

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, North Cerney

PRESENT: Councillors Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock and Neil Brown

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mark Tufnell and Nigel Wilkes and County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson

PRESIDING: Councillor Adam Stoten

CLERK / RFO: Valerie Hancock / Barry Koch

1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chairman proposed and the Meeting **resolved that** the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 5th May 2022 at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, North Cerney be approved and signed.

2. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Paul Hodgkinson had sent a written report as follows:

Cotswold District Council: He was delighted to have been elected back on to the Council, and thanked those who had supported him. He would continue to work hard for everyone in the Ward over the next 4 years. He asked to be notified of any concerns over specific planning applications

Gloucestershire County Council: The year had been dominated by the cost of living crisis. High inflation rates had impacted on Council finances, meaning that services were very stretched.

Highways: Chapel Lane had been repaired, and the drainage problems near The Orchard. The Whiteway needs attention, and re-surfacing is planned. The part between North Cerney and Rendcomb will be dealt with in this financial year, and the Chedworth stretches next year.

Road Safety: He was disappointed that the police have not supported the extension of the 40 mph speed limit past Churnside and Churnbridge Row, and for this reason Highways had said they would not pursue it any further. He thought the Council was intending to write to Dan Tiffany and the police, and he would be happy to be included in that.

Public health: While Covid is now “endemic” rather than a “pandemic”, its impact on the NHS was still being felt. Ambulance response times and waiting times for operations are too high and consistently missing targets. The Cotswolds is particularly impacted by poor ambulance response times.

River pollution: A GCC task group has produced recommendations which are being actioned. The Churn is less affected by discharges by water companies, but there is a need to be vigilant. No waterway in Gloucestershire is classed as of “bathing quality”.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Tufnell had sent a written report as follows:

Major Events: North Cerney Parish celebrated the Queen's Jubilee on 5th June.

H.M.The Queen died on 8th September, and a minute's silence was observed at the Parish Council meeting that evening'

As Chairman, he read out the Proclamation of Accession for the King on 11th September
Coronation celebrations took place in the Parish over the weekend of 6th/7th May

Planning: The Council reviewed planning applications over the year, and commented where appropriate. The most significant relates to Rendcomb Airfield, which is still subject to further evidence of noise levels

Neighbourhood Watch: The overall level of crime had been very low and the local PCSO had been active when requested

Highways and Public Footpaths: The Council's request for the A435 40 mph speed limit to be extended to Churnside had been rejected, but the Council had not given up on this.

The clerk had been monitoring the many road closures during the year.

The flooding on the A435 between North Cerney and Perrotts Brook had now been dealt with, following significant concerns expressed by the Council

Woodmancote Defibrillator: He thanked Christopher Wise for spearheading the initiative to install a defibrillator in Woodmancote. The Council expected to assist with funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money received in respect of the new houses at Woodmancote.

Woodmancote Playground: The Council continues to monitor the playground and receives an annual report from RoSPA after a safety inspection.

Councillor Stoten added that thanks were due to Denise Ewbank and the other volunteers who were maintaining the Woodmancote planters. He also thanked Roy Savory for maintaining the village green.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2022/23 AND INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The RFO presented the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2023. The Council held a balance of £3,357 at the start of the year, had received the precept of £6,000 and had a balance of £4,457 at the end of the year, which included £452 CIL funds. Expenditure had generally been in accordance with the budget.

The Internal Audit Report was produced to the meeting. This had raised only the point that no VAT return had been completed since June 2020. The RFO explained that the amounts of VAT recoverable were very small, and he submitted a return only when it seemed justified.

5 REPORT FROM NORTH CERNEY SCHOOL

There was no report

6 THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL HALL CHARITY

Kathy Rettie-Deness said that she had been appointed a trustee in February, and elected as Chair a month later, when the former Chair stood down. There were a number of other new committee members.

Barry Koch had been appointed Treasurer, and had been working to put the finances in order. £10,000 had been invested, and a grant of £5,000 had been received.

A successful Jubilee Tea Party had been held last June, and a successful band and supper evening, which had boosted the funds.

The last 6 weeks had been very busy. There was an absence of policies, and the new Secretary, Jane Hayhurst was updating the constitution. Guidance on this would be obtained from the Charity Commission. The Fire Safety Officer had inspected the Hall, and there were some issues to be dealt with. Health and Safety and maintenance issues were being looked at.

A priority was to make the kitchen functional. A commercial cooker had been bought and installed at a cost of some £3,000, and John Martin had build worktops. An application had been made to GCC for a "Build back Better" grant to continue the renovation of the kitchen.

It had been established that there is a committee licence for the bar, but the bar area needs to be upgraded. A new rear door is needed for improved security.

A successful Coronation Tea Party was held recently, The committee would like to see greater use made of the Hall, but there is a need to raise funds for maintenance. It is hoped that community use and private events will gather momentum.

The committee would like to again work with the School. They are planning monthly entertainment, and hope to start skittles and table tennis again, and other activities.

There is a need to improve publicity and marketing. The website will be improved, and greater use will be made of Churn News and social media.

The Chairman thanked her for her attendance.

7 THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE CALMSDEN POOR DOWNS TRUST

Councillor Tufnell had provided Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trust held £17,501 at the start of the year, and had received interest of £45.19. No distributions had been made during the year.

8 REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND CRIME PREVENTION

Councillor Wilkes, in a written report, said that he had nothing to report regarding Neighbourhood Watch, as he was still not receiving information from the group that covers the area, or from the police.

He hoped shortly to be able get Community Speedwatch up and running again. More volunteers were needed to help with this.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Sam Wilkinson said that he though that little was known about who the Parish Councillors were, and what the Council did. It was agreed that the Clerk would put a note in Churn News listing the present Councillors, and drawing attention to the Council's website

9.2 Jane Wilkinson commented on the poor state of The Whiteway, which was hazardous for cyclists, and that the aircraft noise from Rendcomb Airfield added to the dangers as it was impossible when on a bicycle to hear vehicles approaching from behind. The Clerk was asked to write to Vic Norman,

asking if the planes could keep away from The Whiteway.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: