

PARISH OF ENSTONE

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held
At Enstone Parish Hall on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:- Ten Parish Councillors attended the meeting together with District Councillors Andrew Beaney and Nigel Colston, County Councillor Hilary Biles, PCSO Chris Jones and Mr. Steve Jenkins, Parent Governor at Enstone School.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs B. Sinclair, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES. Apologies for absence had been received from Ms. Kate Farquhar-Thompson

Cllr. N. Knott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

352. THAMES VALLEY POLICE – PCSO Chris Jones

PCSO Chris Jones reported that crime had increased to 38 reported crimes in the past year. This included eleven vehicle crimes – ten cars were vandalised over two evenings at Enstone, Middle Barton and Bicester where Sat Navs and number plates were stolen. These were organised crimes from out of the area and an organised crime from Gloucester had also targeted ATM machines in the area.

The types of crimes have also changed. Action fraud is on the increase including emails being sent to residents with a recognised HSBC ‘phone number, asking for banking details.

Sexting is on the increase, particularly with teenagers sending inappropriate photos. PCSO Chris Jones visits schools and explains that a crime is being committed if inappropriate photos are sent to other people. Years 8, 9 and 10 are the specific target ages (ages 13 – 15).

There have been a few suicides in the past year.

Chris works closely with Enstone Parish Council regarding the speedwatch campaign and he has also started social media appeals, the most recent appeal drew 15,000 ‘hits’ – the video on Facebook included dogs walking amongst crops which is a crime, vehicles speeding and an update regarding the planning application at Westbury Farm.

Chris was thanked for all his hard work over the past year.

353. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 17TH May 2017 having previously been circulated, were agreed and signed.

354. MATTERS ARISING:-

Cllr. Parker queried an update regarding the bunds at the Shooting School. Cllr. Knott explained that Mr. Einig had been invited to the next Parish Council meeting on 24th May. Noted.

355. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cllr. N. Knott

A copy of the Chairman’s report is attached with the minutes.

356. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – District Cllr. Andrew Beaney

- DC Andrew Beaney explained that the Council Tax for the 2018/2019 year was 3 %, the second lowest District Tax in the County.
- Shared services had resulted in efficiency financial savings throughout the year.
- Residents continue to pay for green waste bins at a cost of £30.00 per year.
- The new waste bin contract seems to be working very well, with the larger recycling bins replacing the black recycling boxes.
- The District Council has taken out a new contract with ‘Better’ regarding Chipping Norton Leisure Centre which will see further improvements in the future.
- The Local Plan will hopefully be agreed within the next few months.
- There is an “Issues Meeting” to be held on Monday 4th June 2018 regarding the Mullin Project.
- District Cllr. Nigel Colston

- DC Nigel Colston explained that the Cotswold conservation board was applying for National Park Status to the Secretary of State. This would be included in the Brexit/Agricultural Bill of 2020/2022. The Cotswolds has the largest protected landscape in the Country and should the Cotswolds be approved for National Park Status, the Government would invest between £3m - £5m towards this.

357. FINANCE REPORT – Mrs Beth Sinclair, Responsible Financial Officer

The Clerk reported that the certificate of audit had been received for the 2016/2017 accounting year. The internal audit process for 2017/2018 had just been completed by Howes & Co., with no queries to report. As at 31st March 2018 the balance of the accounts totalled £28,456.45 in the Santander Account and £36,703.87 in the Barclays Account for the fit out of the parish hall. Quarterly checks on the accounts by two members of Council continue. The clerk thanked the Council for its hard work over the past year.

358. COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT – County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles

- County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles reported that OCC and Cherwell District Council are considering a proposal for shared service arrangements under a joint chief executive, whilst retaining separate councillor bodies, budgets and decision-making processes.
- The OCC Children’s Service has received an overall ‘Good’ rating from Ofsted (May 2018). There has been a 45 % increase in the number of cases of neglect since 2015 which has presented a challenge to OCC, at a time of budget pressures.
- The new County Council Chairman is Gill Sanders.
- Adult social care charges are changing to become more fair, consistent and transparent.
- Oxfordshire now has 96.5 % superfast broadband coverage in the most rural parts of the county. The newly available fibre broadband services are running at over 54 %, well above the national average.
- The County Council continues to repair an ever increasing amount of pot holes, a problem throughout the Country.
- County Cllr. Hilary Hibbert-Biles said that it was a pleasure to serve Enstone which was a busy Council and thanked Cllr. Knott as Chair and all the PCs for their work on behalf of the residents, and to the clerk for all her hard work.

359. SCHOOL GOVERNOR’S REPORT – Mr. Steve Jenkins – Parent Governor

- Mr. Jenkins was welcomed to the meeting and reported that there were currently 105 pupils at the school. In September 2017, twenty new pupils started in Reception but for 2018, only seven pupils have registered which will have a financial implication on the school. There is an average of 30 pupils in each classroom for all year groups.
- A new teacher started in September 2017 and another teacher starts in September 2018.
- A sport’s grant has provided funding for new equipment and the playground has been resurfaced.
- The school is grateful to the Friends of the School who organise fundraising events throughout the year.
- The last Ofsted inspection took place in February 2017 and the school was rated “good.”
- There are ten Governors, including Cllr. Andrew Beaney.
- Many extra-curricular activities take place and Enstone School became the Small Schools’ Champion in partnership with Chipping Norton School for all its sporting events. The school is also the County Cup Champions.
- The school publicises activities and updates through the Ensign magazine.

360. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Mr. Andrew Lee – Chair

- It was one year since David Parris passed away and he is sorely missed. David was the previous Chair of the PHMC.
- Mr. Lee reported that it had been a good year and there are now nine committee members, two of whom are paid members – the Bookings Manager and Caretaker.
- A new accounts system has been set up.
- A £9,000.00 profit was made in 2017. Monies have been spent on equipment and repairs – the kitchen requires more storage space. A shed has been erected at the rear of the garden.
- The main hall is well used but the Litchfield Room needs to be promoted further.

- More social evenings are being organised – there was an excellent film night recently when over 65 people attended.
- Mr. Lee thanked all members of the Committee for their hard work.

361. ENSTONE RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY – Trustee - Mr. Richard Parker

- During 2017 confirmation was received from the Land Registry that the Charity's application to register the allotment field had been accepted – a small strip of land lying between Clay Hill Close and a neighbouring property which had been neglected for many years and was no use for an allotment was sold and an outstanding debt of several years' rent had been recovered.
- One parishioner was helped out in 2017 and the Charity is going to contact the Charity Commission to see if the current rules of the Trust, which governs its ability to provide assistance, could be relaxed.
- Work is to be carried out on the trees inside the boundary wall on the Bicester Road side of the field later this month and, with the uptake of allotments still not particularly high, it is intended to review the remaining plots and plan some 'set a side' of our own, to save on future maintenance costs. The closing balance as at 31st December 2017 totalled £27,698.36.

362. ENSTONE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION – FIELDS IN TRUST

- No report received.

363. ENSTONE SHOW COMMITTEE – Mr. Phillip Shaw

- The annual Enstone Show was held on 26th August 2017. The show was a big success – money from the gate raised £639.00 (three times more than in 2016 when the show was abandoned due to a severe storm). Other stalls raised £343.50. The show made a surplus of £700.00 which recovered the loss made from 2016.
- Mr. Shaw thanked the Sports & Social Club for its involvement and support. Thanks also to the Parish Hall Management Committee for the use of the Parish Hall and for permitting a shorter access route from the sports field to the Parish Hall.
- Thanks also to members of the Enstone Show Committee – Carole Glendinning, Rachel Hunt and Ian Barnes but especial thanks to Kate Farquhar-Thompson who organised the event with great efficiency and patience. New volunteers are always needed.
- Special thanks to Adrian Sutherland who, for many years, had been Show Secretary for the Horticultural Society and organised the flower and produce show with great skill and professionalism. Sadly, Adrian passed away suddenly on Sunday 13th May. He will be missed a great deal.

364. SPORTS CLUB – Cllr. N. Knott (from email report from Roz Blake, Chair)

- No report had been received.

365. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

- Cllr. Lee reported that a few residents had complained about the noise of the rooks in the trees along the Lidstone Road. This was not a Parish Council matter and residents should report this to West Oxfordshire District Council's Environmental Department. Noted.

366. There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.

Chairman