

# CHEDDON FITZPAINE

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 28 March 2019

AT 7.00 pm

### MEMORIAL HALL, CHEDDON FITZPAINE, TA2 8JY.

1. **Cllr D Webber, Chairman**, welcomed approximately 30 parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 March 2018 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
2. **No Matters Arising.**
3. **Chairman's Report:**
  - A power-point presentation was given:
  - Northwalls Grange: approx. 140 new properties in 2018 - we welcome you all
  - New Primary School proposed at Nerrols – due Sept 2019
  - Western Relief road – moving forward with developers
  - Creation of Maidenbrook Country Park & Somerset Wood
  - Conquest Riding Centre – planning application with TDBC
  - The Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' (approved) on 23 April 2018 – a terrific result for the turnout.
  - The NPPF Review July 2018 requires update within two not three years!
  - Hence a new questionnaire will go out later this year seeking comments on recreation in particular.
  - Volunteers who wish to assist, please step forward.
  - Thank you to volunteers: Our Parish council would not operate so well without you.
  - Those who litter pick, clear vegetation on footpaths, hedges and gateways, including the IWA.
  - Newsletter distribution, and leafletting; Growing the community at Northwalls
  - And to the Parish Councillors for their time.
4. **Guest Speakers:**

Alan Hall, Parish Councillor for West Monkton, and Project Manager for the Country Park and Somerset Wood gave a power-point presentation including the following:

1.1 hectares of the park will be put over to tree planting for the Somerset Wood.  
Native tree species have been chosen, and have been supplied by the Woodland Trust.  
Layouts shown of planting areas.  
Volunteers, as individuals and groups came forward following local publicity.  
SWOT analysis had taken place, and ideas formed which conform to the Government accreditation scheme on the website.  
Partnerships have been formed with local groups and organisations who want to work with us.  
Funding will be obtained from grant funding:  
Visitor Centre to be set into the sloping ground, with a 'green' roof' as per Gloucester Services on M5.  
An Observatory to be included, and architect designs lead the visitor in a Dunkirk-style trench to the WW1 Commemoration Stone.  
Volunteers to run the park along the lines of Yeovil Park.
5. **Philip White, CEO of Hestercombe Gardens Trust (HGT)**

"I apologise for not being able to be at tonight's annual parish meeting. Report reads:

In July 2017, the Crown Estate decided to sell much of the 10,500 acre Taunton estate and the trustees of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust agreed to purchase a hundred acres of woodland, including the Landscape Garden, held on a long lease and the adjoining 220 acre Hestercombe Farm.

Surrounding and linking the Trust's gardens and woodland, the farm includes all of the original medieval park, a very rare 400-year-old Water Garden, two 18th century serpentine lakes and the original boundary of the formal garden, the site of a missing avenue and ha-ha. Most importantly the land preserves the setting of the house and gardens and the trust intends that all the historic landscape features will eventually be restored and open to the public.

Within eighteen months the Trust managed to raise over £3 million and, in the process, bought the freehold of the Grade 1 listed landscape, totaling 320 acres. Generous private and charitable donations and a grant of £1.5 million from the National Heritage Memorial Fund made the purchase possible and confirmed the national importance of Hestercombe's historic landscape.

Also, in 2018 the Trust was able to buy Middle Lodge, the gatekeeper's cottage on the edge of the park and an important eyecatcher within the designed landscape.

Over the last twelve months the Trust, supported by its members, has been able to restore a number of important garden features. These include: the sundial in the Victorian shrubbery; the recreation of Sibyl's Temple, which it is hoped will be completed within the next month or two; refurbish Combe House for the benefit of students and volunteers, and restore the Chinese crab apple tree avenue, here where the Portman drive passes through Sandilands wood.

The Trust will shortly be seeking planning approval to open up Hestercombe House to the public and fully reunite it with its surrounding landscape for the first time in over sixty years.

Within the house the Trust plans to create a 200 seat multi-purpose performance and function space and at the rear twelve studio workshops together with a cafe enjoying views over the Mill Pond. The period rooms will be refurbished as will the domestic offices including the kitchen, with its original range, the game larder and the evocative Victorian toilets.

The views of open countryside leading to Taunton from Hestercombe are a very important part of the setting of the nationally important historic landscape. They are now being seriously compromised by the scale and style of buildings being erected or planned on the Nerrols estate, directly opposite Hestercombe House. The Trust is concerned, in particular, about roof-scapes - the red concrete tiles being used on some of the new build are very intrusive in the landscape and unfortunately don't mellow with age, and also increasing light pollution which will have a detrimental effect on the internationally important population of lesser horseshoe bats at Hestercombe, not to mention the loss of irreplaceable feeding habitat for these rare animals.

Philip White MBE, Chief Executive. March 2019

#### **Jason Woollacott, Chair of Governors, Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School**

The new Headteacher Paula Goodchild is settling into the role well, supported by staff and Governors.

Meetings with Hestercombe aim to improve links to the school.

Footpath access is important to enable future visits.

The Ofsted visit has seen improvements from 2013 and this year are reinforced as 'Good with Outstanding Features'. This is testament to the staff teaching.

There is a strong wish to attend local schools and there is no reduction in numbers applying; the waiting list is proof.

PG is building her own team and developing the school forward. This year children have attended a residential facility at Kilve Court.

Car parking is still an issue on local roads; work with the police and parents is ongoing.

#### **Rev Mary Styles, Rector, Cheddon Fitzpaine Church**

A good relationship is established with the school.

The problem with poor electrics in the church are now much improved following repair. Rev Mary thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards costs.

Tracey Hallett the Pioneer Ordinand is to be ordained Curate on 30 June 2019 at Wells Cathedral.

Jim Cox is the half-time curate is often seen out on his bicycle. Both live in houses on the Northwalls estate and are building the new and growing community.

New events too place in 2018: a Musical evening in June, and a Family Fun Day in August which had great weather. So many people were involved which is heartening.

New for 2019: Sunday Seedlings, once a month in Cheddon Church or Memorial Hall, and once a month at BACH for engaging with toddlers.

There is one BIG problem: the ever-diminishing number of people supporting the church events. More people are required to keep things running.

Churchwarden Pauline Stone is not standing for renewal – so the situation is becoming desperate.  
The Annual Parochial Church meeting is 28 April 2019 – so please attend.

**Malcolm Lown, Chairman of Cheddon Fitzpaine Memorial Hall**

A very successful year has passed.

Curtains have been refurbished and thanks due to Pat Walker and her team.

A new baby changing unit is being planned.

Tons of scalplings have been donated for the driveway and spread by local volunteers. Thanks to all.

The car park on the opposite side of the drive has been levelled and ready for use.

The Cheddoners play received critical acclaim seen by over 300 people with donations to Love Musgrove and Children's Hospice.

A defibrillator has been installed in the foyer; special thanks to Mike Batsch for undertaking the research.

Regular bookings were listed.

The Hall is looking to complete the purchase of the land around the hall.

The School Trustee to the Hall is leaving and it is hoped a replacement is forthcoming.

The Hall welcomes the School parking in the hall car park.

ML thanked the team for maintaining the hall to a high standard.

Marcus Walker gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his ongoing commitment to the Hall.

The Meeting formally closed at 8.40 pm.

Conversations and information continued to be exchanged over drinks and refreshments for the following half hour.

Signed by the Chairman as a true record



Vice Chairman: 8 March 2021

Date: .....

J Pearson, Parish Clerk,  
12 April 2019