

SOUTHROP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held on Monday 23rd April 2018

IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SOUTHROP

AT 6.30PM

Present: Cllr Hibbert Cllr Gowland Cllr Guest Cllr Jones

In attendance: Vanessa Lawrence (Locum Clerk), Distict & County Cllr Theodoulou, Iain Mills – Southrop Village Hall, Margaret Davey(PCC), Cath Champion (Jubilee Close), George Ponsonby, PC Mark Weedon, 7 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Mr Anthony Stanbury and Mr Mel Simms and Dr Leonard Brookes.

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2017

The assembly were asked to consider the Minutes from last year's meeting. No comments were received. The Minutes were approved and duly signed off as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Report from the Chair – Southrop Parish Council

Cllr Hibbert reported that the year had been very busy with Council affairs. May 2017 – Cllr Hibbert was elected as Chairman with Cllr Guest as Vice Chair. The Clerk resigned her post and the position was advertised. Thanks to Karen Benbow the former Clerk for her years of service. After a few months a Locum Clerk was appointed to cover until a permanent Clerk can be found. Vanessa Lawrence (Locum Clerk) has been in place since October but has recently announced that she will also be stepping down as soon as a permanent Clerk can be found. The position has been advertised.

Soakaway – Jubilee Close – residents approved the decision for the soakaway.

Stile – has been repaired by Charles Mann and thanks go to him.

Tai Chi Classes -took place in Southrop funded by a District Councillor grant. The grant finished in the Autumn 2017. The class also moved to Eastleach.

Village Hall – The council awarded the Village Hall a grant of £1500 with a further sum to awarded in the next financial year.

Solar farm – A representative from a solar panel supplier was asked to attend a meeting to explain details relating to solar farm. After this the Council felt that this would not be practical.

20mph through Southrop – More volunteers are required to help to monitor speed through the village

Council meetings – Councillors have agreed a schedule for meetings – with the Council meeting every 2 months plus the Annual Parish Meeting which is not a formal Council meeting (dates to be agreed at the next Council meeting).

Planning applications – The Clerk has advised the Council that most planning applications can be dealt with by e-mail. Contentious applications may result in extra-ordinary meetings being called.

Draft Precept - was published at the end of 2017 and was approved.

March - Memorial Trough – It has been agreed that repairs to the trough will be carried out.

April- The Annual Litterpick - took place

- **Planning enforcement training** – 3 Councillors attended

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 14th May at 7.00pm. The Agenda will be posted accordingly.

Cllr Hibbert thanked his fellow Councillors and the villagers for their support.

4. Financial Report - Cllr Tim Guest reported as follows:
Finances are in a healthy state with a VAT refund being received and a grant totalling approx. £2300. The bank balance at the end of the year is £8600 approx., up from £5000. The Precept has been increased for the coming year by 20% to approx. £11k, a £12 increase based on a Band D property. This was agreed in order to help to finance further refurbishment work for the Village Hall. Further grants will be awarded to the Village Hall over the course of the coming financial year. Expenditure runs at approx. £10k per annum. Repairs to the Jubilee trough has been estimated around £650 plus the cost of traffic control for the duration of the repairs. It had been agreed that more projects needed to be undertaken and this has support for the rise in the Precept has been received. No questions were raised following Cllr Guest's report.

5. Report from County / District Councillor

Cllr Theodoulou reported as follows:

District Council -has been relatively quiet over the past year with the exception of the large planning application at Chesterton. Cllr Theodoulou said that he supported the officer's recommendation as he felt that not having the development would be worse than having the development. If the application had gone to appeal some of the concessions would have been lost. His feeling was that it was better to have larger, more strategic developments rather than more sport developments which have proved unsatisfactory in other towns across the County, with no proper plans put in place to take into account infrastructure etc.

Publica - The council continues to work with Publica to run day to day activities of the organization. Jointly with W. Oxon, Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury, which in turn has reduced costs. This has helped to keep the Council Tax down.

County Council - Cllr Theodoulou acts as Cabinet member for finance and property assets.
Budget of £412 million.

