

**CHEDDON FITZPAINE**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 17 March 2016**  
**AT 7.00 pm**  
**MEMORIAL HALL, CHEDDON FITZPAINE**

**Draft Minutes Awaiting Approval**

Jason Woollacott, Acting Chairman, welcomed approximately 20 parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting. (District Councillors called to TDBC Full Council Meeting).

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2015 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Acting Chairman. No Matters Arising.

**Chairman's Report –**

- The Acting Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Thanks were given to the Clerk for indispensable work throughout the year.
- Welcome was extended to Annie Durham and Mike Batsch as Parish Councillors and for their invaluable work.
- Newsletter: celebrated its first year, received good feedback, community basis, grown to A3!
- Drains and watercourses: two years on from the floods, finally all cleared.
- Maidenbrook: Discussions taking place between Developers and TDBC for Adoption of site, play area to be improved.
- New Nerrols Development: work has started on the site
- Stoney Furlong: visitors caused disruption in 2015 and bollards are to be erected to control entry to the site in order the green space can be enjoyed for original purpose.
- Funding received for picnic table and bench to be installed at SF.
- Electoral Boundary Review: Commission looking at regularising the numbers of residents within boundaries. It is possible that there could be one councillor for Cheddon.
- Neighbourhood Plan: Undertaken in conjunction with West Monkton. Questionnaire sent out and good response received to date. NP will take into account residents wishes in future. Evidence is needed to support responses. The greater number of responses the greater the power of the final document.

**PCSO Tony Wearmouth:**

- Tony has been re-assigned areas and is back on the Hestercombe/Rowford/Cheddon village beat.
- Phone number: 07889 655312 [tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:tony.wearmouth@avonandsomerset.police.uk).
- Residents welcomed the news and regular patrols in the area.
- Beat Surgery to be reinstated. Details to follow

**Cheddon Church**

**Pauline Stone, ChurchWarden**

- We must accept that there are a dozen pages full of adverts for clergy in Church Times weekly and that there are far more jobs than applicants to fill them.
- During the last few months a group of representatives from the four churches have met together to tackle the challenge laid before us. We soon realized that we needed a fresh vision of how we would meet the opportunities presented by the large housing developments in the parishes of West Monkton and Cheddon Fitzpaine whilst at the same time maintaining the ministry in the four rural villages which include Kingston St. Mary and Broomfield.

- The new re-focused advertisement was placed in the Church Times on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February for the post of new Rector with a Pioneer Mission to work in new communities and the four existing rural parishes.
- The closing date of 11th March we had received three excellent applications for this challenging new post. The interviews will take place on 14th & 15th April.
- The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in Cheddon Church after the Holy Communion service on Sunday 10th April at 9.30am. All very welcome.
- The Annual Report booklet will be available in Church from Easter Sunday.

#### **Memorial Hall –**

##### **Malcolm Lown, Chairman reported:**

- Good to have PCSO Tony Wearmouth back. Well known in the area.
- Since CCTV installed, there have been no problems or breakins.
- Lettings: cover all types of classes.
- New Community Venture: Film Club which is well supported.
- Weddings: 10 booked for 2016 and 6 for 2017 at this stage!
- Employed: two part-time staff to take on the extra workload.

#### **Hestercombe Gardens Trust (HGT)**

##### **Philip White, CEO of Hestercombe, reported:**

- 2015 was a very successful year, 87,500 visitors; a 5% increase on the previous year.
- Memberships continue to grow. 4,500 memberships which equates to about 7,500 individual members, most of whom live in the local area.
- 2015 was a year of consolidation after the opening of Hestercombe House in 2014 with its new contemporary art gallery and restaurant.
- The second hand book shop has been very successful raising £24,000 in its first full year. It is completely run by volunteers and the funds raised go towards the restoration and conservation of the site.
- There is no movement yet on opening up the Victorian drive for pedestrians although it is hoped that agreement can be reached between the Crown, HGT and the agricultural tenant.
- HGT pleased to work with Ian Clarke as he tries to identify footpaths and routes that will link Taunton with the Quantock Hills and have set up a small working party which includes Cllr Norman Cavill.
- The Community Advisory Group met recently with representatives of the parish council, school, Memorial hall and local councillors. Discussion took place regarding the impact of car parking by parents at the school and visitors to the hall on Sandilands. It is hoped that a way forward will be found which will enable the Trust to continue with the restoration of the woodland verges and eventually with the replanting of an avenue along the drive.
- The trustees have recently adopted a 5-year development plan which will see the continuing restoration of the gardens and the house, the creation of artists' studios at the rear of the house, a performance space within the building and eventually the creation of a new garden for the 21<sup>st</sup> century around Combe House.
- HGT has applied to be allowed to host a sculpture drawn from the Poppies at the Tower of London called Weeping Window. We were encouraged to apply by Taunton Deane and if successful it will be shown against Hestercombe House early next year.

#### **SmithsGore**

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

- Work has commenced creating the access for 260 houses at New Nerrols
- No plans to sell off further land within the parish

- Cllr Fothergill asked why the Crown Industrial Estate was sold. The Crown is not allowed to borrow money and has sold off some sites in order that it can make future acquisitions.

### **Ian Clark, TDBC Green Infrastructure and Landscape Officer**

#### **Role of Green Infrastructure in Guiding New Development in and around Monkton Heathfield and Cheddon Fitzpaine**

*Green Infrastructure (GI) is defined as a network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect villages, towns and cities. When appropriately planned, designed and managed, the GI assets and functions have the potential to deliver a wide range of benefits – from providing sustainable transport links to mitigating and adapting the effects of climate change.*

The Borough Council's 'Green Infrastructure and Landscape Officer', Ian Clark, has recently been appointed to liaise with the developers at Monkton Heathfield to help co-ordinate a number of issues such as footpaths, cycleways, wildlife and amenity spaces to make sure that both existing and new communities have access to as many facilities and amenity areas as possible without having to use their cars.

The key priorities are to enable access by foot and cycling to:

- local play areas;
- local shops;
- amenity areas;

as well as access to other areas of local interest including:

- Hestercombe Gardens;
- Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Fyne Court;
- Tacchi Morris;
- Bridgwater & Taunton Canal;
- Hankridge Retail Park; and
- Town centre.

#### **Country Park**

In liaison with the Crown Estate the Council is working to create a Country Park on the northern boundary of the A3259 between Maidenbrook and Yallands Hill. The park, within the area of designated Green Wedge, will provide an area of woodland and informal play with easy access to and from the surrounding built up areas of Monkton Heathfield.

#### **Wildlife, Landscape and Heritage Interest**

The area north of Nerrols Farm is rich in wildlife, landscape and heritage interest. If you would like to get involved in mapping the area and more practical projects such as tree and shrub planting, hedge laying, coppicing, meadow management, orchard tree pruning and surveying hedgerows please contact Ian.

Ian can be contacted on 01823 356468 or by email: [i.clark@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:i.clark@tauntondeane.gov.uk)

- One resident/farmer spoke of people trespassing on private land, dogs off leads causing disruption, and a lack of awareness of the countryside. A request to educate those using the local farmland and footpaths to adhere to the Countryside Code.

#### **Proposed Heritage Trail**

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

- The proposed Trail encompasses the parishes of Cheddon Fitzpaine, West Monkton, Kingston St Mary and Broomfield.
- The intention is to link the four medieval parish churches together with other places of interest including Hestercombe House & Gardens, the National Cycle Route on the

Taunton/Bridgwater Canal towpath, Fyne Court and other locations important to our local and national heritage. Special events, in any/all the locations can be better promoted by the link. The four parishes are already a combined Benefice, and the Trail can strengthen the community ties.

- The Trail is intended for use by both local people and by visitors. Hestercombe and the Cycle Route attract thousands of visitors annually. Local schools at Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton have already indicated their interest, and the Trail can become a valuable educational and tourist resource. Whilst it is recognised most will drive around the Trail, it is intended to highlight footpaths and suggested cycle routes.
- It is hoped and intended that not only Listed Buildings, but local businesses can be added. Our local shops, pubs and tea/coffee rooms, garden centres, etc. can only benefit from the Trail.
- The Project Team is indebted to the Parish Councils at both Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton for their support. (Thank you again!) In addition to our schools, both Hestercombe Gardens Trust and the Canal & River Trust have indicated their support.
- There will be web-based material available in addition to leaflets with Trail Maps and Family Friendly Quizzes. It is intended to provide signage (subject to the usual consents and some additional funding).
- The St Augustine's Heritage Project Team leads the initiative. Our schools are already committed to providing input to the Maps and Quizzes.
- The Team included the proposed Trail in budgeting for the wider Project. We have approved funding thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Viridor-Credits, to whom we are most grateful. St Augustine's Church, West Monkton is to have an extended car-park
- A draft Trail Map was provided to the grant bodies as part of the applications process. This will be developed during 2016, and children from both Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton Primary Schools will be involved in providing illustrations and input during July this year.
- The Project Team welcomes anyone who is able to offer help and support to the Trail initiative. Illustrators, photographers, local historians and teachers are particularly encouraged! Just contact me: Tel: 01823 413628. E-mail [kev\\_anne@talktalk.net](mailto:kev_anne@talktalk.net).

### **Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School**

**Duncan Gordon, Headmaster, reported:**

- A very productive year resulting in a Good Ofsted rating
- Results put the school at position 276 out of 21,000 in the country.
- A tremendous achievement within two years of the school being placed in Special Measures.
- School admissions are just reaching capacity.
- School Website: A parent has put they are proud their child attends Cheddon School. That is reward in itself for the Headmaster.

### **Knightstone Housing,**

**Karen Thompson, Community Empowerment Officer**

- Knightstone were very active within the Stoney Furlong area of the parish this year.
- We have installed a sports locker on the green area between Stoney Furlong and Waterleaze which is accessible by anyone living in the local area! If you would like more information on the locker and its contents please also get in contact. Please contact Shona Stone on 07921 387227 or [shona.stone@knightstone.co.uk](mailto:shona.stone@knightstone.co.uk).
- A very successful BBQ & Rounders evening was held last year. There was a great turn out from the local community and this is something it is hoped to repeat.
- If you would be interested in attending or could help to arrange the event please let me know on the details above.

- The young people had a very successful visit to the high ropes in Vivary Park at Halloween as part of our Creating Active Communities project.
- Look out in the next few months to see what activities will be available over the summer.

The Meeting formally closed at 8.00 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  
21 March 2016