

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2018

Mr Fenn opened the meeting, introduced himself and welcomed Councillors and members of the public. No apologies had been received.

Signing of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting:

These were taken as read and signed as a true record of that meeting.

Presentation of Over Church and Town Lands Charity accounts:

The draft accounts had been supplied and it was noted that these were available for inspection.

Chairman's Report:

Mr Fenn presented his annual report:

Green, Recreation Centre and other village areas.

Even though our Green is one of the best drained recreational spaces in the area it is only thanks to the efforts of Dave Bridgman and the support of the Parish Council that Over once again continued to play the vast majority of its fixtures despite the high levels of rainfall this year, the fixtures will run into May but all fixtures will be completed. The planned work to lower the goal mouths was carried out in May last year as planned and they are now the same height as the football pitch. This year has seen further expenditure on the pavilion with the drainage being renewed and the cricket club funding the replacement of the kitchen area. More work is planned to bring this building up to a better standard over the coming months. The Parish Council has been active in other areas over the year and significant tree and clearance works have been carried out at the pound area to make way for renewed growth. The PC's involvement with the skate park has significantly reduced the amount of litter in this area and we thank Anne Beavis for her continued work here. The village noticeboard outside the shop has been replaced

Footpaths and hedges

The Parish Council has been under greater pressure to maintain the hedges and ditches in the village as the local council come under ever greater budget cuts. A lot of this work is taken on by Dave Bridgman but some areas are owner responsibility and these issues need to be resolved between land owners and local authority, the PC have been doing some of this work to assign ownership and County Councillor Peter Hudson has also helped with queries and resolving some issues beyond the PC's control. We encourage the reporting of any areas which are untidy or unsafe and we will seek to address any issues as they arise. The PC have spent a lot of time trying to register all the small parcels of land within the village that are cared for by the PC but have no record of ownership with the land registry, some have been granted title to but some issues remain unresolved and we are in the hands of the Land Registry. We continue to work with the County Council footpaths department to address the issues on the Doles Green Lane, we have re-surfaced some of this and are looking to have a more permanent solution soon.

Communication

The Parish Council website is working well and we encourage any questions or comments to be made via the website and we will seek to address these. We have also had a local resident volunteer to look at improving the Village website and this should come to fruition over the coming months bringing up to date news and contacts that the PC are unable to put on its own website.

Finance and Budgets

The Parish Council increased its precept this coming financial year to £53,000, we have maintained our support of the Day Centre at £3000. We are looking at areas of capital expenditure using S106 monies received from developments in the village and a volunteer working party of local residents have put together a survey to find out the desires of villagers, these payments have restrictions on what they can be spent on. We replaced a lot of the play equipment at the Recreation Ground in 2017 and also provided a grant to fund capital projects within the community centre which, along with the efforts of the Community Centre staff and OCA committee has led to an improved facility which we will continue to invest in.

General

2017 saw a challenge to our long established boundary from Willingham, there was a huge effort put in by this Parish Council to try and prevent this happening and protect our Boundary particularly by Mr Twiss and Mr Burling but it was decided early in 2018 that the new boundary line be adopted granting Willingham more land.

We have had another year of unprecedented planning applications and it is inevitable that there will be a lot of changes to come within the village. We will continue to challenge and support these applications to achieve the best outcome for the village where we can, a recent meeting held in the community centre was well attended and we encourage input to help us with the decision process at Parish Council level.

This year the whole council was up for re-election, we now have eight members and so if anyone is interested in becoming a councillor there are vacancies that need to be filled. Four councillors have decided not to stand again and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Mr. Brian Sutton, Mr Trevor Sutton and Mr Steven Friend for their time on the council, Mr Trevor Sutton being a long standing member whose historical knowledge will be a great loss.

Mr Fenn took the opportunity, on behalf of the Parish Council, to thank everyone who does anything for the benefit of the village including Mr Hayward, who has sadly passed away, The Church and Town Lands charity, Over litter pickers, Dave Bridgman, Richard Fenwick, Terence Skinner, the staff at the Over Community Centre and any others who contribute.

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Finally, he thanked the Clerk and his fellow councillors for their hard work and support particularly the Vice Chair, Geoff Twiss, who carries out a lot of the technical work that is not often recognised.

Mr Robinson thanked Mr Fenn for his hard work as Chairman over the past year.

District Councillor Burling addressed the meeting stating that he had compiled a report for Parishioners encompassing matters of interest from the District Council. He went on to highlight some salient issues-

Refuse collections

Now that the refuse collections are now shared with the City Council the team collect up over six million bins a year and this amalgamation of services over the two Councils have resulted in a cost saving of over £700,000.

Housing

The District Council owns almost 6,000 council houses and over the last year has built an additional 39 new ones in addition to 150 new affordable dwellings. The Council have also set up a trading organisation which lets out houses at open market rates and the income from this has enabled them to mitigate the impact of the funding cuts from central Government.

He stated that the whole of this update will be published in the next edition of the Over News.

Presentation of Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018:

These had been made available along with some explanatory notes and questions were invited.

Mr Fenn invited questions from the floor:

A Parishioner asked if there would be any impact on the precept in light of the change of our boundary with Willingham. Mr Fenn responded that only about eight or so houses had been affected by this so the impact on the precept charge for each house will be insignificant.

Another Parishioner asked how the precept figure in the accounts was a round sum, the Clerk explained that the precept figure is taken from our budget and this is the sum requested from the District Council. The District Council then allocate this amount over the total households in the Village.

Another Parishioner asked about the progress of the Local plan. Mr Fenn referred to Cllr Burling who informed the meeting that it is now looking like no resolution to this is likely before July this year now. The Parishioner asked if writing to our local MP would assist to expediate this. Cllr Burling encouraged Parishioners to do anything which could help.

There being no further business Mr Fenn thanked parishioners for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman