

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 09 May 2016

Venue: Norman Fraser Suite, Community Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Parish Councillors – C. Thornton, N. Lewis, D. Peat, H. Jenkins, R. Shepherd-Cross, V. Embleton- Spencer & District Councillor Barry Wood.

Also present: Mike Stokes & Peter Johnson

1. Declaration of Interest : None
2. Apologies:- Councillor C. McGarry & County Councillor C. Fulljames.
3. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2015 – signed as correct.
4. Matters Arising – None
5. County Councillor – No issues
6. District Councillor – No issues

7. **Group Reports** - Parish Councillors gave an update on the projects they had each been actively involved with over the past year.

The Rural Housing overview highlighted the Anna Kennedy visit & the subsequent changes when Amy Howells replaced her. 16 people with links to the parish have expressed Interest in participating in the scheme on a rent or shared ownership basis. However few of those are currently on the Housing Register.

The Speed Watch Review identified 21 people that had been caught speeding through the village in an 8 week period in February. The police had been most supportive & were encouraging further Speed watch exercises during July & August.

A successful year for the Playing Fields was noted & the improvements to the car park & soundproofing complemented. The date of the AGM had not yet been fixed but a copy of the current annual accounts was requested.

Viridor issues were raised, particularly complaints relating to the ongoing lighting problems & now a build-up of rubbish. Concerns have also been raised about the restoration work to conceal buildings where possibly inappropriate soil had been used. Ian Smith has recently been appointed as the new CEO & will hopefully address all the current issues.

Neighbourhood Plans Committee reviewed the traffic pinch points affecting all local villages because of increased housing development; road congestion & changing Government/ County Council priorities. Possible funding for weekly bus service identified & engagement with the wider community was agreed as an essential priority for the coming year.

The allotment fund advised that village land had previously been sold and the money invested for the good of the villagers. It was confirmed that from the audited accounts over £13K was invested, with the interest being used to support local students with books etc.

The Queen's 90th birthday will be celebrated on the village Playing Field on Saturday 11th June [2.30 -6.00pm] with a picnic, bar, barbeque & crown making competition. The committee had been able to obtain a £400 donation towards the event & the Parish Council agreed to match that sum, if necessary, to ensure a successful event.

Environment Committee reported on the proposed Fewcott to Fritwell footpath which, although well supported, is far from meeting the financial target to complete the project. Work is in progress to establish if the work could be completed with a lower budget. Other projects included improvements to Quarry Field pathways, notice boards & new seating. The Chairman thanked everyone for all their work during a very active & successful year.

Signed: Date