

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
on 16th May 2024 at 7.00pm in The Memorial Hall, North Cerney**

- PRESENT:** Councillors Mark Tufnell, Adam Stoten, Cathy Martin, Clare Cannock, David Barrell and Jonathan Dryland and Barry Koch as RFO, Kathy Rettie-Denness, PCSO Fellows and members of the public
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Neil Brown, County and District Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and Ms Suki Pascoe
- PRESIDING:** Councillor Mark Tufnell
- CLERK / RFO:** Barry Koch (taking Minutes)

1. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **resolved that** the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2023 at 7.30pm 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:

Finances: Both GCC and CDC continue to battle against cuts to council funding by the Government and high inflation. The bulk of GCC's budget over the last year has gone to Adult Social Care.

Roads: The lower speed limit at Churnside and Churnbridge Row has progressed and in the last 12 months the objections from the police and Highways have been overcome. He had allocated money to this along with lower speed limits in some other villages via one combined 'TRO'. It was now with the Road Safety Team at Shire Hall.

The Whiteway has been completely resurfaced.

Bankside: The ongoing issue with water running along the middle of the village in North Cerney was still unresolved despite him asking Highways twice to address it. Residents have raised it again. He would be discussing with the new local highways manager Anne Johns next month.

CDC – he had been reappointed to the CDC Cabinet for a second year and his portfolio has been expanded to include Parking. So it was now Health, Leisure and Parking.

CDC Crowdfund Cotswolds - the grant scheme via Spacehive has continued to be successful. So far over £800k has been allocated in grants to local organisations and projects.

Health - the County Council scrutinises the work of the NHS in Gloucestershire. Many targets had been missed in the last year - in particular ambulance response times, cancer waiting times and waits in A&E. The summer usually brings some respite to these figures but the system remains remarkably pressurised.

Gigaclear rollout - this is coming to the parish.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Tufnell reported as follows:

The Council: During the year Jonathan Dryland and David Barrell had been co-opted onto the Council

Planning: The Council reviewed planning applications over the year, and commented where appropriate. The most significant relates to the application for Rendcomb Airfield, to which there is still no resolution

Neighbourhood Watch: The level of crime had recently increased in North Cerney with a number of break-ins and vehicle thefts

Highways and Public Footpaths: The Council had continued to press for extension of the 40 mph speed limit to Churnside

Woodmancote Defibrillator: Further work by Christopher Wise and the Woodmancote community, and grant aid had resulted in a defibrillator being installed in Woodmancote

Woodmancote Playground: The Council has been granted a 999 year lease at a peppercorn rent by Henry Robinson, for which the Council is most grateful. The use has been extended to use as a community space, as well as children's playground.

Councillor Dryland and Denise Ewbank were coordinating funding applications to upgrade the playpark, including crowdfunding through Cotswold District Council. The Parish Council would be contributing £1,500.

4 FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2022/23 AND INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The RFO presented the Accounts for the year to 31 March 2024. In addition to the precept of £6,000 the Council had received £3,990 in CIL funds as a result of the new homes at Woodmancote. Part of this, with a grant of £625 from CDC and £1,000 raised by residents of Woodmancote had funded the defibrillator in Woodmancote. Total income for the year was £11,801.

Expenditure during the year amounted to £8,365. Most of this was used to provide services in the parish. The largest single item of expenditure was the Woodmancote defibrillator at £3,345.

By the end of the year the cash balance had increased by £3,436 to a total of £7,893. It had been decided that £1,500 of this would be allocated to North Cerney Memorial Hall for improvement of facilities, and £1,500 would be used for the planned upgrade of the Woodmancote playpark.

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 the return would be submitted very shortly.

5 REPORT FROM NORTH CERNEY SCHOOL

Ms Pascoe had sent a report as follows:

The most recent OFSTED Report was in April 2022 when the outcome was Good

The school works closely with Bibury CE Primary school, with which it shares a head teacher, business manager and other staff. This year, the schools had been piloting a shared governor model. This was a more flexible arrangement due to the nature of academisation and both schools being part of the Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust. The collaboration had proved successful. It eased workload and enabled sharing of resources to ease the impact on budget. Children and parents reported positive outcomes from shared activities and trips.

The school benefits enormously from its strong relationship with the community and the church. Parents are very active, loyal and supportive. Numbers are strong, with a higher intake expected in September. The teaching staff is stable and teamwork and support is

strong. Finances are well-managed and stable, and the school continues to offer high-quality provision within budget.

Her report included details of End of Year Attainment for 2022-23.

A high percentage of children join the school after Reception. It was often found that these children have not had such a positive start to their education, and it takes time and intervention to help them catch up. The school is focusing more attention on supporting children to catch up in Maths.

6 THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL HALL CHARITY

Kathy Rettie-Denness reported as follows:

At the hall's AGM on 25th March all 9 current committee members agreed to stand for a further year. Their commitment is commendable given the amount of time that they and their partners have dedicated to this community asset. This time last year there was much work to do to invigorate the fabric and contents of the hall to stimulate interest and greater use. The first task was to update the constitution and to create health and safety, safeguarding and equal opportunity policies in order to be compliant before applying for funds and grants. The committee had met monthly to plan, prioritise and receive financial reports in addition to running events, supporting bookings, building and licencing the bar, maintaining and cleaning the hall etc.

Given that the "The land and building is held in trust for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of North Cerney and Neighbourhoods" the committee decided to waive booking charges for non-profit local groups such as the Church, Choir, Churn Valley Players, School, Woodmancote play area group etc. More effort has also been made to raise awareness of the hall's availability to the residents of surrounding parishes, and not exclusively North Cerney.

There was an obvious need to update the look of the hall to attract modern day needs. Funds for the bar area upgrade, commercial cooker, drinks cooler, stable door, path and patio improvement, electrics and wall lighting, round tables and crockery has been raised by providing a variety of events to appeal to different demographics. Successful events have been held: Supper and band evenings, a Murder-Mystery play and supper, Choir concerts, Harvest Thanksgiving, Tabletop sales, Skittles and BBQ, Whist, Bingo, monthly Coffee mornings etc.

The committee is grateful to Councillor Paul Hodgkinson who supported the successful application for a post covid 'Build Back Better' grant. Also, to Sue Herdman for supplying 80 sets of matching crockery and to Jane and Sam Wilkinson for their contribution towards the wall lights.

Currently the most pressing issue is the need to fix the leaking chimney which is causing the ugly stain down a wall. Together with the donation agreed by the parish council and the proceeds of the North Cerney Fun Run the committee can commission a builder to start the work. We are grateful to the Parish Council for granting £1500 towards this work.

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

Councillor Tufnell presented Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trust held £17,547.03 at the start of the year, and had received interest of £97.00. No distributions had been made during the year.

8 REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH AND CRIME PREVENTION

PCSO Fellows reported that during the year to the end of March 2024 there had been a total of 18 recorded crimes in the Parish: 6 offences of violence, 2 of burglary, 4 of theft, 5 of criminal damage, and one other. One burglary involved two vehicles being stolen, and this investigation was ongoing. Of the 6 incidents of violence, 3 were domestic-related, 1 is an ongoing issue with a neighbour, and 2 were road rage incidents. All of the criminal damage incidents were vehicle related, but no offender has been identified.

The “Rural North” Neighbourhood Policing Team now consisted of Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn, PC Harry Macpherson and PCSO Susan Fellows.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: