

CHILTON FOLIAT PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 MAY 2014 at 7.30 pm

Present: Nic Coome (Chairman), Gary Crumpler, Jim Hynes, Sian Stokoe, James Sheppard (County Councillor), Graham Francis (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1 Apologies: Paul Outridge

2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 14 May 2013

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting having been circulated were taken as a true record, approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising from the minutes:

There were no matters arising.

4 Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that this was his 11th report and that we now have a new road surface and the Highways Department are happy to act extremely quickly when asked to put things right as they did when Thames Water dug it up again!

The Public House (The Wheatsheaf) has been registered as an Asset of Community Value which now allows the Council to argue against any unsuitable proposed development but unfortunately no suitors came forward to purchase the pub.

Proposals for the development of the Recreation Ground have resulted in some concrete proposals. The Council carried out a considerable consultation exercise as have the developers and we are inching our way to a solution.

We came second in the Best Kept Village Competition and thanks are due to Sian Stokoe. Unfortunately we had to raise the Precept this year after four years without a rise but this was partly as a result of changes to the County formula in fixing the Precept.

The Chairman extended sincere thanks to Councillor, James Sheppard and all the Councillors for their hard work and commitment. He also thanked Graham Francis, the Clerk, for his support and commitment to the Parish Council.

5 Financial Report:

The Clerk spoke to the unaudited statements of accounts circulated showing that the sum of £955.13 had been carried forward at March 31st considerably less than last year.

Income from the Precept, Bank Interest and VAT recovery amounted to £6,173.60 and payments were £7,066.40.

A refund of £459.39 has been reclaimed in respect of VAT for the year 2013/2014.

6 Reports from Village Organisations:

Church – Ronna Bourne and Peter Camfield gave a report on work at the church which included development of the chancel area. A Stewardship campaign had been relatively successful but Peter pointed out that it cost £54 a day to cover the church's running costs. Grasscutting of the churchyard cost £2,000 per annum. Concern was expressed over the big tree by the road which definitely needs maintenance.

Village Hall Committee

Brian Vance explained that refurbishment of the Hall was now complete and the accounts signed off. Two generous donations will now enable interior decoration to take place during June but it was also necessary to consider some external work on the front woodwork.

The Hall had entertained an Art Exhibition and a Christmas evening but there was now only one regular user of the Hall – Chilton Chicks. With an annual income of £2,000 fund raising was essential especially since there are no longer major events to bring in funds. It was suggested that money from a Grant from the Area Board should be considered.

Chilton Primary School

The Head Teacher reported that the school had received positive feedback from a recent Ofsted report. A Festival is being planned for the Summer and a Christmas Fayre and Car Boot Sale brought in welcome funds. The school felt it important to engage with the Community and welcomed the proposed development of recreational activities on the school site for the enhancement of the village.

Cllr James Sheppard

Cllr Sheppard was most pleased with the work done on the Highway but expressed the need to be constantly vigilant over road repairs. He said that the white lining team would be reinstating junction markings in June.

7 Public Forum: No further comments noted.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.20