

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ludgershall Parish Council
held on Monday 22nd April 2013 in the Memorial Hall, Ludgershall**

Present: Cllr. Paul Thomas – Chairman of Ludgershall Parish Council
Cllr. Helena Cox – Vice-Chairman of Ludgershall Parish Council
Cllr. John Cartwright
Cllr. T. Chettle
Cllr. R. Jones
Cllr. S. Lawson
Cllr. R. Simspon
Mrs. Deborah O’Brien – Parish Clerk
18 Parish residents
PCSO Denise Grayburn – Thames Valley Police
Cllr. Elect Angela Macpherson

1. Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Thomas 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, and that their comments and questions would be welcome.

2. Apologies for Absence

Those present noted apologies from Cllr. Michael Edmonds, Bucks County Council and a representative of Transport for Buckinghamshire.

3. Minutes

Those present **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2012.

4. Defibrillators and the Ahythmia Alliance

Mrs. Lesley Simpson gave an informative and valuable presentation on the need and usefulness of defibrillators in rural communities. There is a four minute window to obtain aid for a cardiac arrest victim and the installation of one in Ludgershall could save lives. Costs are between £800-£1,000 and they are also ‘rentable’. Vandal-proof boxes are available. Mrs. Crisp stated that she thought C/I Henry Parsons is already available as a first responder and has a defibrillator. PCSO Grayburn also confirmed that they are very easy to use.

5. Report from Chairman Ludgershall Parish Council

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

Various events occurred during the year:

- 3rd June Jubilee event (in spite of a monsoon) was very successful with every child in the village receiving a jubilee mug
- Planting of a Magnolia Tree by the Village Pond by Mrs. Hilda Wallington
- Planting of Jubilee Oak Tree by Mr Clifford East by the Old Post Office (donated by AVDC)

- Play Around the Parishes – 3 successful sessions and 3 further sessions have been booked for 2013 – 9th April, 31st July and 20th August.
- A speedwatch training course was attended by members of the parish council and will be utilised later in the year
- The Environment Agency provided training and equipment for stream maintenance
- Chairman & Clerk attended training courses on the Localism Act in regard to the Code of Conduct & Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- Clerk also attended Parish Council financial accounting courses

The Parish underwent a satisfactory internal and external audit for the year 2011-2012 and Parish finances are healthy. The Village Green account stands at £21,488.70 which includes a repayment of £1,000 for previous legal costs and wayleaves totalling £7,470 owed from BT & EDF. £3,109 had to be repaid to HMRC VAT for Play Area equipment purchased.

The Parish Precept request did not require an increase in Council Tax, due to a grant from the Government and AVDC. However, it is unlikely that these grants will be available for 2013/14.

Actions of the Parish Council during year:

- Appointment of new Parish Clerk following resignation of Mrs. A. Wilson
- Formal procedure developed for establishing valuations for right of access across the village green – the District Valuer's valuations are to be utilised.
- Formal procedure for hiring out the village marquee
- Obtained approval for repair work of the collapsed bank on Salter's Lane, cost of which will be borne by Thames Water.
- Regular meetings with Transport for Bucks (TfB) to address potholes etc. although our technician has just been changed. The Parish Council are aware of the many blocked drains and has given TfB a map of same and currently awaiting a visit from the drainage cleaning equipment.
- Various trees have been trimmed or cut down and a ditch at the bottom of Church Lane has been cleared.
- A £1,000 grant has been approved to be made to the Play Area Group in respect of installation of Astro-turf in the goal mouths.
- A new mower attachment was purchased for the tractor which mows the village green. However a whole new combination may be required in the near future.
- A grant of £100 was made to the Village Hall for purchase of Christmas decorations.
- A micro grant of £900 was applied for and received from VAHT/Community Chest towards replacement noticeboards. 2 new oak boards have been ordered to be located on the Play Area and at the end of Church Lane.

Other points (open for village comment/opinion):

- Does the Village need/want a long-term village plan?
- AVDC will attend the village with a skip on May 13th – 8:00 am outside the Village Hall for 3 hours – cost £200.
- Cancellation of drop-in surgeries at Brill – it was agreed that the village would not like to lose these. Cllr. Thomas to liaise with Trinity Health.
- Microphones for use at meetings – the cost would be approx. £400 – it was decided that these were not required.

- Stones around the village located on the green – parishioners **RESOLVED to** remove stones on the village green. Where stones are located on non-owned or non-registered village green, these must be located 1.0 metre from the road, and that this would be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.
- Parish Emergency community response contact information – **RESOLVED that** Cllrs. Thomas & Cox and Mrs. Crisp (Landlord of the Bull & Butcher) are to be nominated as points of contact.
- Dog waste bins – there was considerable discussion regarding this. **RESOLVED that** 3 bins should be installed around the village and that this would be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.
- Litter pick-up working party – it was agreed that this is a good idea and that this would be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.
- Those in attendance were reminded that there is an election on 2nd May for district councillors.

6. Report from Councillor John Cartwright – AVDC

Cllr. Cartwright gave a report on the activities of AVDC over the past year. Highlights of the year include the construction of a new Waitrose and Travelodge in Aylesbury, both of which are scheduled to open in August and will generate approx. 240 jobs. In addition, the New ARLA facility will bring about 600 jobs. HS2 discussions are still ongoing – the proposals went to Judicial Review. Permission has been granted for the East-West line for Calvert Green workers.

A plan for 17,500 new homes was scrapped and is to be replaced by the Vale of Aylesbury Plan which will bring 3,000 new homes. Hampden Fields has been turned down by the planning authority, but an appeal is planned. The Government is on the side of development, but it will be another 12 months before the VAP is in place.

The Aylesbury Vale Advantage fund (AVA) to promote growth was set up with £10 million of Government money over 5 years ago. The AVA loans money for development such as the new Academy at Berryfields. AVA is trying to buy land to develop a ring road.

Dr. Alan Tuner-Smith enquired if a Village Plan is a priority – Cllr Cartwright replied that he feels it is important to have one. A questionnaire was carried out 2 years ago on the need and type of housing required for the village. An indication was given that 20 houses were required. Cllr. Thomas stated that the Village Green ownership protects the village from development somewhat.

7. Report from PCSO Denise Grayburn – Thames Valley Police

PCSO Grayburn advised that she has attended many local events and given talks at schools (year 6) between 1/1/12 – 20/4/13.

General trends in crime are jewellery burglary, theft from vehicles, sheds and garages. Residents are advised to ensure locks are utilised and to mark property using UV pens which are available from AVDC. Power tool marking days are regularly available and advertised. Farm/Rural crime is on the increase. Thames Valley Police as an alert system which anyone can sign up for online.

Wildlife crime can be reported to the Wildlife Officer Dean Kingham. (5924). Waddesdon Office is open Mon-Fri 10-1.

8. Report from John Cartwright on behalf of the Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall is regularly maintained and the VH committee would like to thank Pat Crisp and others for the fundraising on behalf of the hall.

Rental of the hall is very low – it is subsidised to make it available for local use. Consequently, it is fairly regularly let. A car boot sale raised over £800, and there will be a music festival on 6th May to benefit the hall.

9. Report from Alistair Thompson, PCC Secretary on behalf of St. Mary's Church, Ludgershall

St Mary's PCC is focused in promoting the church in the village, within the Bernwode Benefice, and the mission of the church through pastoral, social and ecumenical activity. The PCC has also been responsible for the care and maintenance of the church of St Mary's.

Throughout the last year the PCC has been committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and be part of the church community.

Prior to the roof replacement works the Church remained open to public access 7 days /week during daytime hours. Throughout the works the church was closed for health and safety reasons. However we were able to hold services every Sunday in the Chancel. The church is now restored to 7 day/week daytime access.

The main focus of the PCC in the last year has been on the repair and restoration of the nave roof following the theft of lead covering and the discovery of Death Watch Beetle.

The PCC accepted a grant from English Heritage of £178,000 towards the cost. Further funds were used from the Restoration Fund, Friends of St Marys, and Burnell Fabric Trust Fund interest and other fundraising activity.

During the last two years in excess of £20,000 has been raised through a wide variety of fundraising activity. These have been coordinated and managed by Paul Rosentall. The PCC is very grateful for his efforts and we would also like to acknowledge and thank everyone in the village to all those who have assisted, participated and generously given money both from within the village and from outside.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their support in respect of the restoration work and for the opportunity to speak at a parish council meeting last year.

£5000 was also given by the Bucks Historic Churches Trust towards this phase of the works.

During the roof restoration works two open days were held allowing parishioners to see and inspect the work being done and also to meet the contractors. Funds were raised by "selling" slates. These two mornings were very successful.

Also during this time we took the opportunity to have the roof timbers dated. Interestingly it was found that the porch main timbers dated to 1336-1368 and the main roof trusses to 1535.

This phase of the works was fully completed in February 2013.

On the 30th June last year we made a second application for funding from English Heritage for the next phase of works. This was successful and an "offer in principle" of £184,000 was received in December. Over the coming months a detailed specification will be prepared, approvals sought, and tenders invited for the next phase of works. This will include:

- Replacement of the Tower roof covering
- Stone work and window repairs
- A new external drainage system to collect rainwater and feed into the drain in Brill Road.

This will allow us to control the damp in the church walls and therefore, ultimately as a third phase, repair the internal plaster work and floor.

This will allow a firm grant offer to be issued by EH in December 2013 for works to start in 2014 subject to full funding being in place. Our fundraising will continue as we have used all reserves for the first phase. Of course we have the fete in June as a major source of income. We will also be seeking grants from other charities to help the funding cause.

The predicted budget for this phase is £202,000 plus VAT.

Turning to other matters:

A very successful Progressive Supper was arranged by Estelle Fisher and our grateful thanks are extended to her and to all who participated.

The Harvest Supper was held in the village hall arranged by Jan Williams. After 10 years Jan has decided to “retire” from this role. The PCC is grateful for the last 10 years of service given by Jan in this capacity.

Church and Church Yard Maintenance:

During the last year the church yard has been extremely well maintained by a very willing and able group of volunteers lead by Jack Fisher. The PCC is very grateful for their service and hard work.

We are always indebted to those who clean the church and this year we would like to extend special thanks to those who carried out a full clean on completion of the roof works.

The church has been decorated by beautiful flower arrangements throughout the year and our thanks is extended to those who have given their time and skill.

Worship and Prayer

In the last year we have continued with our normal service pattern and these will continue through the coming months. The Benefice and Diocese are well advanced with the advertisement for a new vicar and we anticipate interviews at the end of May with hopefully a new vicar in post in September, subject to getting some suitable applicants of course.

A highlight of 2012 was the Service of Dedication by the Bishop of Oxford on the 2nd December.

As usual Christmas services were well supported with the church full for the carol service..

Summary:

2012 was a successful year for our church and we are very grateful for all those in Ludgershall and beyond for their continued support by their actions and donations and we look forward to 2013 and beyond with confidence that the church is continuing to thrive and to be a focal point for the village.

10. Report from Mr. A. Harris – Charities

There have been no applications for apprentice grants and the John Hart Apprentice fund currently holds £309.

11. Report from Mr. K. Tiffin – Fishing Club

Mr. Tiffin asked why more people don't use the pond fishing facility? He would like to see more children fishing – a starter kit only costs about £5-10. A children's fishing morning was proposed to include parents and children. The Parish Council will pursue this.

12. Report from Mrs. D. Everingham – Play Area

Mrs. Everingham reported that the Play Area fund has a balance of £3,827 after repairs to the toddler frame due of £1,917.60 and repairs to the tractor of £323.99. The tractor is an ongoing maintenance problem, but many thanks to Jim Goss & Archie Harris for their work on the play area.

The Parish Council has made a £1,000 grant to allow for the placement of astroturf in the goalmouths.

There has been limited fundraising, although there are plans to hold an event later in the year.

13. Questions from the floor

Mrs. Crisp raised the dangers of the A41 junction with the Bicester Road. Mrs. Neale commented that action by TfB requires a number of serious accidents. To report issues, residents can do so online at <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Transport-and-roads.aspx>

The Parish Clerk enquired if residents would be interested in signing up for an e-mail alert system within the parish.

Dr. Turner-Smith asked for clarification between registered and non-registered village green. Non-registered land means that although owned by the village, it is not constrained by laws that govern the main registered village green.

Councillor Thomas thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Accepted by:

_____ **Chairman** _____ **Date**