

# **MINUTES OF THE NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, CHARLTON ON MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Councillor Andrew Woods; Councillors Linda Baker, Richard Bland, Adrian Kelly, Michael Loggin and Diana Sheasby.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillor Rebecca Breese and seven members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Parish Councillor Andrea Gladden, Sir Paul and Lady Hayter and Sid Baker.

1. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
2. **MATTERS ARISING** - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017.
3. **OPEN FORUM** - Village organisations had been invited to attend the meeting and submit verbal reports on their work and achievements in the last 12 months.

## **Pavilion**

The Chairman reported that around £5000 had been fundraised so far, thanks to James Love, Sean Pankhurst and Victoria Beadle. A new 25 year lease had just been signed for the playing field and this would now allow grant funding to be accessed.

## **Pantomime**

Della Wolfe reported that 2019 was panto year and the planning had begun.

The panto would be The Pied Piper and Russell Fowler would be directing this year. It would be his second directorial takeover and we wish him luck.

We had a number of our established panto members who were now taking a back seat, if not stepping away altogether so we were after some new blood. Please do come forward if you do want to help in any capacity, front of house, production, set decoration or on the stage

The fun begins in earnest with auditions on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and then we meet every Wednesday until performance week.

The dates for next year were 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 and we look forward to welcoming everyone to enjoy the performances. Oh yes we do!

If any villagers did want to get involved then look out for the articles in the Charlton Link. All were welcome.

## **Charlton Memorial Hall**

Della Wolfe reported the Memorial Hall had another good year, with its small band of happy committee members. We had maintained both inside and outside facilities, either with the use of committee members, their friends or external contractors.

The highlight of last year was giving the hall a much needed decorating upgrade which had been completed in the school summer holidays. We also dry cleaned the curtains at the same time. This had freshened up all the facilities and had been well received by all users.

We had involved an architect to draw up plans for the ceiling project (removing the false ceiling in the main hall, additional insulation and better lighting)

We welcomed Alvin Patterson to support with maintenance, along with Phil Wolfe who had performed ad hoc repairs

We said goodbye to Diana Sheasby who left the committee after many years' service, we thank her publicly for her support and hard work. Her departure meant that we no longer had a direct link into the Parish Council and as part of our constitution, this a requirement.

Finances were in good order. There had been an acceptable number of regular bookings and the playgroup numbers were steady, finances were comfortable.

A reminder that the memorial hall village rate was very reasonable and we could offer support to fledging groups who wanted to start any new village activities. The table tennis tables were also sitting there unused if anyone was interested in starting up a club.

Rates would not be increasing this year for villagers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row

Future Focus was on:

- Continuing the maintenance of the halls and gardens
- Applying for a first round of funding to remove the ceiling tiles in the main hall, insulate the ceiling and improve the lighting
- We were always happy to welcome new committee members, particularly those that who were able to support in the upkeep of the hall. Please let us know if you know of anyone that has some free time and able to contribute. We meet approx. every 6 weeks

Any volunteer requests should go to Della Wolfe, her email was [della@thecurvegroup.co.uk](mailto:della@thecurvegroup.co.uk)

## **Women's' Institute**

Diane Morgan, the President of the Charlton WI, reported that the membership was now at 25, which was the highest it had been for some time. Meetings were held on the second Monday of each month at 730pm at the Memorial Hall. There had been a variety of speakers, trips and activities this year and they had all been enjoyed very much. One highlight had been a visit from a hearing dog and its owner, who demonstrated how the

dog responded to different sounds such as a telephone and a doorbell. There was also an open meeting being held in June 2018.

It was a friendly group and visitors were always welcome to attend.

### **Newbottle Church**

David Morgan, the Church Warden reported that it had been a challenging year for Newbottle Church with the deteriorating health of Father Bellamy who had not been able to take services. Rev Roger Burne had been helping to take communion services on many occasions and David Morgan had taken Morning Prayer. The occasional wedding and special services had been led by visiting clergy.

The condition of the Church and the cemetery was generally good and the Church was grateful for the Parish Council grant.

There were services at 930am on a Sunday and attendance at these had remained constant.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Woods, reported on the work of the Parish Council during 2017/2018.

The Chairman thanked all Councillors especially the new Councillors Adrian Kelly and Richard Bland, outgoing Councillor Bob Whitrow as well as the Clerk, Theresa Goss, for their work this year.

The Chairman's report also included information on the new VAS, New Homes Bonus, signage cleaning, request for a weight-limit signs on the A43, new 25 year lease for the playing field, grants, new dog waste bin, planning matters, grass cutting, street lighting, litter pick and the General Data Protection Regulations.

The Chairman also encouraged residents to get in touch with the Parish Council with their comments and correspondence.

The Chairman also thanked Sean Pankhurst, James Love and Victoria Beadle for all their hard work on the Pavilion project.

Councillor Richard Bland reported that Gigaclear had not stopped work in the village. They would be working next on Main Street and would be finished in a couple of months. The Parish Council did not know anything about this work until it had started.

The full Chairman's report was available on the Parish Council web site.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/2018** - The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2017/2018. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year.

It was noted by the meeting that the Parish Council gave an annual donation to the Memorial Hall of £350 to cover the cost of the grass cutting.

6. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - County and District Councillor Rebecca Breese had circulated her reports prior to the meeting. They would also be made available on the Parish Council's web site.

Councillor Breese reported that:

- John Ellerby would be sending out details about a possible new bus service through Charlton. The current bus service was to be cut and Mr Ellerby was working on whether or not a new service was financially viable.
- libraries were included the County Council's budget and some in Northamptonshire would become independent. This meant that they would have to buy or rent their own premises and a community group would take responsibility.
- Sajid Javid wanted two unitary authorities in Northamptonshire, one in the north and one in the west, but this was open to change and alternative proposals would be put forward. Further information would be forwarded when there were firmer proposals.
- There was £48m in the highways maintenance budget, which included work to potholes. Kier were the contractors who carried out the maintenance work. There were also proposals for a dual carriageway, north of Farthinghoe.
- Due to the County Council effectively being bankrupt, NCC had sold some of its buildings including Angel Square and was then renting back Angel Square to save money and balance the budget.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Breese for her reports and thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 8.50pm)

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Chairman