

Northmoor Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 18 May 2016
Northmoor Village Hall

Parishioners Present

There were some thirty parishioners present.

Also in Attendance.

PCSO Sandra Syphas, County Councillor Charles Mathew and District Councillor Hilary Fenton

Meeting Chairman

Parish Council Chairman Graham Shelton chaired the meeting. Graham welcomed Parishioners to the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2015 were read to the meeting and signed as a true record.

Item 3: Chairman's Report.

The recent Parish Council elections has seen three Councillors stand down from the Council, Robert Florey after 20 years service, Valerie Ryan 12 years, and Gaynor Sharp-Dent 5 years. The three new Councillors replacing them are Bella Adams, Maureen Sears and Sharon Woolford.

The Parish Council has met 10 times in 2015/16 and Parish Councillors attendance has averaged 86%.

Parishioners in attendance have been as low as none on two occasions and as high as 11, an average attendance of 4 per meeting.

We have also had County Councillor Charles Mathew present for eight of the ten meetings, and District Councillors Hilary Fenton and Steve Good together attending seven.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors and Clerk for the work they had done over the past year, and also our County and District Councillors for their work and regular attendance at Parish Council meetings.

The Parish Council has met 11 times in 2014/15 and Parish Councillors attendance has averaged 93%.

Parishioners in attendance have been as low as 1 and as high as 16, an average attendance of 6 per meeting.

We have also had County Councillor Charles Mathew present for nine meetings, and District Councillors Hilary Fenton and Steve Good together attending six of the eleven meetings.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Councillors for their contribution to the running of the Council and the Clerk for his supporting role on the Council.

Among matters considered

Planning: There have been 11 Planning Applications. The most significant of these being the five houses replacing the business units at Northmoor Park. There are now Planning Consents for a total of twenty-eight dwellings within the Parish, none of which have been started.

Gravel: The Gravel Liaison Group has met twice since the last Annual Parish Meeting. As yet there is no date for commencement of commercial quarrying for sand and gravel at Stonehenge or the construction of the conveyor underpass beneath the Standlake Road coming into Northmoor.

Roads: The state of the roads is regularly reported to OCC. Potholes continue to be a problem particularly where traffic is crossing grass verges damaging the road edges.

Precept: The Parish Precept this year was essentially unchanged from last year at £4472.

Allotments. There are no unused allotments at the present time. The allotments continue to cover the cost to the Parish of the rent and water rates. The Council would have liked to see the formation of an allotment association but this has not materialised again this year.

Playing Field. This continues to be the largest expenditure for monies from the Precept. There is a Playing Field Voluntary Group who carry out repairs.

Public Transport. The imminent loss of the No 18 bus is an issue that is causing great concern to this Council.

Reports from Parish Councillors

Councillor Peter Winder reported that he was looking to review what had been achieved as a result of the Village Survey and what was still left to make progress on. The new Village Website was in progress and he had great hopes that this would be an asset to the village.

Councillor Sharon Woolford reported that the local Babylonians Community Group had now ended and the residents at Thameside court would now be working with the holiday park next to them. Sharon said there would be a fun day and dog show on 24 July at Bablockhythe.

Thames Valley Police Report

Community PCSO Sandra Syphas gave a report on crime statistics for the village, which remain reassuringly low in our community.

The Chairman thanked Sandra and the Community Police Team for their work within the community.

Reports from County and District Councillors.

County Councillor Charles Mathew reported on the topics that had engaged him most in 2015/16 including a Unitary Authority, public transport, gravel, and Newbridge.

- Unitary Authority. The County Council are moving forward with their ideas for a Unitary Authority and have engaged consultants to progress the matter.
- Public Transport. The 18 has now ended and the 19 service will be on a six-month trial to see whether it is commercially viable.
- Gravel. Charles was still uncertain whether gravel would come out of the Stonehenge site, as the start-up costs may be a significant deterrent for the Company.
- Newbridge. Still slow progress in getting an effective working camera at Newbridge, There is a system produced by Siemens that could be the answer.
- Planning. Concern over potential planning applications at Stanton Harcourt where there is a possibility of 55 houses on the Airfield site and Mr Berry may be looking for a further 65 behind the High Street.
- A40 Upgrade. Our Councillor was critical of the proposals for upgrading the A40 between Witney and the Woodstock Road roundabout.
- Swinford Toll Bridge. There was a suggestion that this toll could be automated.

Recently re-elected District Councillor Hilary Fenton was grateful for the support she had received in the recent District Council election. Hilary had nothing as yet to say on the Unitary proposals from OCC. She continued to be associated with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Item 7. Update from Northmoor Lockkeeper Mark Winks

Mark reported that his trials of maintaining the water level in the Thames below the accepted datum level, to assist drainage off the surrounding fields and lessen the flood risk had been very successful and was being trialled all the way down the Thames

Reports from the PCC

Henry Hereford for the PCC reported that the repairs to the Chancel roof were progressing at a cost of £70,000 and thanked all who had helped in raising monies towards the repairs.

Thursday Club.

Michael Druce reported that the Thursday Club was currently providing a hot meal and social activity for some 15-20 elderly residents from Northmoor and the surrounding villages. Whilst they had a good supply of volunteers to provide transport they were short of cooks.

Open Item for Parishioners. There were no matters raised.

Signed.....

Date.....