

CHEDDON FITZPAINE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 3 April 2014
AT 7.00 pm
MEMORIAL HALL, CHEDDON FITZPAINE

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

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 April 2013 were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman. There were no Matters Arising.

Invited Speakers were introduced to those present.

**Chairman's Report –
D Cllr & Parish Chairman Denise Webber**

The Chairman appreciated everyone coming to 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 **Gareth Bridges** for his work as Parish Councillor
- Welcome **Liz Thompson** as a Co-opted Parish Councillor
- **Two vacancies** for Parish Councillors exist. Anyone interested in the position is invited to come forward.
- Work has continued throughout the year following floods during winter 2012/13 to **improve watercourses** throughout the Parish. This resulted in less flooding during January/February 2014, though more work is needed in Maidenbrook Lane, by the Pump Station, & Gadds Valley.
- The idea of there being a **Parish Lengthsman** is resulting from the onus of Parish Councils taking on the odd jobs where funding cuts are being felt in SCC/TDBC. Planning and forward thinking will be productive for the Parish.
- **Section 106 Playground Money** - Stoney Furlong. The Basket Ball net and benches will be installed shortly.
- A **Rubbish and Grit Bin** have been installed at Cheddon Lawns, and two more **Grit bins** placed at the Church and School.
- **Maidenbrook Lane** – the sightlines were severely trimmed back enabling visibility
- **'No HGV' signs** installed at the Maidenbrook lane junction to deter large lorries in Cheddon village
- **Link Up magazine** – many people do not know they live in the Parish. There is discussion of a newsletter for the Maidenbrook estates.

Crown Estate

Alastair Deighton, Crown Agent at SmithsGore reported:

- **Nerrols Development:** A 20m thick screen has been planted to create a barrier between insects and the street lights and also off-site planting to mitigate the environmental effect of the buildings.
- **Developer:** An announcement will be made soon.
- **Drainage:** Parish Clerk commended for effort in finding drains (Maidenbrook Lane) and getting the Parish and Wessex Water together to examine solutions to flooding issues.

- **Wessex Water:** an excellent meeting in March 2014 looking into the drains/sewage issues in Cheddon, with a high ranking Manager ensuring effort and commitment to seek ongoing improvements. AD accorded praise to WW for their actions, and also the great efforts by the villagers.
- **Crown Estate** – to sell off a large portion of rented property, except in Cheddon which is not within the current sales programme at present.
- **Memorial Hall/Crown** – the legal agreement finalised after 12 years.
- **Gadds Valley Nature Reserve** – Crown contributed to the fencing costs in 2013.
- **Photovoltaic Panels** – three more are being considered
- **AD** – Announced that he was heading up the Perth Office of Smithsgore and regrettably this would be his last scheduled meeting with Cheddon.
- **David Noad**, was introduced as AD's Assistant and will be the current link to the Parish

Questions:

Nerrols: Outline planning needs to be converted into full planning permission.

Building had been expected early 2014, but although slippage in time, developments continue with the Developer and are ongoing.

Police

PC Andy Beake

- Covers Priorswood, Wellsprings, Staplegrove, Kingston St Mary, West Monkton & Cheddon
- **Reported crime figures**, which are extremely low for **Cheddon**
Burglary 4, Theft 4, TFMV 1, Criminal damage 2, Violence against a person 2
- **Waterleaze**
Public disorder 5, TFMV 24, Burglary 7, Violence against a person / assault 12, Fraud 1, Theft 2, Nuisance calls 3, Drugs 1
- **Theft from vehicles** is high on the Nerrols estates. Vehicles left unsecured with items of value left visible. (Power tools, sat navs, computers, cameras, etc)
- **School Parking/pedestrians** – AB had met with Headmaster to discuss issues regarding safety for all road users outside the School. Educating all car drivers is seen as a key, and there is agreement between the Police/School to work together to produce literature for a 'bottom up' approach. The use of high visibility jackets will be considered.
- **Speed Watch:** Previous work has resulted in the Speed Indicator Device (SIDs) coming to Rowford on rotation in June/Oct 2014. The SID in Nerrols Drive has already been in rotational operation. Volunteers sought for SpeedWatch – the Speed gun is available following the disbandment of Priorswood SpeedWatch.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – looking into increasing the number of schemes on Nerrols to improve crime figures.

Questions:

- Request for AB/Jason Wollacott, School Chair Governors to talk to Ian Titcombe of SCC Highways to reduce speed limit to 20mph by school as there is more traffic on the local roads
- SID on Nerrols Drive could work on both directions. It was noted it is not visible on a sunny day.

Cheddon Fitzpaine Church School

Duncan Gordon, Headmaster, reported:

- **School** converted to a Bath & Wells Academy in September 2013
- **New School** in the eyes of the law and therefore no grades to be compared to. Currently in a limbo moving away from the Special Measures and hoping next Ofstead confirms improvements.

- **Four criteria:** Working on raising standards in Maths and Literacy, Leadership Capacity, Quality of Teaching, Behaviour & Safety,
- Results predicted to be in line with national standards, or above, by end of school year
- More staff are leading projects and morale is high with changes and improvements being
- Recognised. CPD training with St James School.
- Great deal of internal and external monitoring to ensure standards
- Praise received when outside school, and from visitors
- School Council leading the school in 'Carbon Fest during Lent'
- Second session of Bikeability starting after Easter
- DG requested assistance from Philip White to store some Dinosaurs!
- Emergency Services visited school to talk about their work during the recent floods
- Planning a safety week and requested road safety training from PCSOs. Possible Traffic Wardens.
- DG thanks PC Beake for community spirit and assistance regarding road safety
- **Next Steps:** to increase the links within the community to aid children's learning experiences
- Internal redecoration: to develop the courtyard into a more vibrant learning area for the reception children.
- Advertise for two permanent teachers
- **School Parking** – discussed at recent Governors meeting and agreed in principle.
- A lack of funds during 2014 prevent any building work for the foreseeable future.
- AD assured DG that the Crown is very keen to support this project.

Hestercombe Gardens Trust (HGT)

- **Philip White, CEO of Hestercombe**, reported:
- Visitor numbers picked up last year after the wet summer of 2012 to total 76,000 compared with 69,000 in 2012 and 80,000 in 2011. There is still some way to go to recover numbers to their previous level so we are hoping for a fine summer to encourage garden visitors.
- Negotiations with the County Council over the future of the house dragged on for months and we eventually signed for the house on November 5th at 6 minutes past 5 o'clock. The trust has acquired the freehold of the house, the formal gardens, the visitor centre and the drive and, according to the Council figures, £200,000 of extra running costs!
- The Guildhall School of Music opened the Hestercombe Centre for Young Musicians on 1st March and have been teaching 30 students every Saturday for the last month. This is expected to increase over time and they aim eventually to have 60 students up to the age of eighteen drawn from all over the South West.
- On May 24th we will be opening the house to the public for the first time in 800 years. The first floor is being converted to an art gallery and we will be showing an exhibition of contemporary art which will include a number of works borrowed from the national Arts Council collection. We are very grateful Cllr Norman Cavill for his support in helping us get financial support for the exhibition from Taunton Deane Borough Council.
- We will also be opening a second hand book shop and, in the main room which overlooks the gardens, a tea room. There you will be able to enjoy the views of the gardens much as the Portmans did 100 years ago while eating dainty sandwiches and cakes.
- The Community Advisory Board, set up to improve communication with the local community and chaired by Cllr Marcia Hill, met last November and we were pleased to welcome David Fothergill, County Councillor for Cheddon and also the new headmaster of Cheddon School, Duncan Gordon. The meetings continue to be a very useful forum for keeping the various parties informed of developments at Hestercombe as well as enabling members to discuss areas of mutual interest e.g. parking provision for the school.

- Negotiations around the re-opening of the Hestercombe drive and the extension of the Formal garden are still ongoing with the Crown and the tenant, Mr Dill. We are pleased that, after 11 years, our mutual boundaries with the Memorial Hall have, at last, been finalised.
- We suffered quite badly in the storm of three or four weeks ago and over 30 trees came down here, in Sandilands Wood, and in the gardens. We were particularly sad to lose a Cedar of Lebanon in the shrubbery behind the house which dated back at least to the early 18th century.
- Planning applications will be submitted shortly for the creation of a wood chip fuelled, district heating plant which will heat the house and the visitor centre and hopefully cut down fossil fuel use and make heating the 80 room Hestercombe House more economical. The boilers will be situated in an extension to the gardeners' mess which is behind the ticket office.
- A second application is to be submitted for a gate across the drive in front of the house. This is to control cars, which otherwise park in this area, and help manage visitor flow which is likely to increase over the drive as a result of opening the house.

Questions: The house will be wheelchair friendly.

Memorial Hall –

Mr Dick Macey, Chairman reported:

- **The Hall** is very busy, and nearly at full capacity and reasonably priced.
- **Third Break-in** – by the back window. Bars have been put in place.
- **CCTV installed** earlier in year
- **Hearing Loop** – installed earlier in the day.
- **Cheddoners Play** was fully subscribed, and widely enjoyed. As are **Quiz Nights**.
- **Two new Trustees** are needed during this year
- **DM thanks AD** for his hard work in completing the legal papers for the Hall, and wished him well in his new position.
- **DM noted the open dialogue** within the community reduces tension and enhances a community spirit
- **£400 cheque** handed by SC Cllr D Fothergill to DM from the Health & Well-Being Fund

St Mary the Virgin, Cheddon Church

Stuart Triggol read a Report from Rev Geoff Boucher (who sent his apologies)

- **Seven weddings took place.** Thanks due to organist, bellringers, church warden vergers, flower arranger and grasscutter who made all seven occasions wonderfully memorable
- **Two baptisms.** A joy to celebrate with Cheddon families.
- **Peter Triggs' evening** of Rural Britain slides in February was a delight
- **Teasing the Cat** – a wonderful afternoon's entertainment last April to a packed church
- We have been blessed this year by **Kate joining us to play the organ** for our Family Services, at Harvest along with her recorder group, and at our Carol Service.
- **The hospitality** offered at Cheddon is always warm and the refreshments delicious – thank you to all those who provide them.
- **The Harvest Service** followed by ploughman's lunch proved to be a lovely occasion.
- The new service on **Remembrance Sunday** was a dignifying time and well supported.
- **Work on the church and churchyard** this year included improvements to the electrical system, treework, asbestos survey, inspection of gravestones, fire extinguisher servicing.
- **Cheddon Fitzpaine School** became an Academy and we welcomed Mr Duncan Gordon as the new Headteacher in September. It was lovely to see the children in church on two days in December for both their Nativity Play and Carol Service.

- Having been without a **Churchwarden** in 2012 we were particularly glad that Joan Osmond offered to serve the parish in this capacity once again.
- **We said goodbye** to Alex Tetley and Jamie Turnbull on the PCC and continue to wish them and their families every blessing. A fond farewell was said to Sue Hounsell at her final service with us in August.
- And to **Ann Fulton**, with every good wish in her new position as Holistic Spiritual Care Coordinator at St Margaret's Hospice.

A Proposed Heritage Trail

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

- An idea to create a trail was raised, and Kevin was invited to put the idea to the Meeting.
- It could include Hestercombe, Fyne Court and the Parish Churches of Cheddon Fitzpaine, Kingston St. Mary, Broomfield & West Monkton.
- An opportunity to link these places of local and national significance, creating increased involvement and participation through education, tourism and community health.
- Each location would need to provide copies of a proposed 'Trail Map' highlighting all the 'heritage locations', and details of their own location.
- A great opportunity to get children and adults involved in discovering our local heritage!
- A website could be developed to promote the Heritage Trail and updates could provide details of forth-coming events.
- 13 September 2014 Somerset Churches Trust, Ride and Stride (walk/cycle) route to be set.
- Heritage Open Day with a World War 1 theme will be the same day.
- It was noted this could be a 'Steeple Chase'!

Knightstone Housing,

Shona Stone, Community Empowerment Officer

- Shona was invited as the link between Knightstone and Stoney Furlong to promote community involvement
- The Basket Ball net and two benches have will be installed shortly using Section 106 money
- It is hoped to arrange a formal Opening, and to include some activities for the local children
- It was noted the Play Area is used by dog-walkers too.

Question: Wheelchair users request the siting of the dog bins near the path. Clerk to follow up.

Clerk asked to report:

Adoption of Cycle Way at Waterleaze

- This is complicated by many factors.
- The lack of maintenance by the landowner results in problems for the Parish Council.
- It is believed that these reasons persuaded the Legal Team at County Hall to press ahead for Adoption of the cycle way.
- When it is finalised, a higher level of maintenance can be achieved by Somerset County Council.

Adoption of Waterleaze:

- Work continues to identify the outstanding issues, and progress is being made with the Developer/TDBC.
- It is hoped when this estate is Adopted that Section 106 money can be used towards providing teenage play equipment on the Play Area.

Questions: From resident unable to be present (answered by email)

- *We are still awaiting the promised goal posts from 13 years ago on Waterleaze playing field.*
Reply: as this area has not been adopted, no-one has the legal authority to proceed.

- *The swing and the childrens play area to be fixed and refurbished.*

Reply: This is the responsibility of Bovis Homes until it is adopted, and both TDBC DLO and the Clerk have requested these be repaired. It is hoped the Manager will visit shortly, when the request will be made again, **but** it is known that Bovis Homes WISH for the area to be adopted so that this matter can be completed.

Adoption of Tudor Park

It is thought that if the previous two adoptions take place, that this matter could proceed.

The Meeting formally closed at 8.20 pm.

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

Any Other Business

A Waterleaze resident raised the issue of the three poorly maintained jetties alongside the canal. Clerk to follow up.

J Pearson
Parish Clerk
8 April 2014

Signed by the Chairman as a true record
(signature on original)

Denise Webber

.....

16 April 2015

Date: