

**PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Pauntley Parish, held in Pauntley Village Hall on Tuesday 26 March 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors Present: Councillor Mrs Christine Philipps, Acting Chairman; Councillors Mrs Anne Rawson, Mr Paul Chapman. Mrs L Harding was also present to take the minutes.

Thirty members of the public were present.

Apologies were received from Councillor Nick Fowke, Councillor Maurice Elton, the Clerk Mr Christian Horton, Mr and Mrs R Crompton, Mrs Gina Melville.

1. TO CONSIDER AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 were read out and were agreed and signed.

2. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Philipps presented the Chairman's report (attached) in the Chairman's absence. He thanked the outgoing clerk, the new clerk and all councillors, for their support during the year and also thanked Paul Chapman for again acting as parish Snow Warden. The parish council has continued to support the village hall and has been able to help fund improvements to the kitchen. The village hall organised an event to support the Gloucestershire Air Ambulance, and the parish council made a donation of £100 towards the proceeds. In the year of the centenary of the ending of the First World War, they also donated a perspex Tommy figure to the church for the Battle's Over events, while parishioners raised over £118 from a coffee morning to donate to the Help for Heroes charity.

He thanked Annie Grey and Mike Grier for taking on the checking of the defibrillators in the parish, and reminded residents of the VETS scheme which continues to operate. The Real Ale Festival Committee was once again thanked for their generous donations to the school, church and village hall, and he reminded people of the date of the 2019 Festival, Saturday 1 June.

3. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM PAUNTLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Arthur Boydell and Raffi Kelly presented the report from Pauntley C of E Primary School (attached). They reported on another busy year for the school, with visits including to the Birds of Prey Centre, Huntley Quarry, the trenches at the Dean Heritage Centre and Cheltenham Synagogue. They also continue to enjoy all kinds of sport ranging from curling to cricket. The After-School Clubs and the Early Riser Club are well-attended.

Strong links with the church continue, with church services for the Harvest Festival and Carol Service, and they have helped to plant daffodil bulbs in the churchyard. Fundraising

is an important part of school life, and they have held a Macmillan Coffee Morning and supported Comic Relief, Guide Dogs for the Blind and The Lord's Larder. The PTA continues to support them by providing a Christmas trip to the pantomime, and providing new books and other activities. The Pauntley Real Ale Festival Committee were thanked for a generous donation for two roofed friendship benches.

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM PAUNTLEY VILLAGE HALL

Lesley Harding presented a report (attached) from the Friends of Pauntley Village Hall, the group who get together to organise fundraising events at the hall and manage the day-to-day business such as hall bookings. The hall has had another busy year, with improvements continuing including the refurbishment of the kitchen with new cupboards, a new serving hatch, new fridge freezer and new microwave. New sound equipment has been installed for the film evenings and a new garden bench purchased. She thanked the Pauntley Real Ale Festival Committee for their generous donations towards this work, along with the parish council, Ecclesiastical Insurance and Unite the Union Messier Bugatti Dowty branch. She also thanked Maurice Elton for maintaining the hall grounds.

There have been many events during the year including the increasingly popular film evenings, quiz evenings, a Christmas party and a Gardening Bring and Buy and Coffee morning. Skittles matches continue with Upleadon, with Pauntley currently holding the trophy. Friday coffee mornings on the first and third Fridays are continuing to be popular, and the walking group also meets twice a month on the second and fourth Fridays. The Guides use the hall regularly, and both they and the local Brownies hold camping weekends here in the summer.

A full programme of events is planned for the coming year and the group and the parish council are very grateful to all those who support the hall and to the hard-working volunteers who make it happen.

5. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM MARK GLOVER OF FASTERSHIRE ON THE PLANS TO BRING FIBRE BROADBAND TO THE AREA

Mark Glover from Fastershire outlined the process by which Fastershire came into operation, with Herefordshire and Gloucestershire coming together a few years ago to make it viable. Councils have to raise the funds and the plans then go out for bidding. The plan is to include all sections of the community including schools, businesses, farms and individuals. Rollout is a very big process. In Phase 2, which covers North Gloucestershire and South Herefordshire, the contract to deliver for the area west of the Severn has been awarded to Gigaclear, who specialise in delivering fibre broadband to rural areas. For the hardest to reach properties, there is a further stage, Stage 4, where grants will be made available to enable these properties to access fibre broadband, although it is anticipated that all properties in this area can be reached.

Gigaclear deliver fibre direct to premises, rather than to a cabinet, which provides better speeds as there is no degradation of copper and no drop-off of speed. The network is 100% buried, preferably in soft verges, and a collection pot installed outside each

property. Properties can then decide whether to access the broadband service and choose a service provider, which will incur a connection charge.

Indicative start dates will be published shortly on the Fastershire website. The process involves laying over 5 million metres of cable over the two counties and there are a number of issues which can affect how quickly the project can be completed, including wayleave over land. The resulting broadband speeds will be among the highest in the country. When the dates are clearer, there will be a longer presentation to the community with further details.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR WILL WINDSOR-CLIVE

Councillor Windsor-Clive provided an update on road projects in the wide area, including the proposed Birdlip bypass on the A417. The incinerator at Javelin Park will be in action in around two months' time, taking waste from a wide area and reducing the need for landfill. Junction 10 of the M5 is also under consideration for upgrading to a four-way junction, possibly by 2024.

He reported that the County Council is in relatively good shape, given the massive cuts to funding it has experienced over the past few years, which has seen it lose around 30% of its budget. Adult Social Care forms a large part of expenditure, at around one third of the budget. Child Protection is an area where issues have been identified which they are working to resolve. There is a proposal from the Police and Crime Commissioner that Gloucestershire Fire Service should be run from the police headquarters, which the County Council are resisting as they feel we already have an efficient fire service which is very good value for money.

There was a question regarding the proposal by Severn Trent to close the Newent to Gloucester road for a long period. Councillor Windsor-Clive replied that there was no further news from Severn Trent following consultations with them and it was not clear whether this closure was even required for the proposed works.

7. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM SARAH DAVIES, FOREST OF DEAN DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE

Sarah reported that the service is funded till July and that further funding is hoped for, for 2019-2020. She gave an update on the work of the Alliance, including providing support to groups, families and individuals, and urged parish councils to join the Dementia Action Alliance to enable them to be connected to other groups and individuals who have joined. They have been making use of social media as well as going into schools, and liaising with the police who now have a register of people who regularly go missing so that they can be more quickly located in the places they tend to frequent. The Fire Service will provide Safe and Well checks to vulnerable people free of charge and they are working with local doctor's surgeries to help them become dementia friendly. They are also working on resources such as Dogs for Good Therapy and with Hartpury College for equine therapy. Sarah plans to attend one of our Friday coffee mornings when possible.

8. TO LAUNCH THE NEW PAUNTLEY WEBSITE

The new Pauntley website was launched and made available for viewing on a laptop and printed pages. The date for going live would be announced shortly.

The formal meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. and was followed by refreshments.