

The Annual Parish Council Meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Community Hall at 7.45p.m. following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present: Councillors: Thornton, McGarry, Shepherd-Cross, Dr Peat and Mrs Lewis.

Also Present: Mrs Gilpin, Mr Ryall, Mr Deakin and Mr Jenkins.

1. Declarations of Interest: - None
2. Apologies: - Received from Mrs Fulljames County Councillor & Mr Corkin.
3. Minutes of Last Meeting: - Agreed and signed
4. Election of Chairman:
Mr Thornton proposed by Dr Peat, seconded by Mr McGarry – there being no further nominations Mr Thornton took the Chair and asked for a proposal for Vice Chairman – Mr McGarry proposed Mrs Lewis seconded by Dr Peat, no further nominations Mrs Lewis accepted.
Chairman gave congratulations to Ian Corkin on his recent success standing as our District Councillor. His diligence as a Parish Councillor was invaluable during our recent inquiries with the Incinerator and The Windfarm, Flooding in Fewcott and most recently the Neighbourhood Plan project.
5. Co-Option:
Due to the resignation of Mr Lewis (house move Chairman introduced Mr Huw Jenkins who had come forward to fill the vacant Parish Councillor post – although now with the resignation of Ian Corkin we now have another place to fill to keep Councillor numbers to seven – so we will be advertising again.

Chairman then introduced Mr Stewart Deakin who is to be the new Parish Clerk following the resignation of Barbara Gow. They will work together for a short time until all necessary changes have taken place.
6. Matters Arising:
Council are still waiting to hear from the Playing Field Committee about the proposal that the Parish Council help with grants and the issue of VAT with regard to the upgrading of the car park
7. County Councillor:
An email was read out from Catherine Fulljames apologising for missing the meeting due to a previous appointment and also saying how pleased she was that her request for help for us for the Footway between villages was successful and a grant of £7000.00 received.
8. District Councillor:
An email was received from our new District Councillor Ian Corkin apologising for not being able to attend our meeting as he had to be at Bodicote House. He also tendered his resignation as Parish Councillor – thanking the Councillors for all their hard work and dedication to the village. Ian felt that it was far better that Parish Councils should be seen as apolitical but he will be still involved with us in the post of District Councillor. We will now need to appoint another lead member to the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (Mr Thornton and Mr Shepherd-Cross will keep things going and keep in touch with Ian, until a designated member takes over) Lastly Ian suggested that we should be very aware of the consultation for Local Plan 2 – particularly that exceptions may be made for large warehouse developments around motorway junctions. The Planning Inspectors decision on LP1 should be in by the end of May – it is hoped that he approves – if it fails we will be in uncharted territory particularly in relation to speculative planning applications.

9. Planning/Updates:

Herbley House planning is still not agreed, a new Planning Officer, John Watson ,is now working on the case and we would hope to meet with him soon to try and reach a conclusion to this application which has been ongoing since 2012.

With regard to the requests made by AFECT in the previous meeting and what they would like to do in the Village Wood (which we own) and the Old Tip Area (which we rent) There is no problem with the idea of bird boxes in the wood – in fact many years ago the scout group made and erected several bird boxes. Concerning the points in the field – the Parish Council would like to look carefully at the lease held before giving permissions. The idea of seating and a pathway across the field for people to take a shorter walk – in principle appeared a good idea (one comment was that litter could be left if people sat for a picnic etc – but definitely no fires must be lit for BBQ's due to the methane gas) Maybe when the grass is cut in October a pathway could be created across the field and with people walking it it would soon be worn. There is an information board (put up by Mrs Watson) so for the present the council do not see the need for another one.

9. Finance:

Clerk presented two invoices for payment; Membership of OALC £133.07 proposed Mr Thornton seconded Mr McGarry, AON Insurance £609.71 proposed Mr McGarry seconded Mrs Lewis, Clerk's remuneration for the past year £900.00 Proposed Mr Thornton seconded Dr Peat – all three agreed by all Councillors. The completed Audit Papers were agreed and signed by Councillors, they are now to be signed off by Mrs Mills the RFO and then clerk will post to the Auditor – they have to be all signed off and sent before 1st June.

10. Wood Report / Any Other Business:

Mr Corkin was the Council's 'Wood Warden' and due to his new post we will be looking for someone else to take this on, not necessarily a Parish Councillor – just someone who visits the wood regularly and keep the Council updated – the name of Mike Stokes was put forward and he will be asked if he could take this on.

Meeting dates were agreed to carry on as now – the second Monday of alternate months starting with the Annual May meeting – July, September, November, January, and March. All to be held in the meeting room of the Community Hall 7.30p.m.

We are still not on facebook yet but the idea is taking shape and maybe up and running soon.

Chairman said a vote of thanks was due to Barbara, our retiring clerk, she had been in post since 1984 and seen the village grow and change – she will be missed by one and all. Barbara was presented on behalf of the Councillors a beautiful photo frame and large bouquet of flowers. She thanked everyone and wished the Council and village the very best for the future.

The Parish Council were sadden to hear of the death of Mick Day recently. Mick was a long term resident of the village and served for many years as a Councillor. He was a kind considerate man who did much for the village in his own quiet and inimitable way. He will be very sadly missed, our sincere condolences to his wife Val, children and grandchildren. Perhaps there is a way we could do something in the village to remember him.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th July 7.30p.m.

Signed..... Date.....