

CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at 8.00pm
St Peter's Church, Lordsmead, Chippenham

24th April 2019

Present: Cllr S Eades, Cllr H Ham and Cllr Mrs L Selman, Mr V Vines Clerk of the Council, Wiltshire Councillor H Greenman and 1 member of the public (Valerie Ham)

MIN 1. Apologies: Cllr C Harford

MIN 2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2018:

Draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25th April 2018 were circulated to those in attendance and had been available online.

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

MIN 3. Matter arising from the Annual Parish Meeting 2018:

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

MIN 4. Chairman's Report:

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Howard Ham, reported on the Parish Council activities for the year.

He particularly mentioned the continuing work of the Allington Action Group, which although somewhat scaled down following The Range decision, continued to monitor the Chippenham Site Allocations (CSAP) process and Spatial Planning matters up to 2036 and during the year, together with Cllr Stephen Eades had attended a Wiltshire Council session relating to potential Chippenham expansion areas under consideration. Both had advanced the principle that a ring road around Chippenham would provide the logical and enforceable strategic boundary around the urban area, as accepted for the A350. This strategic boundary concept had also been promoted by both at a recent meeting they had attended with Chippenham Town Council in regards to the development of their Neighbourhood Plan when it had also been suggested that Chippenham Without should be retained and promoted as the western landscape setting for the Town and a green space with a rural identity providing rural amenities and facilities. It was likely that the Allington, Lanhill & Sheldon Neighbourhood Plan would contain this philosophy.

The Council had responded to planning applications during the year, including the M4 Junction 17 proposals that had received outline planning permission. There was a view that further applications would be forthcoming for the surrounding areas of the junction. Recently the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum had noted a recent planning application for a new hanger at Hullavington, a Dyson proposal that concerned particularly Stanton St Quinton but the area generally. In mentioning the Parish Forum, it should be noted that the Council was an enthusiastic supporter and regularly attended.

Recently, there had been a “Spring Clean” of the Allington Lane and Fowlswick Lane areas and it was important that volunteers came forward to share the burden and do similar clean ups as an annual event in the Sheldon and Lanhill areas. At this point the Wiltshire Council Parish Steward was thanked for his work carried out in the Parish throughout the year that included the installation of the three replacement timber seats provided by the Council. Disappointingly, even with his best efforts and limited time within the Parish, potholes, roadside footways, verges and ditches were not maintained sufficiently.

In this regard the new seats, the Council’s expense was limited, as three sponsors had been found for the seat purchase and Mike Church (M J Church Plant Ltd), Chris Harford and family (Bagbury Homes Ltd) and Paul Reynolds (Allington Farm Shop) were all thanked. Within the year a significant sponsorship sum had also been received from Allington Farm Shop towards the provision of the two defibrillators now installed.

During the year the Parish Emergency Plan had been prepared and was now registered with the Wiltshire Council emergency team. Also a Rights of Way survey had been completed covering all public access routes and signage and this was with the Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team for consideration.

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.

Fly tipping remained an issue in the Parish and recently through the Chippenham Area Board signage had been acquired to be erected in known hot spots and in due course it was likely that CCTV would become available.

In closing, Howard thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their work during the year particularly, Stephen Eades. Also all Parish Council Members and the Parish Clerk for their work throughout the last year.

MIN 5. Parish Council’s Budget 2019-2020:

The Clerk reported on the Parish Council’s Budget proposals for the year 2019/20. Budget spreadsheets and accounts for comparison years were circulated

The Council had considered proposals for Year 2019-2020, 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 start up Neighbourhood Plan costs until grants became available and for any works the Council might wish/need to carry out as a result of Wiltshire Council service cuts, there was a need to increase the overall budget by £1,000.00. Consequently, the Council had requested a Precept requirement of £9,000.00 for this Council Year.

MIN 6. Report from Wiltshire Council Representative:

Wiltshire Councillor Howard Greenman was pleased to attend and reported that he would have the pleasure of representing the Parish for ten years in May 2019 and he reflected that all the Parish Councils he represented have had Parish Councillors as well as Parish Clerks come and go, but was pleased to report that the various communities had enjoyed a level of stability and robust leadership even so.

Over the last ten years of the Unitary Authority there had been many changes, not all warmly welcomed, and the common thread throughout the decade had been one of budgetary cuts, which he would very much like to see an end to. This coming year had been no different.

This year's revenue budget was set at £332.378 million, which had required an increase in Council Tax precept of 2.99%. Wiltshire Council had started the year with an opening position of £327.746 million, and had approved a growth of £44.815 million. With saving in grants totalling £12.893 million, there had been a further saving requirement of £27.290 million. He saw no likelihood of this cost pressure reducing, particularly due to the increase in adult care, which had benefited from the largest increase ever in the coming year of £18.514 million.

These last few years too had seen the advent of the Chippenham Community Area Parish Forum, which goes from strength to strength and was well supported by the Parish Council. It appeared, finally, to be gaining recognition by Wiltshire Council too.

Fly-tipping continued to be an issue, and he just wanted to touch on that and requested that all such sites be reported, not only for Wiltshire Council to clear, but also for him to gain data on where fly-tipping signage should go too. He was aiming to distribute relevant signage where possible ahead of placing CCTV's in known fly-tipping hotspots for prosecution purposes.

In closing, he felt it perhaps appropriate to apologise for the high level of roadworks in the locality at the moment, which appeared to have suffered from some lack of joined up thinking. There had been benefits not least through the traffic management on M4 Junction 17 now, although he watched new developments with interest. There was cabling in place on the remaining two quarters of the junction should additional traffic lighting be required. However, he hoped there would be tangible benefits from road works elsewhere. Much of the work had been due to an additional £7.258 million from central government, which had resulted in an extreme grid-lock situation, in some quarters.

He thanked all for their time and advised anyone to contact him if required, with his contact details on the Wiltshire Council website.

The Vice 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:

The Council had no Sub-Groups or Sub-Committees throughout the year. Cllr H Ham had earlier reported on the Parish Emergency Plan, now filed with the Wiltshire Council emergency team and the Rights of Way Survey now with the Wiltshire Council Rights of Way team.

MIN 8. Reports from Local Organisations:

- a) **Allington Action Group.** Howard Ham had earlier reported on the Action Group's work throughout the last year and the need to be vigilant, as future planning and boundary issues would continue to be a constant threat.

MIN 9. Allington, Lanhill & Sheldon Neighbourhood Plan:

Stephen Eades reported on progress throughout the year. The Steering Group continued to receive advice from their Planning Consultants who were preparing a cost proposal for future stages in order for grant applications to be submitted. The Housing Needs survey carried out by the Gloucestershire Community Council had been completed with survey return numbers disappointing. The conclusions however, would still provide evidence for the Plan preparation. The principles of the Plan had been established following the initial consultation and further consultation was now necessary with landowners and businesses in the Parish. Having received grant support there would be a need to spend it in the following six months and so there would be a need to make progress this year. Stephen mentioned again the meeting that he and Howard Hams had attended with Chippenham Town Council in regards to the development of their Neighbourhood Plan and the suggestion that Chippenham Without should be promoted as the

western landscape setting for the Town and a green space with a rural identity providing rural amenities and facilities.

The Vice Chairman of the Parish Council thanked Stephen and other Steering Group members for their work throughout the year and it was hoped that other volunteers would involve themselves when assistance was needed during the next 12 months.

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

- a) **Community Speedwatch.** The Council had agreed that the matter should be raised to invite views. Although the benefit of the Speedwatch concept was clear in regards to speeding traffic, the knock on results led to the possibility of the introduction of lower speed limits, HGV and weight restrictions on the local Lanes/Roads throughout the Parish. There was a need for a group of volunteers to be trained and carry out the task. The matter could not be discussed further and any possible progress made at the meeting.
- b) **Community Safety/Neighbourhood Watch.** The Council had agreed that the matter should be raised to invite views. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme had been resurrected throughout Wiltshire following a decline. It was understood that at some stage there had been a Scheme in the Parish. Although the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch were clear there was a need for a Community Coordinator to be found that could provide the focal point for contact and administration. As the Parish was large there was perhaps a need for a volunteer to cover the various areas (Sheldon, Lanhill, Allington) reporting to the main Coordinator. The matter could not be discussed further and any possible progress made at the meeting.
- c) **Gigaclear.** The Council had been made aware of the provision of high-speed fibre broadband throughout the Parish as part of the Wiltshire Online Project. It was likely that works would commence later in the year and a Map indicating the cable routes was now available. This would allow all to connect when “live” through a service provider. More details would become available in future weeks and would feature as a Council Agenda item.
- d) **Community Involvement.** The absence of Parishioners at the meeting suggested apathy throughout the Parish and a lack of awareness of what the Parish Council was doing. Normal advertising, on Notice Boards and the website was clearly not sufficient to attract attendance, as was the offer of refreshments at previous meetings. Council Member resources were not adequate to promote a regular Newsletter but unless Parishioners became more involved little progress could be made. The immediate suggestion was the adding of community information on to the Council’s website that at the present time simply accommodated Council matters. The Clerk could upload any material provided. The Council would consider how best to involve the whole community to raise interest at a future Council Meeting.

There were no further questions or issues raised.

MIN 11. Closure of Meeting:

The Parish Council Vice Chairman thanked all those who had attended the Annual Parish Meeting and closed the Meeting at 9.44pm. .

Signed:

Councillor:

Date: