

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Ludgershall Parish Council  
held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in the Memorial Hall, Ludgershall**

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

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Cox 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 during the meeting. She also advised that we recently received the resignation of Councillor Robin Simpson and we would like to thank Robin for his contribution to the Parish Council over the past 3 years. So, now we have a ‘casual vacancy’, - the notices have been placed on the noticeboard and if you are interested in joining us, please contact the Clerk.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Those present noted apologies from Mr. A. Harris (report submitted) and from Transport for Buckinghamshire (unable to attend PC meetings).

**3. Minutes**

Those present **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013.

**4. Defibrillator Demonstration**

Cllr Cox advised that after last year’s meeting we have purchased a defibrillator which will shortly be installed to the external wall of the village hall (awaiting electrician’s quotes). I would now like to welcome and thank for her time Mrs. Lesley Simpson who will give a comprehensive demonstration in the use of a defibrillator.

Mrs Simpson gave a demonstration of how easy it is to use the equipment and how vital its use is in the case of a cardiac arrest.

**5. Report from Chairman Ludgershall Parish Council**

Councillor Helena Cox, Chairman of Ludgershall PC gave a report about the work of the Parish Council in the previous year:

- 3 dog bins have been installed which are emptied weekly in the winter and twice a week in the summer – they appear to be well used
- 2 new noticeboards were installed with the one on Church Lane to be relocated slightly.

- We purchased a new tractor and finishing mower for the upkeep of the Village Green. Our thanks to John Cartwright & Jack Fisher for maintaining the equipment and mowing the Green.
- AstroTurf was installed in the goal mouths of the play area and we would like to thank Jim Goss and many others who helped with that.
- The Play Area is now completely under the remit of the Parish Council and we would like to thank Pat Crisp, Emily Davis, Jim Goss, Archie Harris & Tom Chettle for all of their help in the past year. We are currently in the process of organising some maintenance work arising from the Annual RoSPA report. The next inspection will be in May.
- As already stated, the defibrillator has been purchased and the PC will agree contractor/installation costs at the next meeting before this is passed to the Village Hall Committee for final agreement.
- The Parish underwent a satisfactory internal and external audit for the year 2012-2013. The Parish finances are very healthy as you can see from the income & expenditure reports.
- The Parish Council has continued to book Play Around the Parishes events despite a doubling of price from AVDC. The last event in April was well attended by 25 children. The next event is on 12<sup>th</sup> August.
- The PC/Village received an £800 donation from the Bike Night Committee. £600 will be used towards the purchase of a bench to be located near White Hart Close and the balance was put towards the cost of the defibrillator.
- We would like to thank you for signing the petition regarding the state of the roads in and around Ludgershall. This was presented to the Cabinet of Bucks County Council and then on to Waddesdon LAF. Their response was 'the usual' – all Category 1 potholes have been dealt with and they have arranged a site meeting with councillors. A walk round meeting was held and since then only the ditches on Salters Lane have been cleared. The LAT is mostly non-responsive but we have received some further updates today. If you have any questions I suggest you address them to Cllr Macpherson who will be speaking next.
- Parishioners are asked to consider if a more natural Village green is preferred – perhaps a wild flower meadow which would reduce mowing? General consensus was no.
- Parishioners are asked to re-consider the placement of stones on the Village Green – at last year's meeting we asked for your thoughts on this and the majority agreed that they would like to see them removed. The PC then wrote to all homeowners with stones on their frontage advising them of insurance and highways obligations. At this point, most obliged and removed the stones. However, since the wet winter weather the stones have returned and even multiplied. TfB has updated us today regarding legal liability – 0.5m of the verge is technically highway and must not be obstructed. Overall sentiment of those assembled is that the stones should be removed. PC to address this at the next PC meeting.
- Parishioners are asked to consider WWI commemorations – the PC had considered perhaps a bench incorporating the names of those not only lost in the war but also those who served. There are grants available but to qualify for these a structured remembrance project needs to be developed including educational aspects. If you wish to become involved, please let us know as without support of the community this cannot progress.
- Parishioners are asked to consider the introduction of a 200 Club to benefit Play Area – we would like to resurrect this as a fund raiser for the maintenance of the Play Area and any replacement equipment would be sought via grants from WREN,

Sport England etc. The plan is to run it from July to June at a cost of £20 year so watch your letterboxes for application forms and details.  
And with that I think you have listened to me for long enough and so I will hand over to Bucks County Councillor Angela Macpherson.

## **6. Report from Cllr Angela Macpherson – BCC**

After the elections last May it has been a busy time in the Grendon Underwood division with many different issues to be tackled.

In the north of the division, particularly around the Claydons, Calvert and Twyford, HS2 dominates the agenda. All local councils continue to strongly oppose this project. It is difficult to predict whether it will go ahead or not, but there has been some encouraging support from influential individuals and groups that provides some hope. We shall keep on fighting!

Again in the north of the area, the Energy for Waste plant gained approval prior to the election and now is in process of development. Whatever people's views regarding the project (and they are divided) there are currently considerable issues with the impact of this development on the small country roads and dwellings that are being affected by the significant increases in HGV movements. I am ensuring that both the County Council and FCC are aware of the public concern and rectifying any adverse impact.

The condition of the roads in general remains of great concern throughout our rural area. I have to say there is not a single village that is unaffected by the serious long term lack of investment in our highways and combined with several hard winters we are all seeing the results of this. I think it would be fair to say that there have been improvements to the repair process in many areas with the implementation of the 'plane and patch' approach. However I would be the first to acknowledge that there is much more to be done (in an ideal world complete resurfacing) but sadly there are insufficient funds to do this despite significant expenditure across the county last year.

On a positive note, I have worked very hard recently to save the fantastic Tuesday day centre from closure at Steeple Claydon for elderly people many of whom suffer from dementia. This award winning and invaluable service not only provides opportunities for people to get out of their houses, meet others and not least have a good cooked lunch, but also provides essential respite for their carers. I am hopeful that the service will see increased referrals and continue to go from strength to strength.

I have also visited most of our local schools and the children's centre and was really encouraged by the hard work and positive results that are being achieved.

You will also be aware that I have started to run local monthly surgeries so that residents can drop in and talk to me face to face. Details of these have been circulated to all parishes and are also on my website at Bucks CC. I think these opportunities are important, particularly as it is often not possible for me to attend as many parish council meetings as I would wish, with twenty parishes in total!

There were many questions for Cllr Macpherson regarding the state of the roads and the lack of TfB response. She promised to continue to pursue solutions. In addition 2 questions were asked and her responses were submitted after the meeting following research:

1. What is the length of the contract between Jacobs Ringway & BCC? – The current contract is for 8 years from 1/4/2009. Within the contract extensions are awarded dependent upon performance which currently takes the contract to 2020/21.
2. What is the income from Parking Services for 2013/14? – Total income was £1,432,222 made up of Penalty Charge Notices (£950,555); Pay & Display Income (£350, 922); Permits/suspensions & dispensations income (£132,745).  
The cost of carrying out the service was £1,422,380 giving a surplus of £9,842.

#### **7. Report from Councillor John Cartwright – AVDC**

Cllr. Cartwright gave a report on the activities of AVDC over the past year. He stepped down as Leader of AVDC during the summer but during his leadership there has been new development in the town such as The Waterside Theatre, the conference centre and the movement of district offices to the new Gateway Building on Gatehouse Road. In addition the new Waitrose and Travelodge have opened. Arla opened in Aston Clinton and once it is fully operational it will provide 700 jobs. The Vale of Aylesbury Plan had to be withdrawn as the Government Inspectorate did not approve it. A new plan will have to be developed which will take some time. Grants from central government are being cut leaving a funding gap which requires budget changes. Over the last 4 years AVDC has saved more than £7.5 million and new projects are underway to continue savings and generate revenue such as hiring out the Gateway offices. The council has approved a 1.99% council tax increase which is necessary to continue necessary services. The East West Rail project will open Aylesbury up to the national rail network and work on the line in Aylesbury Vale will start in 2015.

#### **8. Report from PCSO Denise Grayburn – Thames Valley Police**

PCSO Grayburn advised that she has attended many local events and given talks at schools . 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.

#### **9. 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 cost of the hall is very low – it is subsidised to make it available for local use. Consequently, it is fairly regularly let.

#### **10. 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.

During this year we have focused on maintaining the status quo during the vacancy period.

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 with the church open to all 7 days /week during daylight hours.

### **Appointment of a new Rector**

Earlier this year the PCC's of the Benefice appointed Priscilla Slusar as our new Rector following a rigorous selection process. She was installed as our new Rector on the 23 January 2014 and we welcome her and her husband John to the benefice.

### **Church Restoration**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June last year we made a second application for funding from English Heritage for the next phase of works. This was successful and a grant contract for £192,000 was received in March against an overall budget cost of £231,000 (incl. fees). Over the coming weeks we are finalising the Diocesan approvals for the work which we then hope will commence in June.

The works scope includes:

- Replacement of the Tower roof covering
- Stone work and window repairs (there is scope here to match work against available funds)
- 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.

### **Turning to other matters:**

The fete was held in June and an amazing £7728 was raised towards our restoration fund. This was a fantastic achievement and we are indebted to the whole village for their support.

A very successful Progressive Supper was arranged by Estelle Fisher and our grateful thanks are extended to her and to all who participated. £1200 was raised.

The Harvest Supper was held in the village hall arranged by Chris Rosentall with £560 raised to towards general running costs of the church.

### **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, Ian Costar and others. The PCC is very grateful for their service and hard work.

We are always indebted to those who clean the church. 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.

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

We have also been holding a two-weekly bible study discussion group.

With the arrival of Priscilla we may see some slight changes in service patterns. BW News will carry details of any changes in service times in due course.

**Summary:**

2013 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 2014 and beyond with confidence that the church is continuing to thrive and to be a focal point for the village.

**11. Report from Mr. A. Harris – Charities (report via e-mail)**

Notices for applications were placed on the Notice Boards within the Parish and also in the Bernwode News. No applications were received.

The total amount in the John Hart Charity for Apprentices amounts to £310.44p.

The William Spiers Charity total is £313.90p. Both of these Charities are invested in a Charity account with the Coventry .

**12. Accepted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date