

CRUDWELL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
SATURDAY 23rd APRIL 2016 AT 10.30 A.M. IN CRUDWELL VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllr Berry, Cllr Stanford, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Gilchriest, Cllr Fraser. Lisa Dent (Parish Clerk).

Parishioners: Cathy Butcher, Pauline Taylor, Ian Churchill, Annie Smith, Kath Hume, Mike Whelan, Margaret Perrin plus approx. 5 others

1. Apologies for Absence

Cathy Garton, Crudwell Guides

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Approval - Minutes dated 25th April 2015

There were no comments and Cllr Berry signed the Minutes as a being true and accurate record.

3. Correspondence

None received.

4. Election of Chairman

Crudwell Parish Councillors Chuck Berry, Jonathan Stanford, Peter Gilchriest, Terry Fraser and Roger Wilson were introduced. It was proposed by Cllr Stanford and seconded by Cllr Wilson that Cllr Berry be appointed as Chair of the meeting and all councillors present were in agreement.

5. Parish Council Statement

The Parish Council welcomed all present. New members Cllr Wilson joined in July 2015 and Cllr Gilchriest joined in December 2015. There are currently vacancies for 4 Parish Councillors and election are to be held in May 2017. Parish Council meetings are now taking place on the first Tuesday of the month at Crudwell Village Hall at 7 p.m. in the committee room.

5.1 Achievements of Parish Council

The Annual Muck In (Village Tidy/Clean) was organised by Cllr Stanford very well attended by a team of 23 and thanks to all involved, especially the Scouts and Guides, some of whom were working towards their Community Service badge. Good weather prevailed and we shall look forward to meeting up again next year. If there is an area or item you think should be attended to at the Muck In, please contact the Clerk and we will add to the list.

There may be a possibility of a smaller work party being gathered to keep on top of the foliage in the brook after the birds have nested.

Prior to the Muck In, river clearance and waste removal was organised by Cllrs Stanford and Fraser.

Enquiries were made to formalise a Metro Count requested by residents.

The Neighbourhood Plan remains in abeyance, it was being progressed by an external work party and if any residents would like to become involved with this task, please contact the Parish Council.

Climbing wall was provided by grant funding for the Strawberry Fayre.

Cllr Stanford liaised with Wiltshire Council re the supply and storage of extreme weather goods (rock salt and sand bags).

Defibrillator training session took place on Sat 25th July 2015 and was well attended. Cllr Fraser maintains weekly compliance checks on the unit and safety inspections to the play equipment.

Book tokens and donation to Crudwell School to the value of £100 was made by the Parish Council for the Good Citizens award.

Wiltshire Council holiday play scheme Fun in the Sun took place at the Crudwell Village Hall recreation ground and was well attended and will be repeated in 2016. Many thanks to the Village Hall for providing the venue free of charge.

A bin requiring attention and a cover/guard for the electricity supply to the Christmas Tree was undertaken by Cllr Wilson at no cost.

Electricity supply, lights and Christmas Tree was organised by Cllrs Fraser and Wilson.

New Code of Conduct and Financial Risk Assessment was adopted by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council registered with the Information Commissioner's Office regarding compliance with data protection at a cost of £35 per year.

5.2 Future Issues

The Parish Council hopes to draft and approve a Parish Emergency Plan which would include the use of the adverse weather equipment, and other items to benefit the community.

The 'Boat' in the playground will be replaced in the next year and the Parish Council will consult with and involve the community with what is available to fit the space available.

5.3 Thanks

Crudwell Parish Council would like to thank Crudwell Village Hall and Crudwell School for accommodating our meetings and all those who attended the annual Muck In.

6. Accounts

Bank account statement at year end 31st March 2016

Business Bank Instant - £46,889.02

Treasurers Account - £2,272.85

Precept for 2015-2016 will remain the same as last year, there is no increase, and this will total £15,098. For this, we qualify for a Wiltshire Council top-up grant of £28.55.

The Parish Council provided grant funding of £500 to the Village Hall to contribute towards the purchase of curtains.

Saving of £139.72 by changing parish insurance cover from Zurich to Hiscox for comparable cover.

Grass cutting adjacent to Crudwell Garage (south side) added to the grass cutting contract at no extra cost.

Play area grass cutting agreed at no extra charge around hedge/fresh air fitness equipment.

Crudwell News was closed leaving an in-profit balance of account £1638.73.

Payroll service of salary to Parish Clerk outsourced at a monthly charge of £6.90.

Last year's finance audit – no recommendations other than the date of agreeing the Annual Governance statement was late, this was due to the restructuring of the Parish Council.

This year's finance audit, we aim to have the accounts finalised and signed off at the Parish Council meeting in May, the internal audit will take place in June and we will submit to external auditors Grant Thornton by 1st July.

Accounts will be available for inspection at the Clerks home address from 20th June to 15th July and a notice to this effect will be posted on the Parish boards.

Clerk's laptop, printer and external hard drive was purchased using a grant from the Transparency fund via Wiltshire Association of Local Councils.

Two VAT reclaims were made and received: Dec 2014 to June 2015 £1771.26 and June to Feb 2016 £688.16.

There will be changes to the Audit system commencing financial year ending 2018 and Crudwell Parish Council has undertaken to 'opt out' of the proposed system.

7. Reports

1. Lord Lucas Trust/Community Centre Plans – Peter Gilchriest

Peter Gilchriest advised Mr Nigel Gilhead is Chairman of the LLT but unfortunately could not attend and a report is attached. Accounts are available on request.

The project team continue to work on the provision of a new community centre and facility and more information will be available later in the year.

2. Muck-In – Cllr Stanford (covered in 5.1)

3. Crudwell Trust – Terry Fraser

Report and accounts were provided – see attached. If you require a copy, please contact the Clerk.

4. Wiltshire Council – Cllr Berry

Major financial savings are required to be made by Local Government, in the next year the estimate is £25 million of cost cutting measures. Three priorities remain and these are 1. Protecting the vulnerable, elderly and children 2. Boosting economy, maintaining good value 3. Supporting communities to be as self-reliant as possible.

Local broadband provision has taken time and effort from Wiltshire Council and is financed through government money. This area has large numbers of elderly residents which is positive in that there are many experienced volunteers and negative in that more council money and resources are required to provide their care. The issue in going forward as a society very much involves thinking and responding to our aging population and the Wiltshire Area Board hope to engage an Older Persons Champion and attract others to become involved in this area. Cllr Berry, as Chair to the Health Select Committee, will be watching progress with interest. As a county, Wiltshire is prosperous with large level of retirees and employment figures currently the best within the working age.

Regarding health issues, the teenage pregnancy rate in Wiltshire is at its all-time lowest as a percentage and there remain challenging areas such as childhood obesity. Wiltshire Council is committed to offering initiatives to improve the health of residents. Margaret Perrin advised she is a member of the Patients Participation Group and that there are 13 doctors at the surgery in Malmesbury and the ethos is to keep as many elderly people in their own home as possible and that this may require additional help from within communities.

The Health Select Committee is trying to encourage residents to use local pharmacies for advice, as an alternative to visiting your doctor. Many pharmacies now have a consultation area which is private. A recent programme rolled out in Swindon for childrens health involved using pharmacies in the first instance and worked well. There are 56 doctors surgeries and 72 pharmacies in Wiltshire, which shows the capacity available. Margaret Perrin advised Boots at the Doctors Surgery and Lloyds Pharmacy in Malmesbury have a consultation room and they will advise if you should see a doctor.

Regarding housing and housing delivery Wiltshire has struggled with a 5-year land supply (how much land set aside) by 0.2 per cent shortfall and we are vulnerable from a development perspective.

Regarding education, the academisation of schools will be challenging and whilst we will have obligations we will also have no input. Crudwell School will be part of a group covering Bristol and Cllr Berry advised most local councillors are not in favour. Kath Hume, Head teacher of Crudwell School advised there will be no consultation with parents regarding this issue.

The Council has appointed a new highways contractor that attends to pot holes and has completed resurfacing works to roads but they are aware of a problem with pot holes in lanes and villages. The best route to report pot holes is to download the Wiltshire Council app, take a picture, make a report and send. The system can really work well and all residents should be encouraged to report and use this service.

Questions from residents: -

What council doing about 0.2% shortfall in land provision? A negotiation going on in Chippenham to take the shortfall for North Wilts. Is it a rolling plan? Yes it is, with certain areas allocated for development which may not be so popular. Country Lane rat runs, does the county know which lanes are used the most etc? Yes, please keep reporting this info as it does help to allocate resources.

5. Crudwell Preschool – Yae Wallis (not in attendance)

See attached report.

6. Guides - Cathy Garton (not in attendance)

The following report was provided: -

We currently have 12 members between 10 and 13, most attend or have attended Crudwell School. Over the past year, we have been out and about Geocaching, taken part in Dance Back to 1914 project, had a visit from Oak and Furrows Wildlife Centre and had fun with friends taking part in other activities. Unfortunately, we now only have one leader and are run with the help of parents on a rota. I hope in the future we will be able to be more active within the local community.

7. Village Hall – Annie Smith

See attached report.

8. Crudwell Church – Rev Phil Daniels

See attached report.

9. Mr G Dunkley – Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Dunkley was introduced as our Neighbourhood Watch representative for Crudwell and is hoping to rejuvenate the operation of this initiative. Any persons interested in joining the system of communication please get in touch. Due to a change from manual records to computer some of the registrations and information is not accessible so people may think they are in the system, but may not be. Mr Dunkley has a passion not just for community action against crime but also anti-social behaviour and is positive about communicating and sharing information. Further information and leaflets are available today.

10. Crudwell School – Head teacher Kath Hume

See attached report.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.55.