

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly of Chalgrave held on Tuesday April 25th, 2017 at the Memorial Hall, Tebworth at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. Phil Parry (Chairman); Cllr. Ken Green; Cllr Barbara Jackson; Cllr. Debbie Levy; Cllr Kevin Ludgate; Cllr. Mike Wells; Cllr Paul Whitton; Clerk Lesley Smith.

Also present: Ward Cllr. Mark Versallion Heath & Reach Ward; PCSOs Lynne Wells and David Lewinton.

Representatives from:

Chalgrave Memorial Hall; Mr Roger Masters
Chalgrave Senior Citizens' Committee; Mr Roger Masters
All Saints Church; Mr Steve Calder
The Plough Pub; Caroline Ross
The Queen's Head Pub; Anneliese Shaw
Chalgrave WI; Mrs Debbie Parry
Chalgrave News; Mrs Su Parker and Mrs Lyndie Lothian

Public present: 30

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Andrew Selous MP

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH ASSEMBLY-APRIL 26th, 2016

Approved by the council and signed as correct by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed residents, introduced the council members and explained their roles within the council. Cllr Parry then gave a brief summary of the Parish Council's activities over the past year. He also mentioned:

- i. The opening of the A5/M1 link road after which a 7.5 tonne limit will eventually operate through the parish and surrounding area.
- ii. Tebworth Great Pond. Cllr Parry said that the Parish Council feels very strongly that the pond belongs to the community and it has put in an application to Land Registry to own the pond on behalf of the community.
- iii. Cllrs Levy and Jackson are putting together an Emergency Plan for the parish.

4. POLICE REPORT

The PCSOs introduced themselves and explained that they represented our area and were our point of contact. Their team consists of Inspector Clark, two sergeants, and seven PCSOs two of which deal with antisocial behaviour. Bedfordshire Police are going back to a more community-based policing and rural crime is receiving more attention.

Crime figures. During the past year, in the parish, there have been:

- Burglary of a dwelling x 2
- Burglary Other x 5
- Public order offence x 1

The PCSOs invited residents to talk to them after the meeting and submit comments on the 'Have your Say' sheets.

5. LETTER FROM ANDREW SELOUS MP

Mr Selous was unable to attend this evening but he sent the following letter to Chalgrave residents:

I am very sorry not to be with you due to the fact that Parliament sits until 7pm or possibly later today. I have been working in the following areas amongst others.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE:

I have spent time with frontline staff at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, with local social care providers and with local GPs. While we are fortunate that the Luton and Dunstable Hospital is highly efficient, I am acutely aware of the pressures that both social care and GP practices are under. The Government has committed to get another 5000 doctors working in general practice by 2020 and I will remain very engaged, as a member of the Health Select Committee to try to make sure this happens. I am acutely aware that in some GP practices the waiting times to get in to see a doctor are far too long.

One health issue which I have worked on for the last nine years is the "Getting it right first time" initiative led by the new National Director for Clinical Quality Efficiency of NHS England, my constituent Professor Tim Briggs who lives in Totternhoe. This initiative is looking at improving the quality of care across the whole of the NHS to make sure there are better outcomes for patients and enormous sums of money can also be saved. The litigation bill just for obstetrics alone for example over the last five years runs into many billions. Better quality care first time around would save that and that money could be invested in improving GP waiting times for example.

SCHOOLS:

The consultation on the National Funding Formula for schools closed on the 22 March. I am not happy with it as far as South West Bedfordshire is concerned as while 33 of our 47 schools see a budget increase, 13 see a decrease and 1 has no change. Of the 13 that see a decrease 9 are secondary or upper schools where children take their GCSEs and A Levels. I have made my views very, very clear with Education Ministers on this subject. The current proposals are only a consultation and we shall have to wait to see what happens.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE:

Bedfordshire Police continues to be unfairly badly funded compared with other similar Police forces. We have unfortunately had an inadequate rating from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and I met with the Chief Inspector along with three other Bedfordshire MPs a couple of weeks ago. I think our new Chief Constable, Jon Boutcher, is doing his very best along with our new Police and Crime Commissioner, Kathryn Holloway but I do remain concerned about the level of anti-social behaviour in Leighton Buzzard and the extensive availability of heroin in both Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. If re-elected I will meet again with the Chief Constable to look at the operational effectiveness of the Police in respect of local priorities.

A5:M1 LINK (DUNSTABLE NORTHERN BYPASS):

I understand this is expected to open on the week beginning the 8 May. I have spent 15 years in Parliament trying to get this road built to relieve congestion and also very poor air quality locally.

TRAVELLERS:

I am extremely unhappy about current legislation surrounding travellers. I held a second debate in Parliament on this issue last October and arranged a meeting with a number of MPs with the Minister a few weeks ago. I am expecting progress to be made on this matter.

LEASEHOLD HOUSES:

Although this issue does not affect Chalgrave I feel a great sense of injustice at the way that developers, Persimmon and Galliford Try (trading as Linden Homes) have decided to sell brand new houses built on freehold land they own as a leasehold basis. I raised this issue with the Prime Minister and she agreed it was not an acceptable practice and again I expect to see change in this area.

It is a real sadness not to be with you tonight. I salute your community spirit and very much want to see Chalgrave succeed in turning the wonderful Queen's Head into a community pub. I believe that Charles Wells should not seek full value in the way they are currently doing given the importance of this venue as a community asset to the village.

6. REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION

Cllr Versallion represents seven parishes within the Heath and Reach ward which includes Chalgrave. He works closely with Andrew Selous MP.

a) Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

b) Most of CBC's decisions are determined by budget and where those limited resources can go. Two thirds of CBC's budget comes from central government and the rest is from Council Tax, therefore if the government reduces CBC's funding money has to come from council tax so CBC is planning to increase council tax by 4% approximately. More will be spent on social care. The police, NHS and schools are all affected by reduced funding.

c) Bedfordshire Police.

The police received a bad report from the Chief Inspector. Rural communities are at risk in this area so the government needs to be encouraged to increase the police's funding.

d) New Homes.

The government has forced CBC to find sites and to build more houses. There will be a consultation in July/August. Rural communities are important consultees regarding where the houses should go.

7. ALL SAINTS CHURCH REPORT

a) **Roof.** Mr Calder introduced himself as the church treasurer and said that the church is 800 years old. The roof should be repaired by May 2017 with stainless steel replacing the stolen lead This will cost £68,000 approximately. There will be a special service on September 14th, 2017 to bless the roof. Everyone is invited and food and drinks will be available.

b) **New Vicar.** Rev. Anne Crawford has now left and the diocese is in the process of finding a new vicar. The new vicar will be shared with St. Georges Church in Toddington. The post will be full time for three years.

c) **Attendance.** The average church attendance at the Sunday 9.30am service is 20.

d) **Running Costs** of the church are £20,000 per year. People are invited to set up a direct debit to help keep the church operating.

8. CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT by ROGER MASTERS

a) **New Hall** is 18 years old. Mr Masters thanked everyone who worked on it at the time. There was a lot of work carried out last year, which included a great deal of painting and replacing the emergency lighting.

b) **Finances.** The hall just about broke even in 2015 and income rose by 14% last year which paid for the expense of the year before. Roger thanked the parish council for its 2016 grant.

c) **The Chalgrave Games** will take place on Saturday July 1st, 2017. The theme is superheroes.

9. **SPORTS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT read by CLLR WELLS**

Cllr Wells said that it was a good year for the club last year. Unfortunately it was not good for the cricket because of the weather and only two matches were held at the ground.

- a) **Club House.** The club house has been erected and needs to be fitted out. Cllr Wells thanked the Sports Club committee and other people that helped. Hopefully there will be formal opening.
- b) **New Members.** Paul Levy and Ed Morton have joined the committee. Cllr Wells has taken over as groundsman as Nev Andrews has stepped down and Cllr Wells thanked him on behalf of the committee.
- c) **Cricket.** There be a 10/10 on Sunday May 28th, 2017. There will be a bar and barbeque. Two extra teams will be playing. The club hopes to have 12 games this year.
- d) **Golf Day.** Ed Morton organised a successful Golf Day last year. Two or three are organised for this year.
- e) **Race Night.** was successful and raised lots of money for the club. Cllr Wells thanked everyone who helped.
- f) Grounds look great thanks to Cllr Wells, Nev Andrews and Callum Angel. Callum is also cutting the grass verges in the parish. The pitch needs replacing and the committee is looking into that.

10. **SENIORS CITIZENS' COMMITTEE REPORT by MR ROGER MASTERS**

- a) **Membership.** There are 76 people on the list. They usually receive a card on their birthday and wine and chocolates at Christmas. This Christmas Morrisons £20 gift vouchers will be given.
- b) **Finances.** The balance is healthy thanks to money raised from the Christmas Float- Roger thanked the volunteers. The committee also received a donation from the Chalgrave News.

11. **CHALGRAVE NEWS REPORTS**

Old Team Report by Mrs Su Parker.

- a) **The Chalgrave News** has an important role to play in our community providing current news and issues affecting the parish as well as providing a light-hearted look at a variety of parish topics.
- b) **History.** This team took over in 2010 and set about advertising sponsorship to ensure printing costs were covered. Fund raising events were held such as the Pimms Tent at the Chalgrave Games and the Annual Quiz, the winners of which often donated their winnings to the News. The team is proud of its achievements and have always given donations to local organisations when funds allow.
- c) **Editors.** Su thanked Emma Gray and Roger Parker for editing the quarterly magazine, which she described as an arduous task.
- d) **Advertising.** The ads section largely runs itself although some drop out so new ones need to be sourced in order that the income remains constant.
- e) **New Team.** The old team and the new team had a hand over meeting in February. The new team has set up a new bank account and the old team has passed on funds to put towards the 1st edition costs.
- f) **Final Words.** The team has enjoyed bringing the News to everyone and Su thanked the team members and anyone else who contributed in any way to the News.

New Team Report by Mrs Lyndie Lothian.

Lyndie thanked the old team. The new team consists of 8-10 people which includes an editorial team.

- a) **Advertisers.** Most have remained.
- b) **New Look Magazine.** A new design is being developed and the gardening feature is being resurrected. There will be an Open Gardens Day in June. The deadline for contributions to the 1st edition is May 4th, 2017.

12. THE PLOUGH REPORT by MRS CAROLINE ROSS

a) Events

- i. Monday May 8th-Chiltern Vehicle Preservation Society meeting in the evening.
- ii. 19-21 May-A group from Barclaycard is coming for the first time. Cars will be on show.
- iii. July 16th-Classic Car Show.

b) The Plough's Future. The pub is not closing. However Chris and Caroline are leaving around September 2017 and there will be new tenants.

c) Pets' Evening is alternate Sunday evenings and every Monday evening.

13. THE QUEEN'S HEAD REPORT by ANNELIESE SHAW

a) The Pub's Future. The pub went up for sale in February. People are working very hard to keep it open and has Andrew Selous MP's support. Crowd Funding has been launched in order to raise funds to buy the pub. £20,000 has already been raised. The aim is for £150,000. Charles Wells has already rejected an offer made with the funding that has been raised by the local community.

b) Events.

- i. Regular Folk Nights are held approximately once a month on a Wednesday evening.
- ii. There is a music event this weekend.
- iii. Motor Bike Show on Sunday May 7th, 2017

14. WI REPORT by MRS DEBBIE PARRY

a) Chalgrave WI goes from strength to strength and now has 50 members from both Chalgrave and outside. Full details are on the Chalgrave WI Facebook page.

b) Activities and Outings have included a talk on bees, a theatre trip and a guided walk looking at the blue plaques of Harlington.

c) Book Club has 17 members and meet every third Thursday of the month.

d) Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. Debbie explained about the centre. Chalgrave WI is allowed to arrange an event there twice a year. The last one was Christmas 2016. The WI collects small items for the women such as toiletries and accessories for which they are very grateful. Debbie asked for more donations by the end of June. Signs of the Times has kindly offered to act as a collection point for donations. There will be a marked cardboard box just inside the sliding entrance doors.

15. BOOK CLUB REPORT read by CLLR PARRY

Members have been reading a wide range of books from Norwegian thrillers to romantic novels. There was a post-Christmas lunch at the Fancott Arms, which was enjoyed by all. There are 9 members and meetings are usually once a month. Members take it in turns to host the meeting and provide coffee and biscuits whilst reviewing the books and also have a chat. It is a great opportunity to read some very good books and more importantly we get to socialise with people we may not get to see very often.

Anyone interested in joining please contact Noeleen Thomson on 01525 872168

16. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be arranged for April 2018.

Formal meeting closed at 20.35

The public were then offered refreshments and given the opportunity to talk to cllrs and guests.

Signed by Chairman..... Dated.....

