

PARISH OF CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at Cholesbury Village Hall on Monday 12th May 2014

Present: Cllr John Allen (Chairman), District Cllr Nick Rose, Mrs Hayley Lewis (Parish Clerk), Cllr Judy Joseph, Cllr Francis Sanger, Cllr Philip Matthews, Cllr Chris Brown, Cllr Nigel Blomfield, Cllr Minting and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies: County Cllr Mrs Patricia Birchley, Dave Clarke
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2013, taken as read, were approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
3. Rural Policing: Cllr Allen introduced Inspector Richard Vine and Katie Galvin (Community Safety Manager). Inspector Vine has been in the role of Neighbourhood Inspector for 15 months and is trying to build relations with each and every parish and take a more individual approach to each parish's needs. He informed the meeting that there are two major projects currently underway in the rural parishes, "Operation Ranger" targeting crime affecting rural business premises and "Operation Graysthorp" targeting violence, burglary and motor vehicle theft. Overall, crime is down, to its lowest rate in 25 years. In our Parish, there were 4 burglaries last year, down from 9 the previous year, following the national trend of year on year decreases for the last four years. Violent crime is also down. The rate of motor vehicle thefts varies greatly from area to area. However, in the case of fraud, particularly that targeting the elderly, the incidence has increased. Questions were asked relating to oil theft and begging and Inspector Vine said whilst these crimes were sometimes unavoidable, preventative measures would deter all but the most determined criminal. There was also a question about the relationship between forces across the county borders and Inspector Vine assured the meeting that there were initiatives in place to improve information sharing. Cllr Allen thanked Inspector Vine for his most informative talk.
- 4a. Parish Council, Chairman's report: Cllr Allen reported the Council's main activities for the year, which included the review of 42 planning applications; involvement in the Delivery and Development Plan (DDPD) review; involvement in the Conservation Area review; constant review and action concerning our highways, including the flooding at the bottom of Sandpit Hill (Super-Sucker machine booked for 22nd May), the kerbing of the triangle at Nut Hazel Cross Farm and the re-surfacing of both Cholesbury Lane (School to Rays Hill) and Oak Lane (both delayed due to the wet weather). Cllr Allen thanked Cllr Brown for his efforts – over 10 years - in having all of the local finger post signs corrected. Cllr Allen also expressed regret at the resignation of the previous clerk, Susie Bell and welcomed the new clerk. Thanks were also expressed to Liz van Hullen, who resigned as councillor this year, in particular for her work with the Neighbourhood Policing Group. Cllr Judy Joseph was welcomed to the council. Richard Charles was thanked for his work to replace the sign on Gilberts Hill and it was noted that the sign on Swan Lane by Swan Bottom is being repaired. The Council also purchased a defibrillator, is working towards having use of a Mobile Vehicle Activation (MVA) Sign to help manage speeding in the Parish, has agreement to introduce Superfast Broadband

and gained classification of The White Lion as an Asset of Community Value. Finally, Cllr Allen extended his thanks to all of his fellow councillors for their efforts this year.

- 4b. Parish Council, financial report: Hayley Lewis presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014 and gave a short report.
5. Bucks County Council: No report.
6. Chiltern District Council: Cllr Rose is looking forward to being able to spend more time in the Parishes following his resignation as Leader of the Council. Major council initiatives this year have included a review (i.e. of waste and recycling) in order to streamline services and reduce costs; the DDPD, aiming to identify housing needs and opportunities to meet the council target of providing up to 2,900 new homes in the county by 2026 (on which public comments will be possible in September this year) and work to petition against HS2. Both Cllr Rose and Cllr Allen urged the public to add their own petition, which can be done until 21st May at the council offices in Amersham between 10am – 4pm. A question was raised that several different recycling elements appeared to be mixed into one truck. Cllr Rose confirmed that the trucks are segmented. Cllr Brown noted that he was working with residents at Coppice Farm Park to meet their recycling needs.
7. St Leonards Parish Hall: No report.
8. Cholesbury Village Hall. Cllr Allen reported that the kitchen is to be updated to include a new cooker and dishwasher and in the summer the interior will be re-decorated.
9. Hawridge and Cholesbury Church of England Combined School: Governor Mike Murriss along with Governor Nicola Baker reported that the school has had Rosie Phillips working as Acting Head since September 2013 and Sue Thomas-Pounce is Chair of Governors. The school is currently under going an Ofsted inspection. Overall, numbers on roll are on the increase, SAT's and 11+ results are improving and the school is enjoying more stability in Years 5/6 due to the school re-organisation in Berkhamsted coming in line with Buckinghamshire. It was noted that the turnover in teachers, although high, is partly to be expected in a small rural school, where change is very noticeable, that turnover is high nationally and newly qualified teachers have to move on to extend their professional experience.
10. Chiltern Local Area Forum: Cllr Brown's work in this area has involved agreement of snow clearance contracts (with no snow since!), liaison with CDC over waste, future installation of the MVA, the Chiltern Traffic Management Project and Superfast Broadband.
11. Chesham Rural Policing Group. No formal group now exists. PC Kevin Flint continues to be our local contact.
12. The Turpin Charity: Cllr Allen is a Trustee and gave a short history of the Charity and its aims. A five-year option has been agreed with a developer and, once occupied, may release a considerable amount of money to the Charity, which will be used by the Trustees to benefit people from the parishes of Aston Clinton and St Leonards.

13. There was no other business.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and contributions. The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....