

CASTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING and MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019, at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

MINUTES

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M Penny

2 **REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

May 18 saw the elections for the Parish Council. Nine residents put their names forward, which I believe is a record for this parish, and subsequently five Councillors were elected.

It has been an extremely hectic year for the new Parish Council, with a number of significant changes being agreed.

Firstly, the formation of the Community Benefit Group; the purpose of this group is to assist the community in accessing the £40,000 entrusted to the Parish Council for the benefit of the residents. Previous spending has substantially assisted the Village Hall, the most recent benefit being the installation of a TV and video display suite. Hopefully, this will lead to greater usage of the Village Hall. I would invite other village groups and individuals to access this funding.

Secondly, the formation of the Environmental Group; their objective is to help improve the village's aesthetic appearance and its environment. Apart from arranging a number of 'village clean-up days', they have been at the forefront of initiatives to deal with fly tipping, dog fouling and traffic issues around the village.

The Parish Council continues to provide support to the Village Hall and Post Office by way of grants. In addition, the Parish Council assists with management of the grass cutting to the playing field and other public areas. All of these are funded directly from the precept.

When I first moved to Castle Eaton in 2016, I was taken by the community spirit that existed; this, I think, is one of the village's biggest assets, and long may it continue to thrive. But as we all know, this community spirit is no accident but is the product of dedicated and hardworking individuals, all of whom are volunteers. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank you all for making the community what it is.

Dinesh Naidu

3 **REPORT BY THE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR**

Firstly let me apologise for not being with you tonight. Until yesterday I was ready to attend having kept my diary clear. However, a request to attend a meeting about the recent problems with the miscounting of votes in Highworth will see me tonight listening to the Chief Executive's explanations of the problems.

I thank you for your patience with me throughout this year. When I was asked to join the Cabinet as Member for Highways and the Environment it meant that Thursday nights became very difficult for me to attend the Parish Council meetings but I have always tried very hard to get to at least some of your meetings and I am in regular contact with your clerk who always keeps me

updated as to what I missed.

I am always amazed at how well the Parish Council gets on with all the work necessary to keep Castle Eaton the wonderful place that it has become, and this leaves me very little to do and I congratulate the new Chair on the way he has continued to carry this out.

So what have I done? I have helped out with technical issues, problems with the gulleys, road signs (thank you Les for accompanying me and an Officer on a walkabout in the village), and road repairs. Historically I worked with the residents of the bungalows in School Lane to have quite a bit of repair work done on their homes.

As I always say, anyone can phone or email me if you need help or advice and I would be pleased to hear from you.

Best wishes to you all.

Maureen Penny, read by Alan Gorton

4 **REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS**

Wiltshire Constabulary

The PC distributed a block diagram showing the various crimes and incidents with which the police had been involved during the year (vide Addendum 1) and reported that the parish is recognised as a 'low crime area'. There are issues with traffic, such as speeding and parking, but these will continue to be dealt with as and when they arise.

The local police would be pleased to assist with preventing heavy vehicles from passing through the Conservation Area, and will follow this up.

PCSO Morgan Kelly

Village Hall Trustees

I am presenting this report as Secretary of the Trustees and also as Acting Chairman, until our AGM in 3 weeks time.

The Village Hall has continued to provide excellent facilities for the residents of the parish and has been quite well used this year.

However, the Hall is now 20 years old and several things have needed replacement. We have had to fit new valves and controls to the heating system and also to replace some electrical items. Together we have spent over £3,000 this year alone on maintenance and we are going to have to recognise that this will continue, as things wear out.

The Post Office continues to provide a vital service and it also supports the Coffee Mornings. I would like to thank the team who run these and also the many residents who attend and contribute. They have raised over £600 for Hall funds this year.

The computer room has been well used and I would like to thank Mr Barry Wicks for loaning some newer equipment.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees and members of the Management Committee for their hard work as volunteers to keep the Hall running smoothly.

Bill Hughes

Gardening Club

New committee members were elected and Nina Warminger took over as treasurer. As per the treasurer's report, the finances look healthy however the cost of speakers is rising and to achieve great speakers we need to pay almost double the normal fee. This is leading to an increase in membership fee which is supported by the club members.

Membership is fairly flat year on year, and we are looking at ways to attract and increase membership.

Communications (beyond the posters around the village) regarding our activities can sometimes be restricted to the members, or a few others around the village. This has driven a launch of the

Castle Eaton Gardening Club Facebook page to attract others via social media. Again currently limited until people 'Like and Share' the page. This will be linked into the Castle Eaton web page when it is live. Other thoughts are to create a 'Welcome to Castle Eaton' Bulletin which will give all newcomers a list of activities, clubs and key dates, and encourage participation; this is an ideal time with the number of properties for sale.

We meet each third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. All new members welcome.

Scarecrow Trail was a great success last year, with 28 entries. A very strong recommendation and request we run again this year.

Key dates:

Village Fete; plant stall

Scarecrow competition will run again for the week of 31 August to 7 September

Village Flower & Produce Show – 7 September

AGM: 16 October

Ruth Wilkins

Church Wardens St Mary's church

St Mary's has had a very positive year, despite there being a shortage of clergy to take services and provide pastoral care. Church members have all contributed towards the provision of an active church organisation in the community of Castle Eaton in a much-appreciated voluntary manner.

Notable achievements include –

A church service every week plus availability for weddings (20, funerals and baptisms

A well-maintained building and churchyard for all

A monthly newsletter

A book exchange/library

Various special events – a Pimms Party, Lenten lunch, Harvest Supper and festival, Coln Choir concert, various coffee mornings including a Christmas bazaar.

Christmas was very special with a Carol service and Crib Service in addition to the traditional Christmas Day Communion. It was wonderful to see the church filled on these occasions.

St Mary's is part of the South Cotswolds Team of clergy and there are moves afoot to employ another full-time priest to take care of Castle Eaton, Kempsford, Whelford, Marston Meysey and Meysey Hampton. Hopefully, this will happen in November this year.

The finances are secure at the moment, but on-going repairs and renewals are always required when caring for an ancient building and this is always costly. So all in all, a very reasonable year, but as my teacher always said, "Plenty of room for improvement"!

Dennis Archard, read by Sheila Theobald

Ladies Social Club

The Ladies Club are pleased to report we will have been going for 50 years this November and we even have a couple of the original members who are still members. So they will become honorary members and don't have to pay a membership fee, which is now £15.

We try to make our monthly meetings as varied and interesting as possible with many speakers donating their fees to a favourite charity.

Last June we organised a trip to the Barn Theatre, Cirencester, to see 'The Full Monty'. We also ran the cake stall at the Village Fete, and I hope you all noticed the pretty aprons bought specially for the occasion.

July: we had a month off.

August: we all enjoyed a garden party at Pauline's house and the weather was with us.

September: we had a very interesting talk from a former 'Body Guard' of John Major; quite a few men also attended.

October: due to popular demand, Molly returned to do more silk painting.

November: Melody kindly did an early Christmas meal at the Red Lion.

So that December was free to make Christmas Wreaths under the watchful eye of Sheila.

January: we held our AGM where we started making plans for our 50th Anniversary. We intend to hold an evening 'do' on November 29, 2019. We would like to invite the village along with members and their partners. The format to be confirmed.

We also spent most of last year trying to come up with a more acceptable name for the club. However, after much deliberation, the overwhelming vote was to keep the name 'Ladies Club'.

February: we started the New Year with Liz Partington who talked about 'Colour and how to wear it'.

March: we had Rose Codling show us how to make silk flowers.

April: Councillor Penny gave a very informative talk on her year as Mayor of Swindon.

May: Sue R. and April had us playing Rock and Roll Bingo! And not a number in sight! Also at the end of the month we will be having a comedy night at the King's Head, Cirencester.

So an interesting year so far ... with more to come.

Financially, we again have a healthy balance.

We would like to thank our chairperson Pauline for keeping us all in such good order.

Thanks also to our retiring secretary Katy Archard and our new secretary Teresa Wyborn and last but not least our treasurer Judy Parker.

Special thanks again goes to David Mirrington for his imaginative posters advertising our monthly meetings.

Susan Sainsbury

Village Community Committee

As the Acting Chairman of the Village Community Committee, I would like to give you a very brief overview of the VCC.

The annual general meeting of the VCC was held on Monday, 8 October 2018. The following committee officers were returned: Chair, Joe Edwards; Treasurer, Louise Kennington; Secretary, Helen Clift.

The VCC has been in existence for over 50 years and its prime responsibility these days is that of maintenance of the children's playpark. To this end the VCC has a small group of volunteers that assist with the general upkeep of the playpark, to all of which I would like to thank you on behalf of the VCC.

However, as the playpark is a facility for the public at large, and children in particular, the VCC has the legal responsibility of ensuring that the site and the equipment comply with the current H&S guidelines. Fortunately, in addition to the annual statutory inspection, a fellow resident, Nina Warminger, has given her professional guidance, without a charge, to the VCC, for which the committee wishes to note its gratitude.

Main events in the period 2018-2019:

- 1 The village fete took place at the Red Lion on 9 June 2018. The weather on the day was stunning, which resulted in an excellent turnout. As has become almost a tradition the Highworth Silver Band provided the background music. Once again, the various village clubs, the PCC and individual stallholders contributed to a brilliant day, netting £1,119.
- 2 The Barn Dance was held on a balmy July evening and was well supported by many barmy residents and their friends. May I take this opportunity of thanking David Sainsbury for use of the barn, sundry facilities and most importantly Tom! Thanks also to all that were involved in making the Barn Dance such a success, and in particular Louise and her team for managing the catering. The Barn Dance raised £1,185.
- 3 Gareth Malone has a lot to answer for – despite having little talent and no training whatsoever, a motley crew of residents managed to elicit £280 from their fellow villagers for what they called carol singing. I call it 'obtaining money with menaces'.

Monies from these events were distributed equally amongst the various village groups together with a

donation to a local charity.

Finally, I would like to thank all the VCC members for their hard work and support in my period as Interim Chair, and in particular Louise Kennington in her role as treasurer and Helen Clift as secretary.

Dinesh Naidu

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

5 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

Cllr D Naidu was proposed by Cllr Sainsbury and seconded by Cllr Saunders

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Naidu took the chair and signed the appropriate form.

6 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Sainsbury was proposed by Cllr Saunders and seconded by Cllr Keate.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Sainsbury accepted the appointment.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point

8 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2019

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

9 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

10 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Cllr Wilkins reported that the Red Lion had been nominated as an ACV. The relevant forms, with supporting information, had been submitted to SBC. It was hoped that a decision would be taken in the near future.

Cllr Wilkins and Cllr Keate outlined briefly the terms of the ACV and its purpose

11 COMMUNITY GROUPS

The chairman of the CBF Group described the reason for its establishment some months ago and its modus operandi. He encouraged residents to submit applications for funding. He intended to produce a flyer to explain the 'rules' and hoped proposals would come forward.

The chairman of the Environment Group gave a resume of the work of the volunteers to date (ie a Village clean-up, a church path clean-up, and a Play Park clean-up) and future planned activities such as a Village clean-up on June 2, prior to the Fete. He also reported that application had been made to the CBF Group for funding to purchase equipment such as litter-pickers, hoops, jackets, etc.

12 FINANCE

- 1 The Parish Council reviewed and accepted the Internal Auditor’s report
- 2 The Parish Council considered and completed Annual Governance Statement 2018-2019, which the chairman signed
- 3 The Parish Council considered the Accounting Statement 2018-2019, agreed the figures, and the chairman signed the Statement
- 4 The clerk reported dates for exercise of public rights – right to inspect accounting records, right to ask auditor questions, right to object at audit – which would be June 17-July 26, inclusive.
- 5 The Parish Council considered the criteria for exemption of Limited Assurance Audit and agreed to complete the Certificate of Exemption
- 6 The Parish Council agreed payment to the Internal Auditor
- 7 The Parish Council considered the current bank balances and payments schedule (*vide* Addendum 2) and agreed that the payments be made.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on July 25 at 7.15pm

Signed (chairman)

..... (clerk)

..... (date)

12 FINANCE

Bank balance (a/c 01529286) as at 7.5.2019		£9,208.08
Payments by BACS		
Mike Walsh (website hosting)		£30.00
Cllr Ruth Wilkins (ACV searches)		£29.94
WALC (subscription 2019-2020)		£108.84
Community First (insurance 2019-2020)		£160.65
Castle Eaton Village Hall (grant + room hire)		£756.00
Castle Eaton Village Hall (support for Post Office)		£250.00
Mrs E Newman (internal audit)		£120.00
A Gorton (salary)	1598.05	
(expenses)	44.89	£1,642.94
Payment by cheque		
HMRC (PAYE)		£70.45
Bank balance after payments		£6,039.26

Bank balance (a/c71707266) = £42,372.67 (has accrued £12.55 interest)