign.

2.2 County Council: Councillor P Hodgkinson reported as follows:

He had now represented the Parish for some 10 years as a District and subsequently County Councillor.

The Council's highway contractor was now Ringway, and improvements were hoped for.

Improvements had been made to local A roads in recent months, but some minor roads were in a very poor state, although some had now been repaired.

A formal consultation regarding the A417 "missing link" would be held this summer, and the proposals would then be presented to Government. Construction was expected to commence in 2021.

He was pursuing the flooding problem at the bottom of the Woodmancote road.

He had discussed with the Highway Officer a crossing for the school on the A435 in North Cerney. In the short term it was proposed to update the signage, improve the white lines, and clear the pavement. A fixed or portable speed sign would cost about £3-4,000. He agreed that in view of the speed of traffic it was difficult for anyone to cross who could not walk quickly, or with prams or pushchairs. He hoped more might be done when the affordable housing was occupied, and he would continue to press for action.

The North Cerney bus shelter was in need of cleaning, It was agreed this was probably the responsibility of the Parish Council.

3 REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported as follows;

The Council had continued to support the affordable housing scheme.

The Council had an emergency plan in place for winter ice and snow (Councillor Tufnell) and flooding (Councillor Stoten).

New play equipment was due to be installed later this week in the Woodmancote playground. The annual RoSPA report had been received and indicated that no urgent works were necessary.

The North Cerney telephone kiosk had been adopted. It now needed to be renovated and then put to some use – possibly housing a defibrillator, or a book exchange.

There had been an issue of dangerous dogs in Woodmancote, which the police were dealing with.

The Council's thoughts were with former PCSO Andrea Shutt. There had been little crime in the Parish, and Colin Wakefield continued to be vigilant in Woodmancote.

He thanked Valerie Hancock (Clerk), Barry Koch (RFO), Roy Savory and Ross Collins for their maintenance of the North Cerney village green and Woodmancote playground, Deb sergeant for playground inspections, and the Other Councillors. He expressed regret that Councillor Cannock was expecting to leave the area in the near future.

Councillor Cannock mentioned there had been recent improvements to the footpath from the A435 to the Bagendon Road. The Clerk was asked to thank Geoff Ramshaw.

A resident said that he thought the best use of the telephone kiosk would be for a defibrillator.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2018/19 AND INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The RFO presented the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2019. The Council held a balance of £2,611 at the start of the year, had received the precept of £6,000 and had a balance of £3,739 at the end of the year. Expenditure had generally been in accordance with the budget. The balance of the cost of the playground equipment had yet to be paid after installation.

The Internal Audit Report was produced to the meeting, recommending some very minor improvements in accounting records.

5 REPORT FROM NORTH CERNEY SCHOOL

Councillor Stoten read a report from the Head as follows:

The school was rated "good" in last summer's OFSTED inspection, staff were working hard towards the targets set, with support from the Academy. The small team of dedicated and enthusiastic teachers are focussed on achieving the best for the children and the school.

The school is keen to develop stronger links with the Church and the community. The children performed their I-Sing Pop Christmas and nativity concert in the Church, and an Easter service and Mothering Sunday service were held there. The school hopes to encourage more children and parents to take part in Sunday services.

The children have enjoyed a wide range of learning experiences, including forest school, whole school cookery, and educational trips to museums. They have had eggs to hatch in the classroom, caterpillars to study life cycles, and the Nature Quiz team scored highly in their first-round match. Once SATs tests have been completed, the Year 5 and Year 6 children will be taking a residential trip to France with pupils from Bibury, Southrop and Hatherop schools. This is an excellent chance for them to make friends ahead of transition to secondary school.

The Head thanked the Council for its patience and understanding about the trellis outside the school. A bid had been submitted to the Academy for a more fitting and permanent structure needed due to safeguarding concerns.

The school bell is now working again, and the Head thanked the Council for its offer to consider a contribution to the cost.

Adults were needed to hear the children read, and she asked that anyone able to help contact her.

Small schools are financially highly dependent on attracting sufficient pupils. She asked that any residents who knew of parents looking at primary schools encourage them to visit the school.

6 ACCOUNTS OF THE MEMORIAL HALL CHARITY

There was no report from a representative of the Memorial Hall trustees, but it was thought that their Accounts were available on their website.

7 ACCOUNTS OF THE CALMSDEN POOR DOWNS TRUST

The Chairman, as one of the trustees, presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019. At that time the Trust held capital of £17,200 and income of £65.50, having made distributions of £725 during the year to the poor of Calmsden.

8 REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Clerk had received a report on crime in the North Cerney area from PC Mark Weedon. Compared to 2017/18, there had been a small reduction in theft and burglary-related offences, but there had been an increase from 0-3 in offences involving criminal damage to motor vehicles. Councillor Wilkes reported there had been little change in Neighbourhood Watch in North Cerney. Councillor Martin offered to help to encourage more residents to become part of it. Community Speedwatch dates would be notified. Councillor Wilkes had applied for the equipment. There was no report for Woodmancote.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: