

# CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at 8.00pm

St Peter's Church, Lordsmead, Chippenham

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Present: Parish Cllrs P Reynolds, H Ham, C Harford and Mrs L Selman, Mr V Vines Clerk of the Council, Wiltshire Councillor H Greenman, Martin Hutchings of Gloucestershire Community Council, Jamie Lewis and Chloe Smart of Hunter Page Planning Consultants and 4 Members of the Public (Valerie Ham, Melanie Barnett, Ken Teal and Julia Stacey)

**MIN 1. Apologies:** Parish Cllr S Eades and Countess Amanda Cairns

**MIN 2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2017:**

Draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were circulated to those in attendance and had been available online.

Cllr H Ham proposed, Cllr Mrs L Selman seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to receive, approve and sign as a true record the Minutes from the above Meeting. The Parish Council Chairman duly signed the Minutes.

**MIN 3. Matter arising from the Annual Parish Meeting 2017:**

There were none that were not included as later Agenda items.

**MIN 4. Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Paul Reynolds, reported on the Parish Council activities for the year.

Compared to 2016 the past twelve months had been relatively quiet. The A350 dualing works had been continuing in piecemeal fashion throughout the eastern length of the Parish causing extensive impact on the local road network both in terms of usage and damage to road surfaces, verges and ditches that required reinstatement.

There had been considerable works carried out by Wiltshire Council in reinstating Allington Lane, without any real consultation with the Parish, including the introduction of passing bays but time would tell if they were actually big enough and capable of use. Some drainage improvements had been included but as yet had not been tested in extreme weather conditions.

Fly tipping had become an issue in the Parish and the culprits should be caught and punished severely to deter others. A litter pick had been carried out in Allington Lane by community volunteers and there was a need for others to come forward to do other areas in the Parish, particularly Sheldon Lane.

Although the Wiltshire Council Parish Steward did his best highway conditions continued to deteriorate and the filling of potholes here and there was not sufficient to cure the problems. Similarly, the roadside footways, verges and ditches were not maintained sufficiently.

The Council had responded to planning applications during the year and had responded to various consultations. There had been no further progress in regards to the provision of the Parish Community Hall as a potential site should come forward as a Neighbourhood Plan proposal.

The Chairman thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their work during the year particularly, Stephen Eades and Howard Ham. He reminded all again that although the Parish Council was hosting and had sought the Neighbourhood Plan Designation it was the Steering Group that had the task of consulting the whole Parish on a continual basis, seeking all Parishioners views.

The Chairman of the Council thanked all Parish Council Members, particularly Chris Harford and Stephen Eades the new Members and the Clerk for their work throughout the last year and he looked forward and hoped everyone had a successful year ahead.

**MIN 5. Parish Council's Budget 2018-2019:**

The Clerk reported on the Parish Council's Budget proposals for the year 2018/2019.

The Council had considered proposals for Year 2018-2019, together with background advice from Wiltshire Council and future Capital and Revenue spending requirements at their November Meeting. Consideration was given to a forward budget and cost pressures and the Council had been mindful of the fact that any large increases proposed needed the support of Parishioners. The Council had agreed that there was a need to maintain the Capital Fund by resisting any reductions to support the Revenue Account and that, with Revenue spending to allow for support of Neighbourhood Plan costs until grants became available, there was a need to increase the overall budget by £1,000.00. Consequently, the Council had requested a Precept requirement of £8,000.00 for this Council Year.

**MIN 6. Report from Wiltshire Council Representative:**

Once again Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman was pleased to extend his thanks to the Parish Council for being a delight to work with. Once again too he reflected on a challenging year both locally and across Wiltshire. He wished it wasn't.

He commented that it often appeared that the area was particularly beset with planning applications which unavoidably change the face of our communities, some for good, and maybe some not so palatable. Locally we continued to have our patience stretched by the traffic signalisation of the Motorway Junction 17, which had taken a lot longer than expected. Junction 17 was of course the centre of traffic pressures from Dyson Technologies, the Chippenham Gateway project, which had recently seen an outline planning application approval and of course the A350 dualing works.

Howard mentioned last year the redevelopment of Chippenham Railway Station and unfortunately had to revise his report this year in that he thought the redevelopment work will be somewhat scaled down this year as budgetary pressures probably will mean expectations will need to be more modest.

On a more personal note he was pleased that across his County Division various Neighbourhood Plans were now progressing well. He recognised that there were conflicting views in some quarters over the need for the Plans, but was certain that Chippenham Without would benefit locally from the direction provided by an adopted Plan, so that decision makers should recognise the local community views when determining applications.

Again, personally, he had been pleased to Chair the Chippenham Area Board and Community Area Parish Forum, which goes from strength to strength and has been well supported by the Chippenham Without Parish Council.

Within Wiltshire Council the challenges continue with further budgetary cuts requiring savings of over £20 million and an increase in Council Tax of 5.99% including a Social Care levy of £3%. This would not be enough to shore up the Adult care need and resources however, so innovative means to provide needed services have to be explored including the Help to Live at Home Scheme, which so far has helped 6500 people to live independently at home. That said, Wiltshire Council had increased the Adult care budget by 11% over the last four years, or £13.5 million. In Wiltshire there was the third largest older population in the UK with 100,000 of the 475,000 residents aged over 65 years.

He advised that there are over 6000 volunteers across Wiltshire helping provide services from Libraries to litter picking and maintaining Rights of Way etc which is fortunate given that there will be increasing pressure on these services. Litter picking is a sad example of monies being spent unnecessarily costing all over £2.5million to service.

Fly-tipping was also an increasing issue so £669,000.00 was being invested to help improve all these Street Scene services, and he had personally initiated a program whereby the Chippenham Area Board will be acquiring CCTVs to help mitigate fly-tipping in this area by catching those responsible. These areas too will be covered by appropriate signage.

More than £300 million had been allocated in the Capital program to be spent on infrastructure to improve access and transport across the County and regenerate market towns etc.

He concluded by asking all to keep up the good work done and to continue to contact him if required.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked Councillor Greenman for his advice, continued involvement and assistance during the past year.

**MIN 7. Reports from Parish Council Sub Groups and Committees:**

Cllr H Ham, in his Emergency Coordinator role, reported that the Parish Emergency Plan was now filed with Wiltshire Council. In due course the Plan would be published on the Parish Website.

**MIN 8. Reports from Local Organisations:**

- a) **Allington Action Group.** Howard Ham reported that the Chippenham Site Allocations process was still being monitored. Although it might soon be the case that the Action Group's work was complete and that they could be disbanded it was still considered that there was a need to be vigilant, as Boundary reviews would continue to be a constant threat.

**MIN 9. Allington, Lanhill & Sheldon Neighbourhood Plan:**

Howard Ham reported on further progress. The Steering Group was receiving much needed advice from Hunter Page Planning Consultants who had recently advised that there was a need to carry out a Housing Needs survey as the Plan preparation needs to be evidence based. Consequently, they had introduced the Gloucestershire Community Council (GCC) to the Group who had the expertise to conduct the required survey and report preparation. Martin Hutchings of the GCC was in attendance and gave a presentation to explain the process, timescales and what involvement was required locally. There was a need to ensure that the Survey was well publicised so that a high return rate was achieved. Martin (GCC), Jamie and

Chloe (Hunter Page) answered questions raised and stressed the value of an Adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked the Speakers for their attendance and asked that the Steering Group update the Council throughout the forthcoming year.

**MIN 10. Public Questions and General Discussion of Parish Issues:**

There were no questions or issues raised.

**MIN 11. Closure of Meeting:**

The Parish Council Chairman thanked all those who had attended the Annual Parish Meeting and closed the Meeting at 9.50pm. .

Signed:

Councillor:

Date: **24<sup>th</sup> April 2019**