

**MINUTES** of the Annual Parish Assembly of Chalgrave held on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Memorial Hall, Tebworth at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. Phil Parry (Chairman); Cllr. Ken Green; Cllr. Debbie Levy; Cllr Kevin Ludgate; Cllr Paul Whitton; Cllr Jan Day; Cllr Peter Warburton; Lesley Smith-Clerk

Also present:

Ward Cllr. Mark Versallion Heath & Reach Ward;  
PC Jim Maden

Representatives from:

Chalgrave Memorial Hall; Roger Masters  
Chalgrave Sports Club; Mike Wells  
Chalgrave Senior Citizens' Committee; Roger Fenwick  
Chalgrave WI; Debbie Parry  
Queen's Head; Phil Parry  
Chalgrave News; Jan Day

Public present: 18

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Andrew Selous MP

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH ASSEMBLY-APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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 work of the Parish Council and its activities over the past year. He also mentioned:

- i. The election on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There are 10 nominations for 7 positions on the Parish Council. All the current cllrs are standing again.
- ii. The past year has been very active. The cllrs work on a voluntary basis and carry out a lot of work behind the scenes trying to do as much as they can for the local community. Cllrs attend the monthly meetings, attend local and area meetings, have individual responsibilities, and lobby MPs and local cllrs etc. Thank you to Ward Councillor Mark Versallion for his help with our communication and dealings with CBC.
- iii. Tebworth Great Pond. The last year has been dominated by the Great Pond but the dispute has now been resolved. Unfortunately our community has lost part of the pond.
- iv. We continue to pressure Highways to repair roads etc around the parish but it is a constant battle with CBC to get the work done. We are concerned about the markings on the roundabout at the bottom of Lords Hill. We alerted HW to this in 2017 after a number of accidents. HW told us they were going to change the markings in 2018 and we notified them again when nothing happened. They are going to review the roundabout this year.
- v. Planning is a constant concern. There are a number of new homes proposed for the parish, The Lane, Ivy Farm and College Farm. We try hard to make sure the planning rules are adhered to as there are those who flout them. We are also concerned about Gypsies and Travellers in the area and we belong to a Focus Group made up of local villages and parishes.
- vi. The precept is £7,361 this year, a quarter of which is given out as grants and awards. The accounts are in a healthy position
- vii. Speedwatch. Although no longer a cllr, Mike Wells has agreed to continue organising the group. There are 13 volunteers and go out every month, usually over three days, on Toddington Road and

Tebworth/Wingfield Roads. We also have traffic calming measures on the bends in Tebworth which, hopefully will stop vehicles damaging 1 Home Farm.

- viii. Thanks to Cllr Levy and Mrs Barbara Jackson for putting together an Emergency Plan for the parish. We can mobilise help, for example, in bad weather and power outages. Contact details in the Chalgrave News
- ix. We live in a low crime area but make sure your property is secure. Please report anything you think is suspicious and report any crimes.
- x. Fly tipping is becoming more dangerous as it is being dumped in the road. We report to CBC as soon as we know about it. Thanks to Paul Whitton for his involvement.
- xi. Footpaths. Cllr Green runs the Footpaths Committee, which help to keep the footpaths clear and accessible. Ken would like people to join the committee-see him if interested
- xii. Central Beds Council online consultations. We respond to the ones relevant to the parish but they can also be responded to individually.
- xiii. Request for nominations for the Millennium and Community Awards.
- xiv. Invitation to any of the Parish Council meetings which are usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

#### **4. POLICE REPORT by PC James Maden**

- a) **Crime figures.** It is important to report any incidents. During the past year 29 crimes within the parish were reported to the police. Talk to PC Maden if residents have individual issues.
- b) **Trap Van,** known as Operation Kane, is operational for van tool theft.

#### **5. REPORT from Andrew Selous MP**

Report at the end.

#### **6. REPORT by Ward Councillor Mark Versallion**

- a) **Introduction.** Cllr Versallion has been Chalgrave's ward cllr for 8 years. His ward also includes Hockliffe, Stanbridge, Tilsworth and Heath and Reach, which is where he lives.
- b) **Gypsies and Travellers.** Stanbridge and Tilsworth have a particular issue. Finally CBC is carrying out some of the things requested by communities and they now have two additional Planning Enforcement Officers. At the moment CBC does not have a Local Plan, which will identify where Gypsy and Traveller sites can go. Local Plan hearings begin on June 21st, 2019 and Cllr Versallion will speak to the Inspector about this issue. If the Local Plan is not adopted there is a danger that land can be purchased and a site set up.
- c) **New Homes.** 43,000 homes will be built over 25 years. Sites have been identified and traffic through Hockliffe may become worse because of the A5-M1 link road.
- d) **Policing.** Cllr Versallion asked PC Maden if he had heard that there may be more police for Leighton Buzzard Rural-9 more officers for the area.
- e) **Speed Camera.** In answer to a question from Cllr Warburton about the possibility of a camera on Tebworth/Wingfield Road, Cllr Versallion said that parish councils have the opportunity to raise money through their precept. Cameras cost £40,000 and Cllr Green commented that small parishes are at a disadvantage and the cost to them should be pro rata.
- f) **Fly Tipping.** A resident asked about cameras in fly tipping hot spots. Cllr Versallion replied that there is a deployable camera for this purpose.

