

MINUTES OF THE NEWBOTTLE AND CHARLTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, CHARLTON ON MONDAY 15 APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Councillor Andrew Woods; Councillors Linda Baker, Richard Bland, Andrea Gladden and Michael Loggin.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Sir Paul Hayter and Lady Deborah Hayter.

APOLOGIES: Sid Baker, Parish Councillors Adrian Kelly and Diana Sheasby and County & District Councillor Rebecca Breese.

1. **MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2018 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 16 April 2018.
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.

Newbottle Church - Sir Paul Hayter presented a report from David Morgan, Church Warden at Newbottle Church.

We have had another challenging year. Father Roger passed away in May 2018 after a long illness during which he served Newbottle Church as best as he was able. His last service here was on Maundy Thursday. We are very grateful to Rev Roger Burne for all the help and support he has given, he has taken the majority of all of the communion services every other week and the monthly midweek house communion. Our Lay Reader has taken the majority of the Matins services every alternate week and also conducted two funerals. Other occasional services (three weddings, two baptisms and three other funerals) have been taken by visiting clergy. We were particularly pleased to welcome Rev Caroline Oley who celebrated communion on one occasion. Average Sunday attendance has shown an increase and special services have been particularly well supported.

Much of the time during the past year has been involved with the appointment of a new Priest. We were disappointed that Kings Sutton PCC decided by a casting vote to continue with the Resolution that had signed many years previously that as a Benefice, we were unable to appoint a woman Priest. Newbottle has never signed such a Resolution to this effect. This meant the field of prospective candidates was drastically reduced so in order to attract quality candidates we agreed to appoint a full-time Priest. We liaised with Kings Sutton to produce a benefice Profile and appointed Matthew Robinson who will begin his ministry here later this summers.

We would like to thank all of those who helped in making the Fete a success as well as those who supported the progressive Supper, our joint venture with the Sports Association.

We have been pleased to welcome a number of new members to our congregation and we are grateful to all the members of our congregation who have pulled together and worked so hard for the Church during the year.

Sir Paul asked the Parish Council where the funds for the new Pavilion project were being held. The Clerk advised that the funds were ring fenced in the Parish Council accounts and were shown as a separate item in the accounts for 2018/2019. The Chairman confirmed that he had not received an update on the project for this meeting, however an update would be requested for the Parish Council meeting in May 2019. **Action TG**

Sir Paul asked the Parish Council what would happen to the funds if the project did not go ahead. The Chairman advised that they might go towards the running costs of the current pavilion and field, such as grass cutting, maintenance of the 4x4 and gang mower, but a Parish Council decision would be taken on this, if the circumstances arose.

There was a discussion with regard to the cessation of the senior cricket team and it was unclear who would continue to cut the grass at the playing field. Councillor Michael Loggin agreed to contact Graham Knight and James Love and seek clarification. **Action ML**

This would also be an item on the next Parish Council agenda for further discussion. **Action TG**

Memorial Hall - Lady Deborah Hayter presented a report from Della Wolfe, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee.

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

Major refurbishment was started in February this year which will be complete by Easter. This has seen the ceiling removed in the Main Hall, additional insulation added and a new lighting system. The work was made possible due to receiving a grant from Viridor Credits and a significant contribution from Memorial Hall funds.

We want to thank the pre-school and the school for their flexibility whilst work was taking place.

The hall will look much more appealing, feature better insulation and the lighting system will make it more attractive for social users. Previously the lights were either on or off!

All the chairs have recently been checked for wear and tear after regrettably there was an incident with a chair collapsing.

We said goodbye to Katya Bennet who has been the hall cleaner and committee member for around 10 years. We want to thank her for all she has done. We welcome Bev Riggs as our cleaner who is already getting stuck in!

We do not have a member on our committee that is a Parish Councillor since the departure of Diana Sheasby in 2017.

Finances - These are in good order. The cost of the main hall has made a significant dent in the finances of the hall, and it is relying on the Panto (The Pied Piper) being held in February half term 2020 will top up our reserves and of course be a fabulous village event!

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

Future Focus

- Continuing the maintenance of the halls and gardens
- Complete the main hall refurbishment project
- Come and see the hall refurbishment - cake and coffee session on Saturday 22nd June
- Annual General Meeting 12th June 2019 at 7 p.m.
- We are always happy to welcome new committee members, particularly those that who are 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 be submitted to Della Wolfe and her email is della@thecurvegroup.co.uk

Lady Hayter highlighted that the Constitution for the Memorial Hall required a member of the Parish Council to be a member of the Memorial Hall Management Committee.

Charlton WI - Councillor Andrea Gladden presented the report from Diane Morgan, the President of the Charlton WI.

Charlton WI meets on a second Monday of every month in the Memorial Hall. We have a membership of 25, all of whom attend regularly and play a full part in all our activities. We have a wide range of interests and try to cater for all tastes with our monthly meetings. These have included practical sessions – tai chi and flower arranging, visits to garden centre and talks on foreign holidays.

We advertise our programme in the Charlton Link and are pleased to welcome visitors to meetings that may interest them. We take part in the local area WI group and attend their Carol service and Group meetings. We are a friendly, chatty group and would love to see others come to our meetings.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – The Chairman of the Parish Council, Andrew Woods, reported on the work of the Parish Council during 2018/2019.

Councillor Woods thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their work over the last 12 months.

VAS – The VAS on Farthinghoe Road had been installed and the Parish Council had received New Homes Bonus funding of £3041 from South Northants Council towards the cost. NCC had also agreed to move the 30 mph speed limit out along Farthinghoe Road and the consultation process for this had commenced.

The Parish Council was aware that speeding on Farthinghoe Road was still an issue. Contact had been made with PCSO Jen Harrison and she had asked the Safer Roads Team about the Community Speed Watch Scheme and whether the Police could monitor the speeds on Farthinghoe Road. Since that request had been made, the Manager of the Operations Unit had requested data for the stretch of road and would forward this to PCSO Harrison once it had been captured. The Parish Council was awaiting an update.

Pavilion and Playing Field – A 25 year lease was now in place and fundraising was continuing. Over £6000 had been raised so far.

Memorial Hall – The Parish Council had agreed in principle to contribute half of the cost for a projector to enable a Cinema Club to start in the Memorial Hall.

Gigaclear – There had been a number of issues and problems with the installations carried out by Gigaclear in the middle of last year. It is hoped that the Parish Council's support had helped with the situation when representatives were invited to the PC meeting in June to discuss all of the concerns. Gigaclear were now taking orders and almost all of the village was ready to be connected to the service, if they wished.

Bus Services – The village bus service had been withdrawn by the County Council however there was a weekly shoppers service from Kings Sutton to Aynho and into Banbury. If any residents were interested in using this service, please contact the Clerk and she will obtain further details from the relevant Parish Councils to find out if the service can be extended.

Grants - £500 had been donated to the PCC, £500 to the playing field, £150 for The Link, £30 for a Remembrance Day wreath and £350 for the grass cutting at the memorial hall. PCC asked for £600 for 2019/2020.

Precept for 2019/2020 – This had been increased by £1000 to £12,000 because the Parish Council needed to build up a fund to be able to replace the street lights in the village, at the necessary time.

Dog Fouling – This had continued to be an issue in the village and the PC encouraged dog owners to clear up after their pets.

Community Policing Meeting – Councillor Michael Login attended the meeting on 4 April 2019 and the Parish Council will be receiving a report on this at its next meeting in May 2019.

Grass Cutting – Mick Dempsey had done a good job again this year and had been awarded the contract for 2019/2020.

Street Lighting – The Parish Council had been advised that the bulbs for some of the street lights would become obsolete and when they did, new street lamps would need to be purchased. This cost would have to be incorporated into the precept, unless grant funding could be obtained. The Parish Council would be considering quotes and discussing this issue further, over the next few months.

Litter Pick – This had been held on Friday 12 April 2019. It was organised by Sir Paul Hayter and the Clerk had collected and returned the equipment.

Web sites & The Link – The PC had launched a new web site in the last few months and it was significantly more user friendly than the old one. Lisa Scanlon had taken over the village web site and the PC thanked her for taking on this role and also creating a new site. Julia Rands is thanked for all her work on The Link and she was working closely with Lisa with regard to advertising in The Link and on the web site.

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

Sir Paul Hayter asked the Parish Council if it would consider increasing the 2019/2020 grant to the PCC for maintenance of the Cemetery. This request would be considered at the Parish Council meeting in May 2019. **Action TG**

Lady Hayter reported that there were no Parish Councillors at the village litter pick this year, although she acknowledged that Councillor Michael Loggin had undertaken an individual litter pick, separate to the main litter pick held in the evening of 12 April 2019.

Approximately 20 people had attended, but because it was held during the school holidays, this might have had an impact on the number of volunteers. Lady Hayter thanked the Clerk for collecting and returning the litter picking equipment.

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT 2018/2019** - The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2018/2019. 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.

Malcolm Knight was thanked for putting out the cemetery bin to be emptied.

The Parish Council confirmed that over the next 12 months it would like to see progress with the pavilion project. It would also be working on the replacement street lighting project, as well as

encouraging the County Council to repaint the road markings and in liaison with Northants Police, assist with slowing the traffic on Farthinghoe Road.

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 8.20pm)

Chairman