

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
1st May 2025 at 7pm at All Saints Church, North Cerney

Present: Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, David Barrell, Jonathan Dryland, Clare Cannock, Cathy Martin and Barry Koch as the RFO and two members of the general public

Apologies: Councillors Neil Brown (work commitment) and County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson (election day), Suki Pascoe, PCSO Fellows, Kathy Rettie-Denness

Presiding: Councillor Mark Tufnell

Clerk: Sarah Treadwell-Jones

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2024 at 7pm in the memorial village hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. Report from the County and District Councillor

Paul Hodgkinson sent his written report:

Local government reorganisation - The major shake-up of local government is now gaining pace with all 'two tier council areas' (i.e. county and district councils delivering different services) to become one council delivering everything. Government has asked Gloucestershire councils to provide a proposal for the county by November. Three options are being mooted - a big county-wide council, two councils covering East and West Gloucestershire or a third option which has a Greater Gloucester council, plus the rest of the county as a second council. It's likely that the new council will start from 2028. The first two options are the most likely to have traction. There will be consultation with residents and organisations this summer and will update once news.

Flooding risk - storm in January produced a large volume of water down the River Churn and almost flooded houses at Broadbridge, North Cerney. He has been speaking to flood officers at Cotswold District Council to see what else can be done to prevent future issues. The growing intensity and frequency of storms means more can be expected. A meeting with FWAG took place recently and he has supported their suggestion to bring all Churn Valley parishes together in late June to start agreeing actions between them all to improve communication and to minimise future floods.

Roads - A number of roads related issues have arisen during the year in the parish: **Bankside and the centre of North Cerney** – water has been running down through the village for some time during rainy periods. This has then turned to ice when it gets cold. After much lobbying Highways have at last acted on this.

Large vehicles accessing North Cerney – this has long been an issue and residents have raised it again. Due to the pinch point in the centre of the village it seems that large vehicles are finding it difficult to navigate the road or get stuck. Maybe more signage is needed? A difficult one to sort out unless parking restrictions are introduced (which would take money and a long time to implement via a TRO).

Churnside speed limit – finally the reduction to 40mph at Churnside and Churnbrige is in sight. Highways have done the prep work on this, with formal consultation this new financial year with a view to implementing it, provided there is no adverse feedback.

A417 Missing Link – the project is on track to be completed in February 2027, with parts of the new road open towards the end of next year.

3. Annual report of the Parish Council

Councillor Mark Tufnell reported:

A farewell to Val Hancock as our clerk and welcome to Sarah Treadwell-Jones. Woodmancote playpark and community centre was the most exciting project of the year – with a new lease for 999 years secured at peppercorn rent. Jonathan Dryland was the driving force and raised around £60k which shows what a small community can do when the need is there - a huge thanks.

The Council has agreed policies in the year for privacy and D&I.

A request had been made to register the village green with the Land Registry.

Thanks to Tom McDonald and Roy Savery for the maintenance within the Parish. Churnbridge Row has won an award from CPRE for the affordable home scheme and next year the speed limit will be 40mph through Churnside.

4. Financial review for 2024/5 and internal audit report

The RFO presented the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. In summary, the Parish Council received a precept of £6,000, with the current account totalling £6,968.68 (NCPD £4,188.24 / Woodmancote project £2,780.44).

Legal fees of £1,923.00 for the lease relating to Woodmancote playpark. Regular expenses were £4,678 for the year and £66 of one-off expense.

Woodmancote raised £63,552 and spent £60,772, with a balance at the end of March of £2,780.

The project took the Council into a different category of reports where councils receive in excess of £25k so a larger set of working papers/statements are required to show transactions for the year. In 2025/6 it will be returning to the usual style of reporting.

The CIL funds were used to give donations to the Village Hall for £1,500 and £1,500 to the Woodmancote project.

Sue Power undertook the internal audit in line with requirements – to sign w/c 5th May when back from holiday.

5. Annual Report from the North Cerney CE Primary Academy

Suki Pascoe, the headteacher was unable to attend but sent a report:

The current NOR is 52, with a higher number of children joining Reception in September '24 due to moving into the area and moving schools.

