

**CHEDDON FITZPAINE**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 16 April 2015**

AT 7.00 pm

**MEMORIAL HALL, CHEDDON FITZPAINE**

**Draft Minutes awaiting approval**

Chairman Denise Webber welcomed approximately 20 parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 April 2013<sup>4</sup> were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman. No Matters Arising.

**Chairman's Report –**

**D Cllr & Parish Chairman Denise Webber**

The Chairman appreciated and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and extended a warm welcome to both Invited Guests and Parishioners.

The Chairman reported the following points:

- A successful year for the Parish
- Thanked Phil Thomas for his work as Parish Councillor/producing two editions of Newsletter
- Informed everyone that the Parish Councillors have been 'elected uncontested' as five people put themselves forward. Annie Durham is welcomed as the fifth Parish Councillor.
- One vacancy for Parish Councillor remains. Anyone interested in the position is invited to come forward and speak to the Chairman.
- Thanked SCC Councillor Claire Gordon for her contribution to the parish over the past couple of years. She is standing down for health reasons.
- Reported the usual parish work continues.

**Hestercombe Gardens Trust (HGT)**

- **Philip White, CEO of Hestercombe**, reported:
  - Hestercombe House opened on 24 May 2014 and 17,000 visitors attended in 16 weeks.
  - Fourth exhibition about to open of Modern British Art from Chris Ingram Collection.
  - A new restaurant – Column Room – has opened overlooking the garden.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> hand bookshop opened – Any second hand books gratefully accepted.
  - Best every year with 81,000 visitors.
  - 2015 is a year of consolidation
  - New developments planned for the future
  - One Concern: about the level of car parking at Sandilands by the school and some hall events. It is hoped a meeting with the Community Advisory Group can be set up to identify a way ahead.
  - One question referred to the stream drying up. It is seasonal, and relies on surface water.
  - The Opening Up of the driveway has not been finalised, but when resolved, will assist the school by taking the children off the country lane.
  - PW requested improved communication between the Crown and its neighbours as the trust was disappointed not to be informed of the sale of No 2 Park Gate Cottages by the Crown before the sale had been agreed.

## **SmithsGore**

**Lucy Back/David Noad, Managing Agent/Assistant** reported:

- Nerrols : Crown are close to finalising the deal with the Developer. 'Ground conditions' have been the main cause of delay. It is hoped that there will be an announcement 'very soon'.
- Drainage: Discussions continue behind the allotments with SCC with regard to water coming from the road networks.
- Property Sales: No Notices are currently being served for sale purposes but this remains under review with The Crown Estate.
- Gadds Valley Nature Reserve: DN reported:  
The Crown is taking the management of Gadds Valley back from Taunton Deane Borough Council following Ian Clarke's retirement and will be actively managed.
- A new management statement for the management of the nature reserve (woodland and pasture) is being incorporated as part of the wider review of the Taunton Forestry management plans.
- Acknowledges the Local Nature Reserve as a valued resource which will be actively managed, including re-instating the silt traps in conjunction with SCC Highways.
- Also volunteers will enhance and maintain habitats. Painting the boardwalk and clearing the streamside vegetation took place this week.

## **Cheddon Church**

**Pauline Stone, ChurchWarden,**

- Ann Fulton and Rev Geoff Boucher were given best wishes in their new adventures.
- Recruitment process has produced an Associate Vicar Rev Tony Woodward whose Licensing service is on 22 April 2015 at Kingston St Mary. Tony and wife Carol will live at the Vicarage, KSM working 'half time'.
- During this Interregnum, without a priest, the Churchwardens are responsible for running their parishes.
- The process of recruiting new Rector continues, with interviews on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.
- West Monkton Rectory has been sold, and a new Rectory bought at Heathfields (the new development in West Monkton). By chance, the road is called Bishops Close!
- Purchase of property completes on 30 June 2015 and applicants can be shown round on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
- Both Rector and Associate Vicar will work across the whole benefice in the existing communities, schools, and new housing developments.
- Cheddon Church has given financial support to develop the new Key Stage 1 outside learning area and helped pay for a new set of bibles.
- Children from Cheddon School welcomed for Christmas, Easter and Leavers Services.
- 2014 marked centenary of First World War and research undertaken to commemorate those who gave their lives in both wars. Board is mounted inside main door and Richard Shirley-Smith thanks for excellent craftsmanship.
- Cheddon held 8 Baptisms, 5 Weddings and 5 Funerals in 2014.
- In four months of 2015, 6 Baptisms, 6 Weddings are planned, and 4 funerals take place.
- Regular working parties take place inside and outside the Church.
- Electricity supply continues to cause problems – a challenge to resolve in next year.
- Thank you to the many people who undertake numerous jobs, duties and fund raising throughout the year.

## **Proposed Heritage Trail**

**Kevin Davenport**, on behalf of St. Augustine's PCC, West Monkton

- KD unable to be present – Report read by Clerk includes following points
- Aims to physically link the churches and other venues within Benefice to create a stronger sense of identity
- Increasing the community involvement and 'heritage-awareness'
- To Link the National Cycle Route (along the canal towpath at Bathpool)
- To offer local schools the opportunity to develop Trail Route leaflets and
- To promote events at the venues, increase income, and help sustain buildings.
- Positive responses and support led to a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Confirmation that 48% of funding from HLF was received November 2014.
- Next Steps: (suggestions and volunteers welcomed)
- An 'App' will be developed (budget £12,000)
- Cheddon School has offered to be involved with the questionnaire for Church
- Way-marking proposals of the Trail will require balancing funding for signage and required consents from Parish Councils and others.

## **Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School**

**Duncan Gordon, Headmaster**, reported:

- The School appreciates the opportunities extended from Hestercombe.
- The children have held Art and Talent Shows
- Aim of school is to spread tendrils out into the community.
- Taunton Academy is providing catering of 50/60 meals daily, sports and inter-sports days, cooking club with 30 children involved.
- Good links have been formed, including the use of a mini-bus cost free for transporting children.
- A Barn Dance was held last summer, and the Play was Wind in the Willows
- Parents remark how good the Courtyard at school looks since renovation.
- Strong links with the Church continue
- Parent Survey show 94% happy with the school, 87% heading in the right direction, and a similar percentage would recommend to other families.
- Standards: were *in line* with national expectations last year, and are *in excess* in many areas this year.
- New Staff: there has been a large turnover of staff, but this is now settled and there is a tangible pride in the school
- Motto: The HMI who worked through the conversion said that school needed love; the school has that love now

## **Police**

**PC Charlie Gear** – had indicated he would attend if available. No report received.

## **Ian Best**

### **Wessex Water**

Unable to be present – report read by Clerk

- Has taken over from Jonathan Barker.

- Quarterly meeting update includes routine jetting of the public foul sewer from Cheddon House downstream to Pumping Station
- Rising main at Pump Station jetted July 2014 to ensure full capacity, and overhauled February 2015 under maintenance regime.
- Fuller report will be brought to May Parish Council meeting.

### **Knightstone Housing,**

#### **Karen Thompson, Community Empowerment Officer**

- Reported on successful Sports Afternoon at Stoney Furlong on 10 April 2015
  - Reports in County Gazette of 16 April 2015
  - 50 people attended – rush hockey, football and Frisbee golf
  - Events run by 1610 and Mendip Outdoor Pursuits
  - Knightstone provided the Community Box
  - Parish Council provided the sports equipment to go inside.
  - Knightstone received funding as part of a three year partnership project funded by Sport England
  - In association with Parish Council intends to keep momentum going
  - Planned events include Community BBQ, Rounders, and Football, Circuit Training.
- **Mike Slade**
  - **Inland Waterways**
  - Spoke for Mark Betson, Canal & River Trust (unable to be present)
    - **The Canal & River Trust** is a charitable trust that was set up to look after the waterways of England and Wales.
    - The transfer of ownership from the previous government-owned operator, British Waterways, took place on 2 July 2012.
    - Set up after demise of canals, covers regional areas within country
    - Conservative Government gave responsibility to CRT as a volunteer organisation.
    - **The Inland Waterways Association** is the leading membership charity dedicated to conserving, maintaining and restoring Britain's network of canal and river waterways.
    - Inland Waterways set up in 1946 in the Midlands for restoration of waterways
    - IWA West Country Branch covers a busy area where many canal groups and societies work together to represent the waterways system.
    - 15,000 membership nationally with 700 members in the West Country Branch comprising of Somerset/Dorset/Devon/Cornwall.
    - IWA local volunteers group covers the Canal from Taunton to Bridgwater
    - Mike reported he has 90 interested persons with many volunteering opportunities.
    - Work parties regularly advertised at Bathpool/Swingbridge (within this Parish) and Firepool lock near Taunton Cricket Ground.

### **Ken Bussell**

#### **Somerset Waterway Development Trust**

- Voluntary Charitable Trust
- Promoting Somerset Waterways.
- Educating people about Somerset Waterways.
- Encouraging safe access to the waterways, for everyone.
- Depends on subscriptions, donations and grants to fund the various activities, together with revenue from boat trips and private hire.

- The Wooden Spoon – Children’s charity of rugby – has given funding for a boat suitable for the disabled.
- Boat Operators – run boat trips at Creech St Michael, Taunton to Firepool Lock, and Brewhouse to French Weir – the latter as scheduled trips for the public on Saturdays.
- Free trips for the Disabled, Under 18s, Disadvantaged *of Somerset*.
- Volunteers warmly welcomed – no need for previous experience, plenty of diverse opportunities.

**Memorial Hall –**

**Malcolm Lown, Chairman reported:**

- Trustee for 25 years
- Current users: 2 yoga classes, dancing classes, dog training, bead weavers, 2 NADFAS groups, private parties, weddings, Amateur Dramatic Society, Quiz Nights
- Cheddoners Play attended by 300 people.
- ML undertook Caretakers duties recently and now understands how busy the hall is which may lead to a review of the Caretakers remuneration!
- Car Park covers less than the 3/4 acre originally planned – but with increasing use of the hall the success is causing parking problems. Re-visiting the idea of extending the carpark/exploring option of Musgrave land adjacent to school.
- Clerk had reported to ML that a Community Council Workshop held recently had received envious enthusiastic comments by the attendees from other Parish Councils including requesting a set of plans!

The Meeting formally closed at 8.10 pm.

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

Signed by the Chairman as a true record

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Date: .....

J Pearson  
Parish Clerk  
27April 2015