

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7.30p.m.

at

Chipping Warden Village Hall

### Present: -

<b>Councillors</b> –	N Galletly, D Cross, D Hussey, N Meades, N McNeill, R Woodford, V Woodford.
<b>Police</b> –	Two representatives
<b>SNDC</b> -	Mrs Sergison-Brooke & Mrs R Herring
<b>NCC</b> –	K Melling
<b>Public</b> -	40 Members
<b>Clerks</b> -	J Jones & L Stanley

**Apologies** – Councillor R Humphries had tendered his apologies.

**WELCOME** – The Chairman, N Galletly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that Mrs June Jones would be retiring from the position of clerk, after 34 years, and that Mrs Lorraine Stanley had been engaged in this capacity as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008; both would be working in tandem for a short period to ensure a smooth transition. This has left a vacancy on the Parish Council that the next meeting would be dealing with.

**POLICE** – Susanne Bourne said that this was her second Annual Meeting this year and that there were many more to come as she would try to attend most within her area.

- a) She left some leaflets with an overview of the Safer Community Teams initiative and brief survey forms aimed at establishing residents' main areas of concern. To date, the information from 36 open meetings had highlighted burglary, drugs and vehicle crime (theft from & of motor vehicles).
- b) The crime statistics for this area have reduced by two with 20 being recorded for March. These include 1 motor vehicle theft, and five distraction burglaries. The main issues within the rural communities are theft of lead from churches and vehicle crimes.

Two questions from the floor – Parking on the corner of Mill Lane and A361 is a problem and parking on the footpaths causing people with pushchairs to walk on the road.

Any parking must be 10 metres from any junction (signage should be visible) and if a pushchair cannot access the path then this is an obstruction.

N McNeill asked if anyone would be willing to take over his current role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Apart from the points raised above it has been a quiet year.

S Bourne confirmed that this position is a link between the Police and the community.

**SNDC COUNCILLORS** – Mrs Sergison-Brooke thanked the Parish Council for inviting her and her colleague, R Herring to the meeting. They gave a report on their work to date.

The transition of the ownership of the council houses to a housing agency had finally been accomplished; this has taken 3 years. The Housing Association Committee consisted of 15 members – 5 from CC, 5 from SNDC and 5 from the Tenants Association. A rolling program of modernisation has been put in place and 28 dwellings in Chipping Warden have been highlighted in the first contract.

**Bus** passes are now available to the over 60's making UK bus travel free; this is provided by the councils, as central government only provides funding to cover the cost of the cards.

**Flooding** – They appreciate that there was frustration with the county and district councils over time delays in obtaining action on the flooding issue in Hogg End. Tim Boswell, MP, had called an on-site meeting to discuss the matter and now a report is awaited from the hydrologist.

There are several areas of concern – where the water is coming from, who is responsible and why there is a time delay between rain and flooding. The drains have already had a camera down and been cleaned. There is a plan to ensure that Water Boards will take full responsibility for all aspects of water supply and drainage, but unfortunately there is still much documentation to be finalised before it becomes policy.

Thames Water has asked to be included in the next meeting, which will take place once the hydrologist's report is forthcoming.

**Horton** General Hospital - R Herring and Mrs Sergison-Brooke had co-operated fully with the groups trying to maintain the Maternity wing at the Horton General, especially since 1/3 of SNDC is reliant on Horton and the Councillors have seen this as extremely relevant to their constituents.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR** K Melling introduced himself and gave the meeting a concise overview of what he has been doing whilst in position and the achievements of the administration to date. He also talked about the financial aspects of the council and how they affect the budget. Atkins have been replaced by a new company "MGWSP", road maintenance remains a priority, street lights to be replaced by low energy bulbs, gritting allowance has been increased, government has given grant of £1.5M for safety improvements and accident reduction on rural roads.

**Questions from the floor: -**

**Camera** – In view of your last statement, is there anything that you can do to assist Chipping Warden to get the speed camera moved nearer the school?

**A:** He will take the issue up and report to the Parish Council. This is not a SNDC matter, but it could be put onto the survey cards handed out by the Police.

**WNDC** – Can you report on the work of WNDC?

**A:** It doesn't have any powers in this area; it is a planning and conduit group for government money in Towcester, Daventry and Northampton

**Restructure Plans** 2009 looks at awarding Chipping Warden airfield as an industrial centre. How will this affect any plans to increase the site or its traffic?

**A:** This is one combined structure plan for houses and business it allows for future planning but does not pass or agree plans; it is all very much in its early days.

**PARISH AWARDS:** The first nomination is June Jones for all her outstanding work over 34 years as Parish Clerk. She was thanked most sincerely and she will be missed.

The second nomination is Betty Phillips for her untiring support for the school and the hours of unpaid time, she has put in weekly in reading with the young children.

## **VILLAGE REPORTS**

**Church** – Mrs Bartlett reported that the fabric of the church is in good repair, but that the work on the kitchen/toilets is still on going. Villagers have remarked on the Church's 'carbon footprint' regarding the lighting of the church. Mrs Bartlett stated that the bulbs have been converted to low energy and by keeping the church so well illuminated it will hopefully deter any would be lead thieves. Unfortunately, there was no pantomime this year, but the players and helpers have all been CRB checked in line with the Child Protection policy. The pageant in the summer was a very big success in joining the community together (despite the small financial return) – many

thanks to all those who participated or attended. Fundraising continues to be a necessity as the overheads alone are 18K per annum. It continues to be an unwelcome fact that the church has to be kept locked for security reasons.

**Chapel** – Mrs Swift gave the last ever report on Chipping Warden Chapel as it closed in June 2007; the final service saw the Chapel packed with members from the circuit. It is now empty and documentation has been transferred to Manchester from where the sale will be organised. The contract will ensure that the building is not converted into either gambling or drinking establishments. The congregation now attends Marlborough Road or Cropredy chapels.

Mrs Swift thanked everyone for the support over the years and stated that she holds the Baptismal Records if anyone wishes to see them.

**School** – Mr Hussey gave the report on behalf of Mrs Dadds, Headteacher, who was unable to attend. There are currently 97 pupils between 4 & 11 years and the Kindergarten continues to thrive. There have been major improvements carried out including the covered area, new floor in the main hall with a new stage and new play equipment. Parents have also done a good job on minor works round the premises.

**PTA** – Ms Hood reported that there had been no major fundraising events last year but several smaller events and the lottery continues. PTA has a healthy bank balance and has paid for playground marking and subsidised several trips. They will shortly be purchasing shelving for the new library area and some cooking equipment. Road safety continues to be main subject of concern and PTA has sent many letters and investigated avenues of improvement. However, they are always told that is a low priority as there have been no serious accidents! PTA would welcome all assistance to highlight the potential for accidents in the school area.

**Sports Club** – Mr D Dalrymple reported that the cricket team ended the season 4<sup>th</sup> in the league and winners of the Knock-out Competition. New players are always welcome and younger players are encouraged. Indoor net practice to start at BGN School. Currently there is no village football team and it would be good to see this resurrected. School could make use of the playing field, but there are concerns over the lease.

The club carried out its usual round of fundraising events; - Sponsored Walk raised money for MacMillan Nurses; Duck Race with 155 ducks; quiz night; race night and Christmas Party for 60 children. They will be taking part in the Village Fete on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**WI** – Mrs Swift, President, reported that they were 24 members and although they have gained new members, unfortunately there have been a few losses. They have very interesting speakers or demonstrators most months, including a Belly Dancing group from Banbury. Annual Christmas Carol evening raised £500 for “Breathe Easy” charity, eleven shoeboxes were filled for overseas children and WI took part in the Pageant. They have also been to Kew Gardens, had Christmas Dinner at Griffin, 2 `Pot-luck Suppers`, members only darts competition, skittles competitions held at Byfield. Some of their fundraising will be going to support a local young windsurfer in her selection attempt for 2012 Olympics. All new members are welcome to WI Meetings held in the Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in each month.

**Village Hall** – Annual General Meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

**PC REPORT** – Mr Galletly, chairman, gave a report to the meeting on the actions of PC in the last year. The speeding on A361, parking at the school and the camera have been the main topics for the year.

**Parking** - The Police had suggested yellow lines in Long Barrow in an attempt to alleviate the parking problems there, but it is much improved, so nothing was done.

**Transporters** are using Appletree Road outside of the 19.30 – 06.30 weekdays, 13.30 Saturday and none on Sunday ban; this has escalated since the new owners took over. SNDC Planning Enforcement is pursuing this and has asked for information to be collated in the event of a court case. Residents will be approached to complete survey forms.

**Planning** – PC review planning applications and are invited to make comment. Enforcement Officers have stopped work on the barn erection to the south of the Village.

**Grass Cutting** – Kuene & Nagel continue to supply a grass cutting service to the village.

**Edgecote** has asked to be incorporated into Chipping Warden PC; they do not wish to have representation on the council. This is still under discussion.

**Sports Field** – Lease expires in 2009, hope is that this can be extended or possibly move to adjacent field and this will have space for play area.

**June Jones** – Thanks to June Jones for her long service and everyone will be sad to see her go. For the next 6 months, PC will have two clerks, as there is a massive amount of documentation to hand over.

**FINANCE** – Copies of the financial statement were circulated. Precept has only increased marginally from 5K to 6K and this is to cover possible lease and play area costs.

Receipts show Agency higher; this covers years, VAT is lower; this is because last years repayment has not been received, Insurance is payment received for damaged lamppost.

Payments has a higher sum for maintenance due to extra work carried out on shrub cutting etc.

#### **QUESTION TIME:**

**Tree** – there is a small tree overhanging the road from the allotments.

**A:** Investigation will be made as to whose liability this is.

**Dog Fouling** – Several dog walkers are allowing their dogs to foul the garden at Calves Close.

**A:** SNDC Dog Warden will be advised and she should visit to ascertain full details.

**Footpath** – The footpath from opposite the Stone House is in poor repair and this is used by children going to and from the school buses.

**A:** This will be priority on the agenda at the next PC meeting.

**Picket Fence** to the modernised bungalow on Allen's Orchard – can anything be done to remove it.

**A:** It is less than 1 metre high, so there is no action possible.

There being no other questions or comments, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.