

CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018, at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Cllr D Sainsbury
Cllr L Saunders
Cllr D Naidu
Cllr R Wilkins
Borough Cllr Mrs M Penny
13 residents
A Gorton (clerk)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alison Keate

2 REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2017-2018

This is my last report as Chairman and as a Councillor, as I have decided not to stand again at the forthcoming election.

The Parish Council has again been extremely busy this year, particularly with finalising agreement with Swindon Borough Council over the transfer of services. This process has been very time-consuming with extra meetings and lengthy legal documents to ponder over, so it has been a bit fraught at times! We published a Newsletter last May, explaining what was happening and we have put some money in the budget to hopefully cover the cost. It is now up to the new Council to decide how each of these services can be delivered.

The Community Benefit Fund has also taken a lot of our time. We have tried desperately hard over the last few years to encourage residents to put forward suggestions for how the money should be spent. The only people who responded with firm proposals were the Village Hall and the VCC. Consequently, that is where the money has been spent so far and many good projects have been undertaken. There is, however, still plenty of money left in the Fund so if there are any firm proposals the Council would be pleased to receive them.

We have continued our financial support to help to maintain the Village Hall and the Post Office. It is pleasing to see that they are still being well used. We have also continued to maintain the Playing Field and this service is being extended to other grass cutting.

Our Clerk, Alan Gorton, has again had to sit through many meetings and plough through many reports from the Borough and other bodies, with great patience. His comprehensive advice to the Councillors has again been very valuable, not to mention sometimes entertaining!

I would like to thank our Borough Councillor, Maureen Penny, and all my fellow Councillors for all their help and support during my time as Chairman.



I believe that the Parish Council has again fulfilled its function in looking after the interests of the parish and I wish the new Council every success in continuing this important service.

Bill Hughes, Chairman

3 **REPORT BY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

During the last 12 months when I have been Mayor of Swindon I have not been able to get to as many meetings as I would have liked and for that I apologise. However, as Mayor, I have had nearly 330 engagements to fulfil in and around the Borough, so you may be able to imagine I have been quite busy.

This year has been a difficult time for Parishes who have been forced to take on many tasks that they felt were not in their best interests. I have worked hard with Officers to broker a deal and a contract that was acceptable to both – not an easy task as the new larger parishes in Swindon seemed to be dictating what the rural Parishes would accept. I do believe we have secured the best deal possible in the circumstances.

In my physical absence, I have tried to keep abreast of what is going on in Castle Eaton by reading and responding to the Minutes of meetings and by visiting Castle Eaton whenever possible. With my intervention I believe the roads and road signs leading to the Parish are in better condition and you now have a plethora of green and black bins for Parish use. However, because of the election the HGV sign that was requested is still to be installed – but I will keep up the pressure.

One noticeable failure on my part isto get SBC to agree to replace the white ‘flags’ by the telegraph pole on School Lane – SBC refuse to admit that they installed these originally and therefore refuse to replace them as they do not stock them – would it be possible to replace these out of the funds from the solar park?

I hope you feel I have assisted you appropriately the past year and I look forward to supporting you in the year ahead.

Thank you.

Maureen Penny, Ward Councillor

Cllr Penny was thanked by the chairman for all her help during her Mayoralty year.

4 **REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS**

VILLAGE HALL TRUTEES

The Village Hall continues to function successfully and provide an excellent facility for the village, due to the combined efforts and dedication of the management team and the committee members who are always ready to assist when required.

The condition of the Village hall is still very good, partially with the assistance of the available Community Grant which supplied the funds for the following equipment and essential work:

a new dishwasher has been installed and is very efficient and popular

a third cupboard for the VCC has been purchased and installed in the storeroom

a planned programme was initiated between August 14, 2017, and August 20, 2017, to enable the Junckers floor to be sanded and varnished, the curtains to be cleaned and fire-proofed and the Village Hall Committee oaid for the main hall and the lobby to be decorated

All this work was completed without causing any interruption to the Post Office or any other relevant Village Hall users.

The small external room known as the Tele Cottage has been upgraded and is now used to publish the Parish Magazine.

The proposed improvement to thr disabled access and the external area around the Village Hall by laying tarmac is still under review.

The project team have carried out a comprehensive study on how air conditioning would enhance the Village Hall and see how cost effective it would be; this project is still under



discussion.

The Post Office continues to provide a very welcome service and with the closure of all the local banks has now taken over that facility.

The Coffee Morning, which is organised and financed by a small number of ladies, continues to provide a very welcome income to the Village Hall funds and is an excellent chance for parishioners to enjoy a social hour with other residents and occasionally Thames Path walkers.

Finally, we must thank the Parish Council for approving some of our grant requests and their patience in dealing with any future requests

Tony Trinder, chairman

GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club has enjoyed another very successful year. The Club membership has increased slightly but new members and guests are always welcome.

Once again the Club contributed to the Village Fete where we had a rewarding but tiring day.

The annual Flower and Produce Show was as usual very successful and well attended and supported by Club members and parishioners; we were down slightly on exhibits but the judges paid credit to the entries on show.

Following the presentation of prizes Barry Wickes conducted the produce auction, which as usual proved to be a very amusing and profitable event.

The annual trip was to the Malvern Spring Show. It was well attended and everyone had a very good day.

We had a variety of speakers throughout the season, not all directly related to gardening but generally they were, and all were well-supported.

Tony Trinder, chairman

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

We continue to thank this community for their support of the ancient church we are blessed with.

Many people help with churchyard mowing, flowers, cleaning and all the myriad jobs that get done unseen and unknown.

This year the bells have had a big maintenance job completed with a new headstock installed for the treble bell.

A monthly newsletter has been instigated, produced and printed in this Hall, thanks to some upgrading in the back room. Barry Wickes is the power behind the printer and a small team put together the material.

Some special events in the last year were the Harvest Supper and Festival, Christmas Services which were attended by around 150 people in total – more than 60% of the parish population.

We have a temporary vicar in the form of Revd John Partington, who is part of the South Cotswolds Team Ministry. We have services run by many of this Team, all of them excellent.

There are efforts being made to find a replacement for Revd Jean Brown who would look after just Kempsford, Whelford and Castle Eaton. It is hoped that another applicant will be interviewed this summer.

Weddings are in vogue at the moment. There will be three this summer in Castle Eaton.

We continue to flourish and look forward to welcoming anybody and everybody to our/your church.

Denis Archard, churchwarden

LADIES SOCIAL CLUB

The members of Castle Eaton Ladies Club are pleased to report that we are continuing to enjoy listening to speakers, watching demonstrations, participating in quizzes, going on outings, having



meals out and creating objects. We are always happy to include men at our events, in spite of our name!

Last June there was a meal at the Red Lion, which was well attended and enjoyed by all. We decided to have our Christmas meal there in November!

In July, Cheryl talked to us about living with loved ones who have dementia. This was an animated, interesting and humorous evening, with many funny anecdotes and poignant stories.

Vanessa, who has a shop in Cirencester, brought many beautiful fabrics to the Village Hall when she came to our September meeting. She discussed designs and the use of materials in our homes. We were able to experiment putting various textures, patterns and colours together to create pleasing effects. We really enjoyed this opportunity to be creative.

Phil Hall, who I am sure you know is a Castle Eaton resident, visited our meeting in October. He gave quite a technical talk, with excellent visual aids, about test flying light aircraft. His audience contained a number of men as well as many women!

The November meeting was held at the Red Lion, where we had a meal. This was our Christmas meal because in December we made wreaths again.

As usual, our AGM took place in January. I was not able to attend but apparently it was a lively event! During the evening the members decided to continue to have a £10 subscription and to charge non-members £2 per visit.

Pauline devised a quiz again in February. This was a great evening. It was won by the same people who won last time! We will get our revenge!!

In March, Shirley Trinder gave us a very interesting talk about the early history of our club. It is nearly fifty years old! In the past the members went on many different outings throughout the year. They visited ceramic factories, chocolate each year and raised money for them by hosting jumble sales, cake sales and Bring-and-Buy events. These days we often support the chosen charity of particular speakers, who ask for donations.

The Cotswold Pudding Company visited us in April. They brought many examples for us to taste, much to the delight of all those present, especially Eric!

This month we had an outing to the Swindon Literary Festival. We heard two inspiring speakers who provided thought-provoking and entertaining discussions. Darren Henly's talk was entitled 'Why Investment in Culture Pays' and Ben Okri spoke about 'Dreams of our Age'.

I am pleased to say that, thanks to Pauline, the Ladies Club has a committee again. The members of the committee have discussed a number of issues, including changing the name of the club. Apparently this is not the first time that the members have broached the subject of a suitable name. So far nothing has been decided. Watch this space!

Finally, our thanks go to David Mirrington for devising and providing such wonderful posters for us.

Judith Parker

VILLAGE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The annual general meeting of the Village Community Committee was held on Monday, 13 November, 2017. The following Committee members were returned: chair, Joe Edwards; treasurer, Louise Kennington; secretary, Helen Clift.

The VCC continues to enjoy an active membership, providing support for organizing the village fete, barn dance and various activities through the year.

Main events in the period 2017-2018:

- 1 The village fete took place at the Red Lion on May 20, 2017. Despite the inevitable showers the fete was well attended, with the Highworth Silver Band providing the background music. Once again village clubs, the PCC and individual stall-holders contributed to a brilliant day, raising £1,144.73
- 2 The barn dance was held on 8 July. The event was a sell-out and many from the village enjoyed a great evening with family and friends. Many thanks to David



Sainsbury for use of the barn, sundry facilities and Tom! Thanks also to all VCC members whose hard work made the dance a success, especially Louise and Nick for the catering, and David and Bill for the bar. The barn dance raised £1,053.04

- 3 The annual inspection of the Play Park took place on 2 November 2017, again using Active Risk Management Services Ltd as the consultancy is seen as representing excellent value for money. No high-risk issues were identified and other items were viewed by the VCC as being within acceptable margins.
- 4 The annual village carol singing occurred on Monday 18 December 2017. The night was raw and foggy but the voices matched anything King's College might produce. All monies raised were donated to local charities.
- 5 The VCC paid £178.20 insurance in the period from April 2017 to cover the Play Park and events.
- 6 I would like to thank all VCC members to their hard work and support in my first year as Chair, and in particular Louise Kennington for her role as treasurer and Helen Clift as secretary.

Joe Edwards, chairman

POLICING ACTIVITIES

May, 2017 – RTC

July, 2017 – Concern for Safety

September, 2017 – road offence

March, 2018 – disorder

March, 2018 – Concern for Safety

March, 2018 – Disorder

March, 2018 – possible attempted break-in

March, 2018 – animals (dogs)

March, 2018 – dwelling burglary

April, 2018 – Disorder (animals)

April, 2018 – Concern for Safety

PCSO Morgan Kelly, Wiltshire Constabulary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Cllr Sainsbury and seconded by Cllr Saunders that Cllr Naidu be chairman for the ensuing year. There were no further nominations.

Cllr Naidu took the chair

6 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

It was proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Wilkins that Cllr Sainsbury be appointed vice-chairman.

There were no further nominations. Cllr Sainsbury accepted the appointment

7 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made at this point

8 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2018

The Minutes, which had been circulated previously, were ACCEPTED as a fair and accurate record, and signed by the chairman and clerk



9 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9.1 The clerk reported the situation regarding erecting a sign on the C114. Cllr Penny agreed to raise this again with SBC

9.2 PROTOCOLS

- There was discussion of the suggestion for distribution of draft Minutes and Agenda. Cllr Sainsbury suggested that the Parish Council should take advice on this matter. That was **AGREED**
- It was **AGREED** that all Councillors should be signatories on cheques

9.3 DISTRIBUTION OF DUTIES

- 9.3.1 Defibrillator – a resident (BW) suggested a system of ‘first responders’ and it was **AGREED** that this should be discussed at a later meeting
- RAF Fairford – the chairman agreed to attend Liaison Cttee meetings, circulate information
- RIAT – the clerk agreed to attend the briefing on May 24 and collect car passes/leaflets (including Water Eaton)

10 FINANCE

10.1 The Parish Council reviewed the Internal Auditor’s Report 2018, and Accepted it

10.2 The Parish Council considered and discussed the Annual Governance Statement 2017-2018, which the chairman signed

10.3 The Parish Council considered the Accounting Statement 2017-2018, which was checked by the chairman. This was **AGREED** and signed by the chairman and clerk

10.4 The clerk reported the dates for exercise of public rights – right to inspect accounting records and books, right to ask auditor questions, right to object at audit

10.5 The Annual Return was discussed and the criteria for exemption of Limited Assurance Audit noted. It was **AGREED** that the Certificate of Exemption should be completed.

10.6 It was **AGREED** that the annual grants to the Village Hall Trustees, including for maintenance of the Post Office, should continue as for the previous year.

10.7 It was **AGREED** that the Internal Auditor be paid the sum of £120 for her services 2017-2018

10.8 Bank account (01529286) balance as at May 14, 2018		£52,734.08
Cheques for signature		
Community First (annual insurance)	180.65	
Village Internet (office supplies)	24.50	
WALC (annual subs)	109.16	
WALC (SBC Area Cttee – annual subs)	14.50	
Mrs E Newman (internal audit)	120.00	
Village Hall Cttee (grant plus room hire)	756.00	
Village Hall Cttee (S137 support for Post Office)	250.00	
A Gorton – salary	853.13	
- expenses	<u>41.60</u>	894.73
HMRC (PAYE)		70.45
Balance after cheques		£50,314.09
(deposit account (02700108) = £500.00)		



CORRESPONDENCE

SBC Members' Bulletin - weekly

Westminster Briefing – weekly

Prepared Media – What's New in the Public Sector - daily

What's New in Cricklade – April, 2018, and May, 2018

Bobby Van News – Spring, 2018

WALC Newsletter – April, 2018

NALC Parish Handbook and new Model Standing Orders

Smaller Authorities Accounting Agency – changes to Annual Return

Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group – Newsletter -monthly

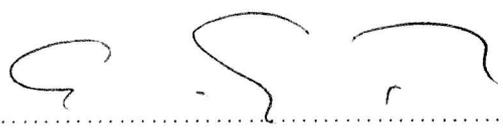
Dementia Friendly Swindon - newsletter

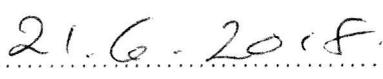
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This will be on June 21, 2018, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The following Meeting will be held on August 30, 2018

Signed  (chairman)

 (clerk)

 (date)