

Hethe Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 8.00pm in Hethe Village Hall**

Councillors Present: Mrs. J Elkington (Chairman)

Mrs. H Pritchard

C Sharpe

I Hodgson

D Overton

A Gray

In Attendance Mr D Jakeman (Clerk)

Cllr. Mrs. Fulljames (County Councillor)

- 1. Apologies Cllr. Ward, Cllr. Corkin {County Councillor}**
- 2. Declaration of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of the AGM 2016** (5th April 2016) Members agreed the minutes from the previous year and the chair signed them off.
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Chairman's Report** The Parish Council continues to meet 5 times a year to discuss village matters, improvements and planning applications. This past year I think nearly all the planning applications have been for tree work. The major event last summer was the street party to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday when the village enjoyed a shared lunchdespite the rain....all ably organised by Flora and her helpers. The Community Park continues to be well used by village children and friends from away. We will have more details on that later in Helen's report. The football pitch is still used by Brackley Boys FC, and they maintain the grounds for everyone to use and enjoy. The changing rooms have been repaired and improved, and mesh matting put down on the well-used walk ways, a joint project with the VH. We are waiting for dog bins to be delivered and installed, hopefully they will arrive soon. The flagpole was repaired too.
The withdrawal of the regular bus service has been a concern for many residents and Fringford PC were hoping to organise an alternative to be shared by several villages but unfortunately didn't get the funding. The telephone box is also to be removed by BT as it hasn't been used in over 12 months.
At our meeting in January we discussed our budget and decided to set the precept at £3,800 , an increase for the first time in several years. The village website continues to be updated by Mike Green, our thanks to him, and provides

a wealth of news and information.

I would like to thank everyone who gives their time to improve the village.....to mow verges and the Green, planting round the war memorial and the Church wall, and changing the flag in the Churchyard. And of course I wish to thank my fellow councillors for their continued support and commitment and special thanks to our Clerk, David, for all that he does on our behalf.

- 6. County Councillor Report.** It is the end of the term for the County Council, with all 63 seats up for election. The budget went up by 3%. The contribution given to OCC like all other Councils is not enough for Oxfordshire. Quite a high cost to support older people in care homes. The Unairy debate has finished and the bid has been sent to the Secretary of State. Cllr. Mrs Fulljames thanked the PC for all the work they do during the year.
- 7. Hethe Community Park** 2016 was a successful first full year open for the Community Park. The park is used by many residents of Hethe, local school children, other local families and visitors to the village, benefiting the community as hoped. Those that use the park keep it clean with minimal litter picking required. We hope that the introduction of the dog bin will make the use of the litter bins for general waste (and their emptying) more pleasant. Volunteer maintenance is essential to the park and we would like to thank David Cotton for his regular mowing of the area, John, Matt and Max for strimming and Katherine for holiday cover inspections. We always welcome anyone interested in helping out – many hands make light work.
- 8. St. Edmund & St George** St Edmund and St George is part of the Shelswell Benefice and works with the other parishes in the Benefice to provide a variety of worship opportunities and other events. The PCC as part of the Shelswell Benefice is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, early morning communion provides a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for families with younger children to worship in a more relaxed style. All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 17 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance was ten. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated one baptism, which 90 people attended, and three weddings, with attendances of 73, 121 and 120. Two funerals were conducted in the church with attendances of 129 and 56. We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a special place in the

community. They undertake varied roles from helping to maintain the churchyard, to church cleaning, to providing flowers, to being members of the PCC – all are to be thanked for their work. In particular we wish to mention our churchwardens, Mrs Pauline O’Gorman and Mrs Flora Skinner, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. Being members of the PCC – all are to be thanked for their work.

9. Hethe Stay & Play In July 2016 we again said good bye to another set of children going to school. With the help of other Mums we have worked hard to promote the group and Stay and Play is doing really well. We have children from Hethe as well as the surrounding villages such as Tusmore, Bucknell and also Bicester. Hethe parents still continue to support the group strongly with over half of our regular members living in the Village. The group gives pre-school children a chance to have fun and socialise but it also provides valuable support for the parents and carers in the local area. As such I would like to say a huge thank you to the Village Hall Committee for their support and the special rate at which we get the hall. Stay and Play would not be able to continue without this and the provision of storage space we have.

10. Village Hall Quite a few repairs done to the hall last year the floor has just been completed. The Village Hall committee organised the village Fête which is moving more to entertainment than a money making event. This year there will be an animal show. The hall has longer term plans to repair the corridor between the hall and the changing rooms.

11. Open Forum

12. Date of the Next Meeting