

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Chilton held on Friday 24th April 2015 at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall**

Present	Mr C Broad	Chairman
	Mr Beech	
	Mr F Dumbleton	
	Mr B Morris	
	Mr R Girling	
	Mrs J Woods	
	Mrs M E Morris	Parish Clerk
	Mr S Lilly	County Councillor

35 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mrs North, Mr Candelent, Mrs Walter who thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work this last year, Mrs Turner and Mr Waite. Mr Broad explained that Mrs Turner and Mr Waite were unable to attend the meeting as they are in “purdah” due to the forthcoming District Council elections.
2. **Chairman’s Report**
Mr Broad welcomed everyone to the Meeting and expanded on his previously published Report. He noted that more volunteers are needed for the Village Hall Management Committee. Funding has now been received to enable a start on the Equipped Activity Area on Chilton Field. It is hoped that work will start in June on the Work of Art. The Parish Council has started looking at all the areas of public open space on Chilton Field before they can be accepted from David Wilson Homes. Mr Broad thanked Mrs Woods for all her work as a Parish Councillor over a period of 16 years and thanked Mr Candelent who is also standing down. As there were only 5 nominations for the Parish Council there will not be an election but the Council will need to co-opt 3 more members.
3. **Resumé of the Last APM** was read out.
4. **Matters Arising** None

It was noted that the parliamentary Liberal Democrat candidate was in the audience. He was asked to leave.
5. **Items in the Chronicle**
Mrs Scott said that it was very useful and well written but often her copy arrived late.
6. **County Council Report**
Mr Lilly noted that as it was not election year for the County Council he was not in “purdah”. He said that the Chilton Chronicle was one of the best local newsletters that he receives.

Mr Lilly explained that OCC are not a planning authority, they comment on applications but it is the Vale who decides. The OCC are responsible for infrastructure.

OCC are responsible for children at risk and have over 500 children in care. A Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub has been set up which has helped greatly with the care of the children.

There is ever increasing pressure on the County for funding the care of children and the elderly.

The East-West rail link is progressing with a link from Oxford to Bedford planned. The flood alleviation schemes are going ahead.

OCC believes that a Unitary Authority would save money and make it easier to get things done. This would replace 1 County Council, 4 District Councils and 1 City Council. Oxfordshire is part of a Tri Counties agreement with Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire to help further economic growth.

It has been proposed in a letter to the Secretary of State that all lorries on the A34 should stay in the slow lane at 60mph between Junction 13 on the M4 and the junction with the M40.

Mr Garrett asked if there would be weight restrictions on vehicles using the A34. Mr Lilly said that they are asking Highways England to make the speed restrictions as it has worked in West Berkshire.

There are plans for a link road between Didcot and Culham.

There will be south facing slips at North Abingdon.

Mrs Crennell asked how the County Council knows how far people travel on their bus passes. Mr Lilly said that a formula has been worked out between the County and the bus companies and OCC gives a grant.

There is a problem at Chilton School this year because it is oversubscribed and there are a number of Chilton children who will not be able to get a place in the Reception Class due to start in September.

Mr Maughan asked about the Unitary Authority, discussions have halted because of the elections but after 8th May OCC would like to resume discussions.

Mrs Scott said that this year there are not enough places for every Chilton child at Chilton School. There followed a lengthy discussion regarding the lack of places and the lack of support from the County Council. Mr Day, Chilton School Governor, said that despite flagging up the problem with the County and having meetings with them nothing has happened. The School and Governors were very disappointed with the County's negative attitude. This is not going to be a one off situation because of all the proposed development in the area. The implication is that the County Council's forecasting figures are not accurate.

The Parish Council agreed to write a letter to the County supporting the School and send a copy of the letter to Mr Lilly.

7. Chilton Festival Report

Mr Girling handed out some flyers for this year's Festival, he thanked everyone for last year's very successful one and that it had received a BACA Award.

The Festival is on 6th June and again it is hoped to bring all parts of the Village together because we will be stronger as a joined up Community. It will also be linked with D-Day. This year it will be in the Village Hall and the Church and it is hoped to raise funds for fitting out the new Hall. A grant for £1,000 has been received VWHDC.

Mr Girling said more help is needed to run the Festival.

8. **2nd Chilton Scout Group Report**

From a written report it was noted that the Scout Group continues to be very successful with each section having regular attendance figures of 20 plus children at each meeting.

The Group has been involved with different community activities during the year. For St Georges Day the Chilton and Harwell Scout Groups are joining together for an afternoon of activities.

The Scouting Programme has been having changes made to it and there is more emphasis on doing more in the community. The Group is open to suggestions for activities that children could be involved in.

9. **Chilton School Report**

The Clerk read a report from Mrs North.

Mrs North's report said that usually the annual report covers a whole range of School activities and a summary of news and events. However this year the report focuses on a single issue – school admissions. The Report covered the background to the situation and the present position with the 2015 Admissions. The School staff and Governors are dismayed that it is not possible to provide Reception places for all of the children that live in Chilton Community. Families have been advised and supported, but admission is the responsibility of OCC. Staff and Governors will continue to work with OCC to explore alternative solutions. All indications suggest that 2015 will not be an isolated "bulge year".

10. **Village Hall Management Committee Report**

Mrs Scott, Chair of the VHMC, reported that the Committee had had a very busy year with the opening of the Community Room in the early summer and the reopening of the Village Hall in October. She praised the Committee for their commitment in getting both venues up and running.

The Village Hall continues to maintain a healthy list of regular hirer groups covering a diverse range of interests. There is also now a larger selection of exercise classes on offer. Thus proving that the Hall continues to be a vital asset to the community.

The Community Room opened in the summer and is starting to attract regular hirers. However, it is yet to breakeven, something we will change as more regular hirers come aboard.

Although funds are low it was felt that it would be inappropriate to raise charges given that the current prices are suitably competitive.

Finally Mrs Scott said say goodbye and thank you to Jane Woods, who has stated her intention to stand down at the next AGM after many years of service. She thanked Jane for all of her hard work over the years.

11. **Appointment of Two Independent Representatives to the Village Hall Committee**

Mr Smith and Mrs Kapp were nominated and accepted by all.

12. **General Discussion**

(i) Mr Broad thanked the Parish Council for all their work in the last year and also thanked all those who had worked on the Local Plan response.

(ii) Mr Messer asked about the landscaping along the extension of Avon Road, who will be responsible for it. It is one of the spaces that the Parish Council will be

negotiating with David Wilson Homes. Land will be difficult to access as UKAEA land will have to be crossed to reach it.

- (iii) Mr Maughan asked if the new allotments had been taken over yet. Mr Morris said not yet.
- (iv) Dr Druce said that the Accounts show a large balance being carried forward. The Clerk explained that some of it is the balance of the Sec 106 money that will be spent in the coming year.
- (v) Mrs Slater commented on the shrubs that had been hacked down at roundabout. The roundabout is due to be remodeled.
- (vi) Mr Maughan asked about the change of use application for Manor Court. The application is for change of use to a hotel as the offices are difficult to rent out. There could be significant impact on the sewerage infrastructure.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20pm.