

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
on 27th May 2021 at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall, North Cerney**

PRESENT: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Nigel Wilkes, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Linda de Carles and Elisabeth Butler and District Councillor Jenny Forde
1 Parishioner

APOLOGIES: County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson; Daryl Hamlett (Chair of the Memorial Hall Committee)

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 13th May 2019 at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

2.1 District Council: Councillor Forde reported as follows:

She had had a busy year as Cabinet member for Health & Wellbeing. There had been relatively few cases of Covid 19 in the District. Throughout the pandemic, the number of volunteers had far exceeded the number of people needing help.

Following a LGA peer review in late 2019, a number of new members of staff had joined the District Council, including Rob weaver as the new Chief Executive. A number of key strategy documents were published on Green Economic Recovery, Affordable Housing Delivery, Climate Emergency and Leisure for the Cotswolds.

Keeping the wheels of local government turning had been challenging, and she commended Parish Councils for adopting virtual meetings.

Crowdfund Cotswold had been launched, and there were already 16 live projects across the District. The scheme build resilience of local communities and a sense of civic pride.

The Clean & Green programme will be rolled out over the next two years, boosting resources to tackle low-level environmental crimes such as littering and dog fouling, as well as increased street and verge clearing.

Crime levels continued to be low, and community police officers worked hard with a large area to cover and limited resources.

The Council was demanding more from larger agencies over flooding and sewerage discharge, and had taken swift action to help residents most affected by the flooding during the Christmas period.

The Planning Department had been under pressure, with an increase in the number of applications, and officers having to adapt to working from home.

2.2 County Council: Councillor Hodgkinson had sent a written report as follows:

Covid: The past year had been a massive challenge for the County Council, responsible for Public Health in the County, but the challenge had been met by Council staff and volunteers in offering support for the vulnerable. He felt optimistic about the coming year, covid infections having fallen to a very low level, and the hope that the vaccine would be effective. 75% of adults in the County had now received at least one dose.

He thanked all the volunteers in the villages (including North Cerney) who had worked hard during the lockdowns.

Highways: He was continuing to press Highways to clear signage of vegetation and make sure signs are legible needs to be done to improve that state of roads and pavements. The road from the Whiteway to Perrotts Brook was patched and surface dressed during the past year. He had asked for Chapel Lane to be included in the patching schedule for this financial year.

He continued to press Highways to reduce the speed limit from Churnside on the A435

The A417 "Missing Link" project continues to move ahead, although slowly. There was a public consultation last year on Highways England's solution, and work was expected to start in about 18 months' time.

Rivers: There are 28 rivers flowing through the County, including the Severn and the Thames. Many are flooded with harmful pollutants including raw sewage discharge from water treatment operators. Raw sewage should be discharged into rivers in only exceptional circumstances, but a survey of the River Windrush showed that this happened for 25% of the entire year, He was leading a push to clean up the rivers, bringing a motion about this to the County Council meeting in November 2020. this had resulted in a meeting with the Environment Agency and establishment of a task force to bring the various water treatment operators into line. He would report on future progress.

Election: He had been re-elected earlier this month with an increased majority of 895. The County Council has a small Conservative majority of 3 out of 53 Councillors. He thanked those who had supported him.

3 REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reported as follows;

During the past year the council had held virtual meetings on Zoom, and he thanked the Clerk and Councillors for arranging and attending these meetings.

He thanked Councillors Stoten and Butler, and former Councillor Ewbank, for their work in organising local volunteers.

He thanked Councillor Butler for looking after the Woodmancote playground. The annual RoSPA report had been received, and raised no major issues.

A number of planning applications had been notified to the Council. The only contentious ones related to Rendcomb Airfield and new houses at Woodmancote. Comments had been lodged on behalf of the Council in respect of those applications.

He thanked Nick de Carles for his work in re-painting the North Cerney telephone kiosk.

After some seven years, there were now 12 new affordable homes in North Cerney. HRH Princess Royal had attended the recent official opening.

Following the death of Prince Philip, he had sent a letter of condolence to the Queen on behalf of the Council.

He expressed his thanks to the Councillors, Clerk and RFO, and to Ross Collins and Roy Savory for their work maintaining the Woodmancote playground and North Cerney village green.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2020/21 AND INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The RFO presented the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2021. The Council held a balance of £3,318 at the start of the year, had received the precept of £6,000 and had a balance of £3,154 at the end of the year. Expenditure had generally been in accordance with the budget. The only non-routine expense had been the cost of the defibrillator.

The Internal Audit Report was produced to the meeting. The Auditor was satisfied and raised no observations or matters needing review.

5 REPORT FROM NORTH CERNEY SCHOOL

Councillor Stoten, as a School Governor reported as follows:

It had been a challenging year for the School, but it appeared to have coped very well.

Pupil numbers had increased, which would have a positive financial impact. The school would also be helped by the reviewed Government funding.

The next OFSTED inspection was due this year..

6 ACCOUNTS OF THE MEMORIAL HALL CHARITY

The Accounts for the financial year ended 30th September 2020 were presented to the meeting. Daryl Hamlett had notified the Clerk that the Memorial Hall Committee would shortly be holding its AGM, and he would like to attend the next Parish Council Meeting with a full report..

7 ACCOUNTS OF THE CALMSDEN POOR DOWNS TRUST

The Chairman, as one of the trustees, presented the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. At that time the Trust held capital of £17,394.50 and income of £84.51. No distributions had been made during the year. Another distribution would be made when the funds justified it..

8 REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Councillor Wilkes said he had little to report.

There had been an increase in crime in the Parish during the past year, the main increases being in violence and theft.

There were a number of new residents in North Cerney, and he would be contacting them about Neighbourhood Watch.

Community Speed watch would start again in the near future.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: