



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Swyncombe Parish Council Held at 7.30pm on Monday 22nd May 2017 In the Village Hall at Russell's Water

Present:

Councillors:

Elizabeth Longley (EL)
John Halls (JH)
Tracey Taverner (TT)
Sam Fielden (SF)

Officer:

Kristina Tynan (KT)

Members of the Public:

3

Apologies:

Peter Willis-Fleming, Anna Badcock, Stephen Harrod

1. Welcome

EL welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 9/5/2016

Resolved: To accept these minutes as a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

3. Chairman's report 2016/2017

EL read out the following report:

We have had a quieter year this year, however, that being said, Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Celebrations, Local Bus Service, Broadband, Local Plan and Russells Water Village Hall have kept us busy.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations - A huge thanks to all for their help and time in making this a great celebration. Particular thanks to Tracey Taverner and Kristina Tynan for organising the event. A very happy afternoon organised at the Five Horseshoes with delicious food and events for all ages. Enjoyed by all who attended, a great community event.

Broadband - Thanks to all the hard work of Peter Richardson and William Perrin together with Village Networks things are moving on apace. Russells Water are now up and running with Village Networks and Cookley Green should be in a similar position by the end of May. William Perrin, is himself, now up and running as well. Our grateful thanks to Peter Richardson and William Perrin for all their hard work and commitment to this enterprise. Thanks also to Peter Green who has acted as the representative for Cookley Green.

Bus Service - The Bus Service that is now running. Quarterly running costs for Swyncombe £60.00. Thanks to Peter Willis Fleming, Jim McWhirter for getting this service underway. Jim McWhirter reports that there are:

"13 regulars whom I ring each week which includes four residents of Swyncombe Parish

10 possibles who have expressed an interest and are free to ring me if they want to be included

The buses used have 14 seats

On the average journey 8 or 10 people usually travel including 3 or 4 from Swyncombe"

This equates to a 60% occupancy rate on average. The four members of Swyncombe include Betty Hayward and Margaret Skinner (who, strictly speaking, is not Swyncombe), Nancy and one other.

Bonfire Night - Another successful event. The 2017 event already in the planning stages.

Litter Blitz - The Litter blitzes continue to be successful. Thank you to all who help on these occasions

The Village Hall at Russell's Water - We were surprised by a report in the Parish News of February that the Village Hall at Russells Water was in difficulties. No approach had been made to the four parishes involved: Swyncombe, Bix, Pishill with Stonor and Watlington to alert us to any issue. As a result the Village Hall Committee came to a Parish Council meeting and reported the state of the Village Hall. The real issue appears to be the size of the Committee and falling use of the Hall. After that a meeting was then held for the Parishes involved to discuss the problems. Many volunteered to be on the Committee and the first new Committee meeting takes place in May, more reports to follow. The Village Hall is a valuable asset to all local Parishes and there for it is incumbent upon us to help make sure that it continues to run and run effectively for its users.

Unitary Council - OCC and SODC the future- The proposal for "A Better Oxfordshire" has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Local Government for consideration and is likely to be followed by a consultation of all stakeholders before a decision is made. You get the most up to date information by going to their website - www.betteroxfordshire.org. This can have long-lasting and far-reaching consequences for all of us and merits engaging with. The joint proposal went in on 23rd March it is believed that it will take about 2 years to be firmly in place. SODC are looking at the funding before getting on board as they have a lot of money in the Bank and do not want this to disappear from South Oxfordshire.

Local Plan - The same situation applies to SODC's draft Local Plan on 'housing and employment'. The consultation is until 17 May. So currently we are awaiting to hear more.

Battles Over - Plans are currently in progress to have a commemoration of the end of the First World War in 2018. There is a plan countrywide to light beacons and as such we are planning to work with Nettlebed, Bix, Pishill with Stonor and ourselves to light a Beacon, possibly on Bix Common. More details to follow.

Parish Councillors - As ever, thank you to all my colleagues on the Parish Council for their support and commitment over the past year, John Halls, Tracey Taverner, Peter Willis Fleming and Sam Fielden and of course Kristina Tynan without whom we would be lost.

4. To receive Reports from:

1. **District Councillor**- There was no report.
2. **County Councillor** – Annual Report from Stephen Harrod was attached
3. **Thames Valley Police** –There was no report.
4. **Cricket Club** – Shed Proposal to be discussed

The Cricket Club want to put up another shed for storage and the plans to be submitted to SODC were considered. SF said that he would not want any trees cut down to allow for this. After discussion it was:

Resolved: That in principle SPC support the Cricket Club's Planning Application that they are submitting.

5. Public Forum

THERE WERE NO PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOTIFIED AND THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.45PM

