

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ludgershall Parish Council
held on Monday 23rd April 2012 in the Memorial Hall, Ludgershall**

Present: Cllr. J. Cartwright - Chairman of Ludgershall Parish Council

Cllr. T. Chettle

Cllr. Ms. H. Cox

Cllr. R. Jones

Cllr. S. Lawson

Cllr. R. Simson

Anne Wilson – Parish Clerk

28 residents

Cllr. M. Edmonds – Bucks CC

Andy Kirkham - AVDC

Roger Newall - AVDC

PC Anthony Hurd – Thames Valley Police

Henry Parsons

1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Cartwright welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for attending and explained to those present that this was a meeting for the residents of the parish and not a Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Cartwright explained that the Parish Clerk was present at his invitation to take the minutes as she had no automatic right to attend the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Those present noted apologies from Julie Tiley, local resident and David Smith from Transport for Buckinghamshire.

3. Minutes

Those present **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 11th April 2011.

4. Neighbourhood Planning and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Andy Kirkham and Roger Newall gave an informative talk about what Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) at the date of the meeting on the impact of Neighbourhood Planning and the effect of the Community Infrastructure Levy on the future of the community of Ludgershall in terms of housing. They encouraged Ludgershall to produce a Neighbourhood Plan to influence the future development and infrastructure in the parish.

5. Report from Chairman Ludgershall Parish Council

Councillor Cartwright, Chairman of Ludgershall PC gave a comprehensive report about the work of the Parish Council in the previous year.

He said that he was the only remaining Councillor from the previous Parish Council and was pleased that the village had a new council. This was their first year and they would offer a different perspective on the future of the village or parish.

There was a period of a couple of months where the Council had to rely on AVDC to pay all the bills and work with the Parish Council as initially there were not enough people standing for election. A by- election was held late June 2012 when the current Council were elected. One person resigned after a month and another Councillor was co-opted.

A considerable amount of time had been taken up in meetings with the matter of an Easement at the White Hart but he was confident that this matter had now been resolved. Cllr. Cartwright outlined this process and stated that eventually the Council had gone to NALC and based their final decision on their legal advice. There had at one stage been a challenge by a local resident on the legal advice the Parish Council had received from Solicitors but the Parish Council could not afford to take legal advice then pay further fees for alternative advice. NALC had confirmed the advice received.

They had worked closely with Transport for Buckinghamshire on highway and verge matters and were grateful for the introduction of quarterly parish walkabouts with the local Highway Technician.

The Parish Clerk had managed to obtain the outstanding Wayleave monies from BT as the money had been sent to Parish Council to an address in the village where it had been mislaid and not got to the Parish Clerk.

Like many authorities the Parish Council opted for a 0% budget increase. He went onto talk about the potential impact of the new Homes bonus on the parish.

A Magnolia Tree was to be planted for the Golden Jubilee and there will be celebrations in the village for all local residents. AVDC has agreed to give all parishes an oak tree to plant too.

The Parish Council are very grateful for the opportunities from David Smith from Transport for Bucks for the walkabouts around the parish. This really helps him understand the needs of the parish.

He thanked his fellow Councillors for their support and also thanked the Parish Clerk for her work for the Council.

Questions were asked about the legal advice received from the Solicitors and whether the matter could be taken further to say the Solicitors Regulations Authority. This was not felt to be necessary now further free advice had been received. A second question was asked about the knowledge by solicitors on Village Greens and whether the Solicitor used had this knowledge. Cllr. Cartwright stated that the Solicitor had worked with the Council before on similar matters. Law surrounding Village Greens is a very complicated matter. It was explained there are laws surrounding access over Village greens and is there protocol on them. The Village Green is what makes the village and we have a duty to look after it. Cllr. Cartwright said that Village Green had to be treated with social and economic reasons at the forefront and any easement sold with the same matter in mind.

Concern was expressed about the limited Broadband and mobile phone signal in the parish.

6. Report from Bucks County Council

Councillor Michael Edmonds, the local Buckinghamshire County Councillor addressed the meeting on the key points of the year.

He had spent a lot of time involved with the Energy from Waste Incinerator at Calvert which had now gone through the planning process. It had finally been passed with more than 50 conditions. Cllr. Cartwright had also been involved in the process.

The Council had to make budget savings of over £300k over several years and some 480 staff would be made redundant or redeployed from the top down.

He was concerned about the state of the roads. When the current leader was elected he made a priority within the budget to repair the roads. He said that the parish was lucky in that David Smith was the local Highways Technician.

Cllr. Edmonds continued by talking about the LAF meetings and the importance of Councils attending those meetings to be part of the future and have their say.

He finished by talking about the County Council elections in 2013 and the electoral boundary changes proposed for the county.

He took several questions about the Incinerator in which the question was asked whether one was needed with the proposals for others in the area. Cllr. Edmonds said although he was no expert he understood that the costs had been looked at very closely and the county had chosen that route to go down.

A question was asked about the reduction of the mobile library service and whether it was possible to consider opening libraries on Sundays. Cllr. Edmonds said he thought that this was something that could be considered.

Concern was expressed by local residents about the condition of the roads in the county. Cllr. Edmonds reiterated about the priority of the current leader of Bucks CC having highways repairs as a high priority for the County Council.

7. Report from Aylesbury Vale District Council

Councillor John Cartwright gave the District Council report. He stated that there had been a 0% budget increase and AVDC were confident that the front line services would not suffer.

He talked about the new Gateway Building in Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury which is the new headquarters for AVDC and there was the option to hire it out for conferences. He had today signed the order for the signage on the main building. The new areas were due to open on the 4th May 2012. A large WI conference was being held in the building the day after the meeting.

In November were the elections for the Police Commission. He said that enough had been said about the incinerator.

He encouraged everyone to take note of the Olympic Torch route and attend somewhere along the way to cheer the torch on its way. The nearest place was Waddesdon.

The theatre in Aylesbury is open and the adjacent Waitrose is begun to be built. At the back of the building it is proposed that a hotel is to be built which will open within 12 months.

A new waste system and bins will come into being in late 2012. The difference will be the type of bins and what is collected each week. Mixed waste will be collected but more information will be given to all residents about the changes. The current bins for general rubbish will still be used. Garden waste will cost £36 per annum for collection 40 weeks of the year.

8. Report from Thames Valley Police

PC Anthony Hurd stated that there had only been two reported crimes in the parish in the last 12 months. These were the theft of two steel gates from a Thames Water site and theft of a spare tyre off the back of a vehicle.

The old 0845 number has been replaced with 101 for non-emergencies at a cost of 15p each.

There were some changes to the local Police team. PCSO Helen Taylor has moved on and PCSO Denise Gayburn has moved to the area. She is a very experienced PCSO and is involved in Speed Watch and working with young people.

Waddesdon Police Station is open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. It was appreciated that this was not suitable or acceptable to everyone. The counter is run solely by volunteers and there was a will to attempt to increasing the opening hours.

9. Report from Highways (Transport) for Buckinghamshire

The Parish Clerk offered apologies from Dave Smith who was unable to attend the meeting.

A short report outlined the forthcoming road works in the area and also the proposals for Aylesbury. He said he felt that the walkabouts were very beneficial and looked forward to working with the parish in the future.

10. Report from Ludgershall Village Hall

John Cartwright as Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee gave a report on the Memorial Hall.

The hall is in fairly good condition but new front doors are desperately needed. The hall broke less than even and they were grateful for the £650 raised at the attic sale day. They were also grateful to Pat and her gang at the pub for the £250 raised for the quiz held to raise funds for the hall. The produce accounts at their own annual meeting.

11. Report from the Ambulance Community Responders

The role of the Ambulance Community Responders was explained to those present.

12. Charities Report

The Apprentices Fund has £308 and no one had applied for funds in the last 12 months.

13. Report from the Fishing Club

Ron Jones reported that there were now 20 members in the club. They have planted two cherry trees having taken a couple of trees down. The Jubilee Magnolia tree went by the pond.

The club have changed some of the rules. For example they no longer offer family tickets. Adults are £10 per day and children £3 per day. The pond is closed for fishing from 1st December until 1st March each year.

A question was asked about the part dredging of the pond. Ron responded by stating that only half the job was done but the remainder was unlikely to be done.

14. Report from Ludgershall Play Area Committee

There are three members of the Committee – Julie Tiley, Pat from the Bull and Butcher and Emily Davies.

£160 was raised at the Bike Night. Thanks were given to Jim Goss, Archie Harris and Richard Landlord of the Bull and Butcher.

The second litter bin would make a difference and the area should be kept tidy

15. Questions and Comments

- Reinstatement of the Grass Verge in Church Lane. The verge was to be restored opposite Bury Court and remedial work had already begun. Trans[port for Bucks were carrying out the work
- Verge at the end of Salters Lane. Thames water have been contacted on many occasions and would be chased again
- Notice boards –tatty and past their best. It was already on the agenda of the parish Council to replace the boards
- Abandoned Tyre. There was an abandoned tyre on the verge adjacent to the farm gateway on the Bicester Road.
- Litter on the Bicester Road and entrance roads to the village. Bucks CC would be contacted – Cllr. Cartwright explained the process to those present and the scheme of works
- 30mph speed limits. There was a feeling that the 30mph limits should be pushed further out to the extremities of the parish
- Monthly Parish Council meetings. Those present agreed that they preferred monthly Parish Council meetings and felt that access to the Parish Council was improved

Councillor Cartwright thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting.

Signed Date