

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF THE PARISH OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MAY 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30pm

Those Present: Mr M Grove (Chairman)  
Mr P Rouse  
Mrs C Manos  
Mrs C Mudge  
Mr K Macdonald  
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)  
Mrs J Milton (Wiltshire)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Wallace & Willis  
and PC Sarah Watts (Neighbourhood Officer)

5 Residents or visitors were present

Minutes: The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were signed.

Matters arising: Cllr Macdonald advised that a further two volunteers for SpeedWatch had come forward.

Chairman's Report: Besides the annual parish meeting we have had seven parish council meetings. We have considered 8 plans. Representatives have attended Area board meetings where they have ratified the allocation of funds to parish projects in the West Selkley area. Two councillors and the clerk attended a presentation at Marlborough Town Hall on the proposed Localism Bill. Two Marlborough and Villages Community area Partnership meetings were attended. I recently took part in the first conference of West Selkley parish council Chairmen known as the Parish Forum. This new Forum seeks to find any commonality of purpose among the parish councils in our dealings with the Area Board and to share expertise on issues which we have in common. Local issues which we have had a hand in resolving include the new excellent road surface on the A346 slip road, tree surgery in the Hall play ground , finalisation of ownership of the red telephone boxes and the appointment of Leslie Wheeler as a Poors Gorse Charity Trustee. The clerk now has the names of the minimum of six volunteers who are willing to operate our community speed watch project. He is anxious to recruit more, to ensure its successful future. Much time and effort was invested, especially by Keith Wallace who we should especially thank, into the possible installation of one or two Defibrillators in the village. When relevant facts were considered the project was considered not currently feasible. With our local councillor, Jemima Milton's help we were able to clarify the changes to the bus services in the village. We discovered that all bus stops are request stops. The clerk will follow up any complaints of failure to stop.  
We set the precept at £250 above the previous year.  
Liaising with the residents of Bottom Lane and Wiltshire highways we are awaiting new road markings there, to aid in traffic calming. As a spin off from this highways will also install red tar traffic calming by the Marlborough road derestriction signs. Drop kerbs for the cycle path requested by Cllr Manos are also promised. Accident damage to the

coronation garden and its repair is an ongoing unresolved issue. Progress is being made on resurfacing the Cycle Path. Bids for the Grass cutting contracts have been duly considered and lighting maintenance and power contracts have been attended to. The Parish Plan Group has been making independent progress on their project. Councillors have as ever continued to give freely of their time and whilst the clerk is salaried there is no doubt that he contributes well beyond his contracted terms. We are currently reviewing this situation.

In the meantime many thanks to you all.

There were no questions on the Chairman's report.

#### Financial Report:

The Clerk reported that £3725.27 was brought forward from 2009/2010 which, together with a precept of £4750, VAT refund of £404.33, footway lighting grant of £298, Bank interest of £2.69 meant the total available for the year was £9180.29. Expenditure of £5394.77 represented the basic costs of services within the Parish such as grass mowing and street lighting, tree maintenance together with support for the village hall. £3785.52 was carried forward to 2011/2012. There were no questions on the financial report.

#### Charity Reports:

##### Ogbourne St. George Village Hall

In 2010 the Village Hall did not suffer too much from competition with the new School Hall, although the jumble sales were moved across the road. The Little Dragons Pre-School continued to be the prime user of the Village Hall and children's parties continued to be quite popular (there were 8). Kick-boxing continued somewhat erratically. There were 4 evening social events mostly fund-raisers for the churches and pre-school, and one election. However, 2010 was also the first full year in which the Village Hall was not used by the school, with the consequent loss of valuable income. This is reflected in the £500 deficit of income over expenditure for the year. 2011 is already proving very challenging, with the quinquennial PIR inspection and a replacement water heater eating into money in the bank. Vigorous fund-raising will certainly be necessary, also constructive discussions with the Pre-School about increasing its rent and its contribution to the cost of electricity and water. A new lease is currently being drawn up between the Salisbury Diocese and the Parish Council. Accounts are available from Charlotte Frost.

##### Ogbourne St George Poor's Land or Poor's Gorse

Tim Frost supplied the income and distribution details for the Charity as follows:

Opening balance	£632.26
2010 Rent received	£1200.00
2010 Wayleave payments	£83.80
2010 Interest	£00.13
Total Income	£1283.93
2010 Distribution	£960.00-
Balance carried forward	£956.19.

The 2010 distribution was allocated in eight amounts of £120, given as three shared units and five single units.

## Parish Plan Report

Kevin Howard gave the following progress report: We have been successful in our application to Community First and the Parish Council now hold £400 on behalf of the Parish Plan Group. The group has completed a number of focus groups that have drawn a wide spread of people from the community to set questions in four areas in terms that are recognisable by the community at large. Four areas are:

***Green Issues***

***Leisure***

***Our Society***

***Policing and Transport***

Questions are being processed to a common format and we plan to take advantage of the skills of Paul Rouse in ensuring that the survey delivers the best output for the community. We intend to take appropriate time on this activity include a pilot amongst those that supported the focus groups. The next Parish Plan Steering Group is scheduled for 7:30 on 6<sup>th</sup> June in the Church Meeting room

## Bus Services

Cllr Jemima Milton was congratulated for her efforts in maintaining the village bus services and she reported that attempts were still being made to get the new X5 service to travel through the village rather than on the main road. Other issues were that the services would not accept return tickets for the alternative service.

## Coronation Garden

An elector, Andy Wall, asked whether the PC would consider underwriting the repair to the Coronation Garden wall to get it completed before any insurance claim paid out. The Clerk said he would look into it, perhaps to get some contribution from the source that built it originally. Cllr Manos asked that at least the broken wall be taken away but it was pointed out that the coping bricks were required for salvage. Cllr Manos was asked to liaise with the Clerk to arrange for the coping bricks to be retained.

## Street Lighting

An elector, Charlotte Frost, asked if there would be any savings if the street lights were turned off at night. To achieve this the Clerk advised that a considerable investment would have to be made in suitable control equipment and that, as LED lighting was on the horizon, such investment was uneconomic at present; Cllr Rouse concurred.

## Village Hall

An elector enquired as to the progress of the village hall lease. Charlotte Frost advised that it was in the hands of the lawyers and would appear in due time. She was concerned that the lettings income had fallen drastically due to the school now having its own hall. It was a situation that would be monitored and the PC would be kept apprised.

## Bell Field.

An elector, Ineke Scott, observed that the PC had committed to expenditure for goals in the Bell Field in response to a resident's request at a previous Annual Parish meeting but the goals weren't currently being used regularly as had been suggested. The Chairman said demand for usage of the Bell Field varied year on year and there was little that could be done with hindsight.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 20:07.