

BISHOPS CAUNDLE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON TUESDAY, 15TH MAY 2018 AT 7.30P.M.

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: A. Jones, T. Loveless, P. Blundell, D. Gardner, A. Tuffin, S. Meads, D. Kennelly (Village Hall Committee), C. Mitchell (awaiting co-option to Parish Council), Cllr M. Penfold (Part), Parish Clerk J Walsh-Quantick,

1. Election of Chairman for Annual Parish Meeting:

P. Blundell proposed A. Jones, seconded by D. Gardner.

2. To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Robert Gould and Tony Gilbert (Team Rector)

3. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2017.

Circulated previously, the minutes were approved and signed.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Alan Jones welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The past year has overall been successful in most areas from our activities but, as always, we could do better. We have by prudent management of our finances managed to maintain our council tax precept increase to a minimum.

During the year we have had a number of non-contentious planning applications which mainly have been for works to listed buildings and extensions. All have subsequently been approved by West Dorset planning. It is pleasing that the Manor Farm development has now been approved following our organisation of two public meetings where the majority of concerns have been addressed. The proposed development is to be welcomed as many of villages of our size cannot offer our facilities including a shop, school, church, garage and pub.

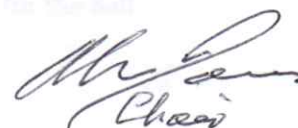
The increase in younger population will enable these facilities to flourish.

The play area is making demands on our finances. The play area has been in use since opening some 18 years ago and is beginning to look tired and in need of refurbishment. We need people to come forward and help with its maintenance and provide a work programme to refurbish existing equipment and research suitable equipment for older children and funding. I would like to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by councillors Loveless, Tuffin and Gardner in supervising repair and maintenance and undertaking works themselves.

During the year our clerk, Sue Harris, found it necessary for personal reasons to resign and we thank her for her hard work and guidance. We have been fortunate in appointing a replacement who we hope will find the work satisfying and enjoyable. Over the past year three councillors have resigned and we have been able to co-opt two new councillors leaving a vacancy which we would welcome members of the community to come forward to fill.

Like many others, we have noticed a deterioration in the condition of roads, especially those classified as C grade. It is pleasing to see some works have been undertaken in efforts to improve the situation but drainage gulleys still remain a concern.

Finally, I thank Parish Councillors and our District and County Councillors for their sterling efforts and support over the past year and for giving up their private time to represent the community.



Chairman

07/05/2019

5. Statement of Parish Council Accounts.

The clerk presented the full parish council accounts for the year, these were proposed for adoption by P. Bundell and seconded by D. Gardner.

6. Representatives from Village Organisations were invited to give a brief statement of the year's activities:

- **Parochial Church Council.**

Apologies were received from Tony Gilbert (Team Rector) and a statement was read by the clerk on his behalf.

Ladies and Gentlemen. Please forgive my not being with you this evening. I hope that these notes will suffice to inform you of what is happening in the church in my absence.

The Church is going through what might be described as mixed fortunes at the moment. On the plus side the new forms of church service seem to be going well and attendance numbers are much higher than they were. We are looking at introducing another additional service each month to the usual schedule. The church bells are now being rung regularly with a new tower captain and team of ringers.

The church has made a few alterations such as the addition of a proper safe and is looking at a more serious re-ordering such as putting in kitchen facilities to make the church more able to hold church social events and make it a more attractive venue for school events, concerts etc. This entails a considerable amount of time and effort being put into raising funds. The fact that the church is prepared to contemplate such work is a definite sign of faith in the future.

On the minus side is the fact that added costs will be incurred because the leaky roof needs some serious repair work which will be very expensive and the necessary funds will also have to be found through fund raising. Unfortunately, for the first time in many decades we were not able to find anyone able and willing to take on the position of churchwarden at our last Annual Meeting. It is churchwardens who are responsible for the fabric of the church and is an important role. Not having one, preferably two makes running the church much harder.

Notwithstanding the challenges ahead we are confident that the church will be able to serve the village of Bishop's Caundle in the future as it has done in the past. We have a hardworking and dedicate PCC and my thanks go to them and all those who serve the church and seek to make it a fully integrated part of village life.

- **Village Hall Committee – Presented by David Kennelly.**

Overall this year income is slightly ahead of expenditure. With some clubs paying for three to four months in advance, and maintenance items being irregular, the monthly figures fluctuate too much to be used as an indicator. Overall we seem to be covering costs, and from May hire charges are increasing by 12.5%, so I think things look OK.

It has been a busy period for maintenance. At last all of the plumbing issues have been resolved (ladies and gents toilets, and kitchen sinks), and the inspection by Wessex Water reported no issues. The boiler has had its annual service. Hopefully it will not be used for heating over the next few months and the oil tank is roughly half full, so we don't expect any major expenditure – apart from the oil level monitoring system which appears to have reached the end of its serviceable life. A replacement will be around the £100 mark. Rubber inserts have been fitted to all chairs in the hall where required.

The fire alarm system has had its annual maintenance and a new fire service certificate issued.

The Association for Dorset Village Halls website has been updated, and both Short Mat Bowls and Whist added to the regular events shown for the hall.


Chair

07/05/2019

- **Village Community Shop** – Presented by Peter Blundell.

Thanks to Sherborne Castle Estate for their continued support for the shop.

During the year we said goodbye to two of our staff, Paula and Glynis. In October we employed a new shop manager, Gail, who had been assisting in running another community store. She is proving to be a valuable asset to the shop.

After reviewing the financial situation at the beginning of last financial year, we found that we were able to repay all of the smaller start-up loans and part of the larger loans. Some of the loaners generously gifted their loans.

We were donated some carpet tiles. Volunteers pulled up the old carpet and laid the new carpet after moving all of the stock and shelving and then putting it all back again. A mammoth task but the result speaks for itself.

Staffing the shop, especially in the afternoons, continues to be difficult. We are only able to open the hours that we do by a few people taking on extra shifts. This situation cannot continue without a new cohort of volunteers taking some of the load. Two of our stalwarts, Liz and David, will soon be leaving the district and we shall have to consider seriously closing the shop for one afternoon a week, and possibly more.

Trading in the first quarter of last year was disappointing but the next three quarters were all up on the same period as the previous year, ending on an improvement overall on the previous year. In particular, there was a marked improvement in trading after Gail took over as Shop Manager.

At the end of March, the shop had been responsible for the running of the Post Office services for a year. That means that the shop pays for the staffing of the PO. In return, POL pays the shop a commission on the business that goes through the PO. Unfortunately, this covers only about a third of the cost of running the PO services. The shop is subsidising the provision of these services by over £5500, which has to be paid out of the gross margin generated by sales to the shop's customers. At the moment we are unable to say if we can sustain the current level of subsidy for the Post Office. The shop is planning to consult with our MP on this matter.

- **Bowling Club** - Presented by Peter Blundell.

The club meets twice a week in the village hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and has had a highly successful season and now placed in Division 5. There is competition for team places. Carol is trying to organise a trip to Okehampton for a training session. It is generally a vibrant and fun club with a good atmosphere. New club members are always welcome, publicity such as notices and open evenings have been tried.

7. Open Public Forum

The difficulty in identifying the location of Curtis Close was raised and concerns were voiced about finding locations for emergency services as it is not clearly signed or often correct on Satnav programmes. **Parish Clerk to contact WDDC to request better signage.**

The meeting closed at 20:10.


Chair 07/05/2019