SEND at 27% - have a higher number of children registered as SEN than national average. They continue to provide children with effective support, whilst maintaining high expectations for their achievement.

Pupil Premium - numbers at the school have fallen over recent years, with only 8% of children receiving free school meals.

DATA – The school is achieving greater than the national average in all key stages.

Staffing and Leadership - Teaching staff have remained consistent for the last few years. In '25 there has been some changes in Teaching Assistant roles and are now working in partnership with Cirencester College in recruiting an apprentice Teaching Assistant last term. Since September '24 the Executive Headteacher has been providing leadership support to Withington CE Primary School and there is now an agreement in place for this to continue for the next academic year which supports the school budget during challenging times. It also continues to benefit from the support of Diocese of Gloucester Academy Trust, with monitoring visits every term and visits from our Quality Assurance Lead three times a year. The reports are always very positive and recognise the quality of education the school is able to provide. It also enjoys strong links with the community and the NCSA works hard to raise funds for the school. They are well-supported by local residents who visit to hear children read and support with collective worship. They also maintain close links with the church and have invited children and families to services during the school year, including

some Sunday services. Rev Minns has been a very frequent visitor to the school, and they will miss his collective worships on Thursdays as he is retiring.

1st May 2025

Page 405

Matt Frost from the Baptist Church supports them by leading worship once a term, and from Easter clergy from Bibury including Rev Tim Hastie-Smith and Rev Louise Brown are supporting.

6. Annual Report from the Memorial Hall Charity

Kathy Rettie-Denness, Chair, was unable to attend but sent a report:

It's the third year of functioning under the 1962 constitution. JH continues as secretary and BK as the Treasurer BK, with SC until the end of this year looking after bookings / calendars – with Lebobv taking on the role. LW continues to do the website, publicity and social media. C&PM carry out the cleaning and maintenance in the building/garden and DR/DH – bar area.

Funds have been spent on improving H&S and its facilities – radiators, bar, kitchen, glitter ball etc.

Income generation comes from Oliver and Marina W for regular morning bookings, church monthly supper evenings/dances, School plays and the Churn valley players (Murder mystery - 2 performance sold out), the second scamper (JJ). Bookings are improving and they are receiving good feedback.

The funds raised are being used to pay for removing and sealing chimney. A grant of £18k was raised by DE with 10% - CILC to cover the windows, door, fire door, insulation, energy efficiency in the building.

Rev David Minns received thanks for his monthly prayer/supper evenings - £5k.

They are thankful for the support and aim to bring communities together. Upcoming events include the JE 100th exhibition in June and centenary celebrations on 7-8 June.

7. Annual report of the Trustees of the Calmsden Poor Downs

Councillor Mark Tufnell as a Trustee (other Trustees are Jane Tufnell and Elmore Crump) reported:

Funds are held in a Virgin deposit account and a Lloyds current account. During the year ended 31 March 2025 interest of £190.49 was received. Funds carried forward amount to £17,877.03. No monies were distributed in 2024/2025 but there are plans for gifts at Christmas time for those in Calmsden.

MT explained that the beneficiaries only include the “poor” of Calmsden at present and this were to be changed then permission would be needed from the Charity Commission.

8. Annual report on neighbourhood watch and crime prevention

PSCO Fellowes was unable to attend – reports for the quarter were:

POLICE

Speedwatch - Q1 in Cotswolds 43 visits, sent 300 first letters and 23 second letters to people.

Actions from data analysis – 20 persistent speeders in 30mph speed limit.

Parish reported 44 speeders in 30ph – neighbourhood action team stopped, and positive drugs wiped – cannabis and was arrested.

58mph in 20pmh one other incident reported, monitored for two weeks and the vehicle was ceased.

43mph in 30mph - only one reported – registered keeper was drunk and drug driving (cannabis/cocaine) during school pick up – information was circulated and driver arrested and detained.

9. Any Other Business

Disabled access to the Memorial Village Hall signage – Councillors agreed for it to be placed in the right-hand side of the NCPC noticeboard.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:10pm

Signed:

Date: