

Hethe Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 8.00pm in Hethe Village Hall**

Councillors Present: C Sharpe (Chairman)

Mrs. H Pritchard

Mrs. J Elkington

S Wallace

I Hodgson

P Ward

In Attendance Mr D Jakeman (Clerk)

Cllr. Corkin (County Councillor)

Cllr. Wood (District Councillor)

Mike Green

1. Apologies Cllr. Overton

2. Declaration of Interest

3. Minutes of the AGM 2017 (17th April 2017) Members agreed the minutes from the previous year and the chair signed them off.

4. Matters Arising

5. Chairman's Report The Play park continues to be a much-loved addition to village amenities. I wish to thank all who maintain it and the parish councillors who continue to support it.

The football field and changing rooms continue to be utilised by Brackley Youth Football Club, in exchange for the maintenance of the field. The recent cold weather led to a damaging water leak in the changing rooms. Thanks to Councillor Hodgson for liaising with the insurers and the local plumbers. I believe the work is now due to start on the 2nd May.

During the year we have built a new website with an easier to use layout based on a better technology platform than previously. Dean his partner and myself have conspired to generate content for it and I would like to publicly thank Mike Green our Clerk and Mrs Cheney for their considerable efforts that enabled this transformation from our old site to take place. A website is always work in progress. Please endeavour to visit our site and offer ideas and feedback. The white direction post in front of main street on the Cottisford to Fringford Road has been repaired. There was a public meeting in the Village Hall on the 27th March 2018. This was to discuss the proposals contained in the draft report which was presented by the Design & Conservation Team at Cherwell District Council (CDC). The meeting was well attended and opposing

views were aired. Our comments have been sent through to CDC. Local HS2 land works to begin in 2019. Featherbed Lane to be closed to local traffic and used for bridge construction traffic.

This ends my first report as chair of Hethe Parish Council. I am hoping that I am able to be as competent, caring and compassionate as our previous chair Jill has been. I am sure with your support we too can give the residents of Hethe what they want.

6. Country Councillor Report. The new Comet service is now up and running and any help the PC can give in promoting the service would be much appreciated. As mentioned in recent reports the Councillors Priority Fund is now in place. I have a budget of £15,000 this year to use on projects that are important to local communities and where some degree of match funding is available. Applications are welcomed from PC's and community groups as per my recent email. (further funding details on the email I sent last week). Highways England are expected to announce the preferred corridor later this month and we need to watch this very carefully. The reorganisation of Northamptonshire local government means that the district and borough councils will likely merge into two unitary authorities, with all of the associated debt. It is the view of CDC that our interests are not best served by continuing the joint working with them and moves are now under-way to bring the association to an amicable end. Meanwhile, see below for the next iteration. County Council and Cherwell District Council consider joint working proposals to improve services. Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council are considering a proposal for shared service arrangements under a joint chief executive while retaining separate councillor bodies, budgets and decision-making processes. The principle of joint working was agreed by the county council's Cabinet and Cherwell District Council on Monday 4 June and will go to full council for approval over the next couple of weeks. Oxfordshire's new domestic abuse service launched. A new domestic abuse service for Oxfordshire launched on 4 June. The new service was set up by Oxfordshire County Council in partnership with District Councils and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley. The service is designed to be highly inclusive to address emotional and practical support needs for any victim suffering or fleeing domestic abuse in Oxfordshire. It incorporates a single access point for victims and professionals, community-based Outreach Workers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and includes specialist workers to support young people and Black Asian Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities. There is also a program to support victims with complex needs. Victims fleeing abuse will be able to access refuge in Banbury and in one other location, located in either Didcot or Oxford.

7 District Councillors Report. Cllr Wood has been representing Hethe interests for the past 16 years. Hethe is a stable community. The major housing developments for the area are taking place in Bicester, Banbury and Heyford Park so as to protect the rural communities. Bicester is the first new hospital for 40 years in Oxfordshire/Bicester. The District Council is doing all it can to make savings and are sharing services/staff with Northants. This has also allowed them to adopt best

practice across both Councils. Northants have gone bankrupt so the position will change shortly I guess. HS2 movements are in turmoil. We shall have some challenges ahead as central government cut our budgets more.

8 Village Hall The hall has been well used this year and has been helping out with Finance around the village purchasing a goal for football, and dog bins. Help with the Shelswell history. The hall has been painted and the next project to be worked on is the bit between the hall and the changing rooms. (Storage area).

9 Shelswell History Re-enactment was held in July last year. It was quite well attended but the committee were hoping for a better turnout. The plan is to hold the event again in July 2019. The committee are looking for a Business Manager and would be grateful for any support time that anyone can give.

10 St. Edmund & St George

We contributed to two Ecumenical Services held in Hethe. The Christmas Carol Service was held jointly with other Christian communities in the Church of the Holy Trinity and a service was held in St Philip's Hall to celebrate the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

This year, we have celebrated one baptism, which 40 people attended, and one wedding, with an attendance of 69.

Two funerals were conducted in the church with attendances of 54 and 43.

The Church Building

Roof Repairs. A faculty was granted and a contractor (Seckington & Whitehead of Brackley) selected by competitive tender to complete the roof repairs identified in the 2014 Quinquennial Inspection (QI). The total cost of the works was £42,421, which was covered by a grant under the Listed Places of Worship (LPOW) Roof Repair Fund and VAT reclaimed from the LPOW scheme for church expenditure. A sum of £891 is reserved in the PCC's accounts to pay for the contractor to inspect the works in June 2018 and undertake any remedial work.

Other Works. Further work identified at the last QI is being considered and grants from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (£7,500) and All churches Trust (£1,650) have been received for these works. A faculty is available giving permission for these works to be completed by 31st July 2018.

Plans to improve the heating, install a toilet and running water and reorder the back of the church (which involved the removal of pews, replacing the organ and moving the font) would be considered after repairs identified in the QI had been completed.

11. Open Forum

12. Date of the Next Meeting