Children services - poor Ofsted report last year has meant an increase of £16million to address issues in Childrens Services. This equates to approx. 60% of total and is set to rise to 80% if trends continue in the same manner. There has been a record increase in the number of children in care with 400 last year, this has risen to 700 this year. Views on how best to deal with children requiring support has altered from 2 years ago, with more children being removed from abusive home environments, consequently more homes are required to look after these children, with funds being required accordingly.

Elderly care - Changes required to finance elderly care as population becomes older more support is required from government

Roads - A budget of £150 million has been allocated over the next 4 years. There has been some success with improvements, but bad weather has meant that more roads have suffered. £1.2 million has been allocated to the repair of potholes.

Community Developments - £30k per Councillor has been allocated for any projects. Any village projects that require funding should be referred to Cllr Theodoulou.

Council Tax - There has been increased by 4.99%, the lowest increase in the Country.

Q: Cllr Hibbert asked in what area had children's services been so poor.

A: Cllr Theodoulou replied that issues related to administrative failures, too few qualified social workers, which created a huge burden and poor management of records. The Ofsted report is available to view on the GCC website.

Q: Cllr Theodoulou was asked about the progress of the Javelin Park Incinerator project

A: Cllr Theodolou explained the function of the plant and at what stage of development it had reached since its approval.

P.C. Weedon was asked to present his report at this point should he be called away.

5a. Report from PC Mark Weedon – Year to date 2 crimes both in March, which compares with the same period as last year. Crimes in the Parish were low. The Police provide a free service offering members of the public advice. Information is available on their website. Those attending were encouraged to report any suspicious people and vehicles by telephoning 101 or e-mailing 101@goucestershire.police.co.uk. 999 should be used for urgent calls. Officers covering the area PC Mark Weedon, PCSO Gemma Butcher and PCSO Bethan Callaway-Green.

Q: PC Weedon was asked how quickly calls were attended to.

A: PC Weedon explained that calls were attended to as quickly as possible but due to the large area covered with only 4 officers available, these calls sometimes took longer than they would like, sometimes up to 40 minutes.

Q: PC Weedon was asked about the results of speed monitoring.

A: PC Weedon reported that this was in effect a data gathering operation. 1st contact is made with any offenders by letter, if a second report is received this is dealt with by a warning and if a 3rd report is received the perpetrator is given formal notice that a repeat offence could result in a prosecution. He stressed that he felt that speed monitoring acted as a deterrent.

Q: PC Weedon was asked about Hare Coursing

A: PC Weedon provided a Police contact name where incidents could be reported.

Note: The Clerk minuted that the Council would look into the possibility of installing oak posts at the entrance to Dark Lane and this matter would added to the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting in May.

ACTION: Clerk to add this item to the Agenda for the next Council meeting.

6. Report from the Chair – Southrop Village Hall Committee - Ian Mills reported on behalf of Hugh Elford. The Village Hall Committee had been successful in obtaining funds from various fund-raising events and grants obtained. The Parish Council has awarded the Committee with a grant of £1500 towards the cost of replacement windows. Further funds had also been received from the Shoot and the Fete. There had also been an increase in the number of people using the Hall. A number of other activities are planned for this year. The roof requires repair and funding is required for this. Grant applications have been completed for this. Thanks were given to Colin Medley for his help in sourcing builders and to everyone who contributes.

7. Report from Jubilee Close Committee and selection of new Committee – Jubilee Close is in good order with the first two grass cuts of the season being completed. Current users of the field include the Saturday children's football session and Southrop school. Yearly expenses include Grass cutting, fortnightly cleaning, electricity and water supply. Current funds stand at £10k. It may be that the roof will require some work. The Committee are extremely grateful for the donations from the Fete and Shoot. A fun run will be held in September, where it is hoped to raise funds to support other committees within the village. The venue continues to be a perfect place to hold birthday parties, with a fully operational kitchen, new tables and chairs and a vast outdoor space with electrics for a bouncy castle. As part of the agreement for Jubilee Close members are required to be elected for the Committee at this Annual meeting. Cllr Hibbert reported that the Committee is required to include: 1 Chairman (usually the owner of the Manor – Cllr Hibbert), 1 trustee (Dr. Leonard Brookes) and 3 other members (Cath Champion, Bob Gowland and Andy

Howarth). Mel Simms had also been co-opted in 2017. Mel Simms has agreed to be elected to the Committee and Bob Gowland agreed to stand down, but to act as a co-opted member for 2018. No comments were received. It was therefore proposed to agree the proposals. Proposed Cllr Rod Jones, seconded Cllr Guest – all in favour.

8. Report from other groups/organisations in the Village

Report from the Church (Margaret Davey) – The new Vicar of the Parish is Andrew Cinnamond, who is also the Vicar of Lechlade. Margaret Davey reported that the church has had a quinquennial review which involves an inspection by an architect of the building and churchyard. This took place at St. Peter last September and the inspector was pleased with the overall maintenance and condition of the building. Some items were highlighted which should be completed as soon as possible and other items within the next 5 years. The items requiring immediate attention are:

- a) Repair of some guttering
- b) Repointing
- c) Moss removal from the roof

These works should be undertaken in the summer months along with other smaller items and will cost approximately £5000

The cost of the above works together with the annual payment to the Diocese of nearly £14k together with the general running costs will stretch the resources. The giving collections and weekly church collection will not cover all the costs. Other major costs relate to the lighting in the church, where the bulbs require replacement. The porch and wooden box entrance which acts as draught prevention is also in need of improvements. One idea is to install glass doors. This is a separate project where funds will need to be raised and grants obtained. Permission is required from the Diocese before anything can happen. Church services continue together with baptisms, marriages and funerals as well as special services. Thanks, are extended to all those who clean the church, arrange flowers, clean the brass and maintain the churchyard.

Report from Mr Allan Brown – Southrop C of E Primary School

– The school was inspected by the C of E in January. This occurs every five years to ensure that the school, having been founded by the church, retains its Christian distinctiveness. The inspector found this to be the case.

-In March Ofsted visited the school. This was to ensure that the school has maintained its GOOD status.

- The school was blessed by Bishop Rachel last November, who then met with some of the older children.

-The school continues to support the Village Hall and the Jubilee field.

-With the start of the summer term the school will be taken up to the Jubilee Field every Tuesday afternoon for lessons and the after-school sports club.

-The school has reached its maximum figure of 56 children, 52 at present, increasing to 56 in the Autumn.

-Mr Brown reported that he is retiring and will be leaving the school at the end of the summer term. Miss Davies and Mrs McLellan will become co-head teachers in September. Mr Brown has been at Southrop school for the past 14 years. He wished to express his thanks to everyone in the community for their support to the school.

Fete – This event continues to raise about £5k for the Village Hall, running 25/26 stalls. Thanks to Jerry Hibbert and Anthony Stanbury for the supply of electricity. Looking to put on a Village Get-Together. A new roof is needed for the Marquee. New volunteers are required to help. Social media has helped to promote events. This year the event will take place on the 9th June and GCC have approved the road closure.

Shoot – Tim Guest reported that this year the Shoot will take place on the 1st September. Funds raised are split between St Peters church, Jubilee Close and the Village Hall. 38 teams were involved in last years event with a cost of £180 per team. The Committee is endeavoring to streamline the event which will mean an increase in the cost of lunches for this year.

9. Open Session

Comments:

- **Are there going to be any flashing speed signs?**
- **What about a mini roundabout – Fairford /Lechlade Road?**
- **Stile on the Lechlade Road – lovely but animals could get out. Should this be changed and replaced with a kissing gate?**
- **Oak Post at Dark Lane – need to check if this is a permissive path or a public right of way.**
- **Draft Minutes of this meeting to be posted as soon as they are available to allow people to comment in light of the 1-year gap before the next meeting.**
- **Is the end in sight of the HGV lorries from the Thyme Barn works.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

.....Chairman

.....Date