#### **7. ALL SAINTS CHURCH REPORT read by Cllr Parry**

- a) **Steve Calder** apologised for not attending this evening as it is the Maundy Thursday dinner.
- b) **Attendances.** The weekly attendances are growing
- c) **Fund-raising Events** have been well supported. There is a new noticeboard and work has started on the disabled enabled toilet at the back of the church in the vestry.
- d) **Carols by Candlelight Service** was very well attended. It is held at 7pm on the last Saturday before Christmas and is very popular.
- e) **800-Year Anniversary 2020.** The church will be 799 years old on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. From this September we will be starting to celebrate its 800-year anniversary.
- f) **Chalgrave Alpha Course.** The course will be held at Chalgrave Memorial Hall on Thursday evenings from May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm for 10 weeks. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly and informal environment.
- g) **Ploughman's Lunch** on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at All Saints.

- h) **Christmas Afternoon Tea** on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at All Saints Church.
- i) Steve ended his report by thanking Chalgrave Parish Council and parishioners for their continued support.

#### 8. **CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT by Roger Masters**

- a) **New Hall** is now 20 years old.
- b) **Bookings**. Bookings are consistent with regular ones taking place.
- c) **Finances**. Roger thanked the Parish Council for its 2018 grant. Money will also be raised from the forthcoming local election on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the European election on May 23<sup>rd</sup> as the hall will be the polling station.
- d) **The Chalgrave Games** will take place on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Committee is hoping to have quad bikes for the children and the Scouts' climbing wall. Please contact Roger if anyone wants to help.
- e) **Maintenance**. The guttering and drainpipes were repaired this year. The lights also need replacing.
- f) **Trustees**. There are 11 Trustees. Chris and Mick McDonagh have left the area and two others have left. Mr Andy Perry has joined as a Trustee.

#### 9. **SPORTS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT by Mike Wells**

- a) **Games and Fixtures**. Last season was difficult due to lack of players and teams to play against. The committee has decided to have shorter games against pubs etc. and include young players in the team. More players are needed. Contact Mike if interested.
- b) **Committee**. Mike thanked Andy Lawrence who has stepped down from the committee. Debbie Levy is the new secretary.
- c) **Pitch Maintenance** continues. Mike thanked Roger Fenwick who owns the ground. Roger has installed new drainage. An artificial pitch was bought two years ago but, after review, the committee may sell it.
- d) **Quiz Night** had to be cancelled last year but both **Race Night** last year and this year were successful.
- e) **Club House**. Work on the club house continues. The container has been moved next to the house.
- f) **Golf Days**. Mr Ed Morton organised two Golf Days last year, September and December.

#### 10. **SENIORS CITIZENS' COMMITTEE REPORT by Mr Roger Masters**

- a) **Membership**. Members are 65 or over and there are 45 people on the list at the moment. They receive a Morrison's voucher for £20 as a Christmas present and are invited to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner. They also receive a birthday card on their birthday.
- b) **Finances**. The committee has asked for a grant from the Parish Council this year.
- c) **Senior Citizens' Committee**. The committee is small and Roger thanked all the people that help to collect money and distribute birthday and Christmas gifts.
- d) **Lyn Green**. Roger paid tribute to Lyn who was a key part of the Senior Citizens' Committee and many other committees.

#### 11. **CHALGRAVE NEWS REPORT by Cllr Jan Day**

- a) **The Chalgrave News**. There are 4 editions a year.
- b) **Finances** are good at the moment.
- c) **Open Gardens Event** raises money for The News.
- d) **Submissions**. Please submit any articles, photos, reports of events, comments and suggestions. The team still receive articles from people who have moved away.
- e) **Volunteers** are required. Please speak to Jan or any of the team.

#### 12. **THE QUEEN'S HEAD REPORT**

The lease has been taken on for 10 years. The new tenants are moving in in the next 2/3 weeks. A kitchen is to be installed. Cllr Versallion said that the Community Asset application for the garden will be merged with the one for the building.

#### 13. **THE PLOUGH REPORT read by Cllr Parry**

- a) **Tenants**, Stacy and Dave, have been at The Plough for 18 months.
- b) **Garden**. New flower beds have been put in and good progress has been made.
- c) **Special Events**. Tapas Nights, Burger Tuesday, Mussels Thursday and Fish Friday have been added to the menu. Much good feedback has been received over the past few months.
- d) **Alison Young** has received top marks in her Cask Mask check.
- e) **Rethatch**. Still waiting to hear when Fullers will begin the rethatch.
- f) **Extension Plans** have been submitted by Fullers.

**14. WI REPORT by Mrs Debbie Parry**

- a) **Chalgrave WI** is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year with around 40 members. Meetings are every second Tuesday of the month at 8pm, usually in the Village hall. Guests are welcome to attend up to 3 WI meetings for a fee of £4 per visit.
- b) **Talks and Activities** have included:
- |                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Flower arranging                      | Recycling with a Difference |
| Tales from the Elizabethan Underworld | Chocolate talk              |
| War Horse                             | Confessions of a male nurse |
| Christmas Crafts                      | Star Gazing session         |
| Yoga                                  |                             |
- c) **Book Club** meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the evening. Non-WI members are welcome so get in touch if interested in joining.  
The most recent books have been: The Winter's Child by Cassandra Parkin; The Women in the Window by A J Finn; Talking to the Dead by Harry Bingham. In the summer there will be a tour of The Globe Theatre followed by a production of Midsummer Night's Dream.
- d) **Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre**. The WI continues to support the women who are detained at the centre in Bedfordshire. At our event in December we gave out small gifts of toiletries and accessories. We continue to collect toiletries, underwear and accessories and gift and bottle bags to put them in. donations can be dropped off at Signs of The Times

**15. BOOK CLUB REPORT by Mrs Noeleen Thomson, Read by Cllr Parry**

The book Club has been running for nearly 20 years and still going strong. There are 8 members and they read an assortment of books and rarely get one that disappoints. Meetings are about once a month and members take it in turns to host. The book is discussed and a lot of time is spent catching up on village news and current affairs over coffee and cake. Members have a post-Christmas lunch at a nearby restaurant. This year it was Fratelli's in Woburn

Anyone interested in joining please contact Noeleen Thomson on 01525 872168

**16. WESTS EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

The Chalgrave Trustees are Phil Parry, Daniel Osborn and Vickie Greenwood. The Trust provides grants to people under the age of 25 for educational purposes. Grants are paid out twice a year. Applications must be in by the end of June and the end of December.

The fund is currently worth £816,000 and the estimated income for this year is £20,790. Last year's grants amounted to £17,711. The trust aims to maintain the capital and use the income for grants.

**17. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY**

To be arranged for April 2020

Formal meeting closed at 20.47

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

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

**From Andrew Selous MP**

I had hoped to be with you on Thursday evening but sadly I am not able to as I have been asked by the Secretary of State for Defence to undertake an Independent Report into various issues which Armed Forces Families are facing and I will be visiting Catterick Garrison as part of my work for this task on the 18<sup>th</sup> April.

However I enclose a brief update on the work I have been undertaking on your behalf in recent months

1. Bedfordshire Police funding – I am pleased to report that the funding for Bedfordshire Police this year is rising by £8.3 million from £105.2 million to £113.5 million, a rise of nearly 8%. This additional money is on top of an additional £4.7 million grant which Bedfordshire Police was granted at the end of last year. I will continue to campaign for fairer funding for Bedfordshire Police given that we continue to suffer from the effects of ‘damping’ which was brought in 2004 and means that Bedfordshire Police receive less than the National Funding Formula says we should get depriving us of around 95 additional Police Officers. I continue to speak out about crime locally including the increase in the theft of tools from self-employed tradespeople which is a particularly nasty crime as it often involves taking away a family’s income.
2. Getting into see a GP - As part of my membership of the Health and Social Care Select Committee in Parliament I have been working to try to make it easier for local people to get in to see a GP. While we have record numbers of medical students going in to General Practice too many GPs are leaving to do other work or retiring early. I have been working with the Government to provide a stronger team of health professionals to work with GPs and also to bring the ‘Getting it Right First Time’ programme to Leighton Buzzard given some particular concerns there.
3. Traveller issues -Central Bedfordshire has 40 traveller sites and these are creating serious issues for local residents. I have initiated three debates on this issue in the House of Commons and was pleased the Communities Secretary and the Home Secretary jointly announced reforms to the planning system where there are high concentrations of authorised traveller sites and in respect of unauthorised encampments. I continue to work closely with the Government on this issue and have hosted the Secretary of State for Communities’ Special Advisor in the constituency twice in recent months to meet local people affected by this issue.
4. School and college funding - As we come to the end of the third year of a tight comprehensive spending review it is clear that education needs to be a priority in the new comprehensive spending review which will be announced in the next couple of months. I am keenly aware of this having been a Governor at a local school longer than I have been an MP and I also spoke out about fair funding for Central Bedfordshire College and other colleges.
5. Housing and Greenbelt - I am acutely aware of the need to preserve the rural quality of our beautiful constituency while at the same time providing the houses which we desperately need given that housing costs are much higher than they should be in our area. This is not always an easy issue to square.
6. Broadband and phone signal - I have been working with a number of villages which have poor broadband and mobile phone signal and progress is being made in some areas.
7. Childhood Obesity - I have taken strong interest in child obesity issues given that 29.6% of children in Central Bedfordshire are obese or overweight by the time they leave Year 6. 3.1 million people are now registered with diabetes up from 2.4 million in 2010 and the NHS currently performs 168 amputations due to diabetes complications every week.
8. Air quality - I have also been working on air quality issues given that the quality of the air in Dunstable High Street is not as good as it should be and that this has a particular impact on the health of children and older people.
- 9) Brexit – I have voted on all three occasions for the Withdrawal Agreement which would of meant that the UK had left the European Union on the 29<sup>th</sup> March as we should of done.

With very best wishes,

Andrew Selous

Member of Parliament for SW Bedfordshire

