

Northmoor Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 11 April 2012
Northmoor Village Hall**

Parish Council Members Present

Mr R Florey Chairman
Mrs V.A. Ryan
Mr M Prickett
Mr S. Good
Mrs G Sharp-Dent

Mr M Ryan (Clerk)

Parishioners Present

County Councillor Charles Mathew, District Councillor Hilary Fenton, Mr D Anderson, Ms M Sears, Mr P Winder and Mr S Harrison.

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Chairman's Report.

Robert Florey, Chairman of the Parish Council advised the meeting that the Annual Parish Meeting had been brought forward from May because of Parish Council elections being held in that month. He reviewed the activities of the Council's work over the past year. Subjects covered included reference to:-

The Parish Council has met 9 times in 2011/12 and Parish Councillors attendance has averaged 84%.

County Councillor Charles Mathew and District Councillor Hilary Fenton have both regularly attending the meetings and Steve Good has provided a dual role in attending as both Parish and District Councillor.

Among matters considered

Planning: There have been 10 Planning Applications. With four related to Solar Panels

Gravel: A Gravel Liaison Group has been set up with representatives from Hansons, the County Council, OUTRAGE, and the Parish Council. The object is for good communication on all matters relating to the working of the quarry at Stonehenge.

Northmoor Weir. There have been many meetings on this contentious subject during the year. The Parish Council's view has been that the mechanised weir, that could be operated in minutes rather than hours, by many rather than a few, and would remove a risk of injury to the lock keeper, would potentially offer better protection to Northmoor. The decision to proceed has been again postponed whilst further talks take place between the EA and the Appleton with Eaton PC. Mr Davidson, director of the EA with responsibility in the South East has offered for his staff to come and speak in Northmoor to residents in the Parish. This offer was accepted and arrangements will be made to hold the meeting.

Bus Shelter for Bablockhythe: volunteers from the village have erected the bus shelter from Aston at Bablockhythe. The maintenance staff at Bablockhythe caravan site extensively refurbished the shelter, and this installation has been achieved at a cost of less than £80 to the Parish Council.

Roads: The state of the roads is frequently reported to OCC with patchy results. A ton of salt was given to the village this winter together with a spreader all paid by OCC. As a result the corner at Cow Lane and other black spots in the village have been safer to traffic.

Precept: The Precept showed no significant increase over the current year. Analysis of previous years had also been provided, Northmoor's Parish Rates were consistently lower than those for neighbouring villages and there had been little change in the Precept levied for several years. The Precept was set at £4100 for 2012/13. Ten years previously it was £4900. This Precept, reflecting the current financial position of local government, is very tight and there is little room for any significant additional expenditure.

Allotments. The allotments have a waiting list for the first time in many years. The proposal last year to make a small annual charge to allotment holders to cover the costs of rent and water rates will come into force this year.

Litter Picking 2012: The Chairman thanked Mr Shelton for organising the Annual Litter Cleanup again this year.

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Charles Mathew reported that the County's Core Strategy for the provision of sand and gravel for the period until 2030 had been passed for Government approval essentially unchanged from the original draft despite strong opposition from West Oxfordshire. However there were still hurdles for the proposals to overcome before coming into force, including a final public consultation.

District Councillors' Report

Both Steve Good and Hilary Fenton expressed their thanks for the continued help and support given to them by Councillor Mathew.

Councillor Good speaking on behalf of himself and Hilary said he believed that it was a remarkable achievement of the District Council to hold the Council Tax unchanged from the previous year with no loss of services, with parking remaining free and maintained support for charitable services such as provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This success had been achieved by investing much of their reserves in commercial property, which gave better returns, and their innovative waste recycling scheme that was generating a profit over cost of £0.5M.

The Chairman thanked all three Councillors for their commitment to the people of Northmoor.

Thames Valley Police Report

Community Police Constable Richard Connor and PCSO Isobel Webb attended the meeting. The report, kindly provided by PC Connor is attached to these Minutes.

The Chairman thanked Richard and Isobel for their work within the community.

Open Item for Parishioners

Mrs Gaynor Sharp-Dent said that there were a number of people who did not have access to e-mail and the Internet. She asked whether it would be possible to publish a small report in the Contact magazine.

There being no further questions the Annual Parish Meeting was closed.

Signed.....

Date.....