

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF YARNTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT YARNTON VILLAGE HALL ON FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2011 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: John Burford, Harry Carrier, Michael Gibbard (Vice Chairman, District and County Councillor), Carol Green, Anna Isle, Brian Newell(Chairman), Trevor Stevens(District Councillor), and Peter Luke (Clerk)
Also the guest speaker Alexander Maddan and James Astor of Agrivert Ltd, Chris Young and Ben Morrish of the Environmental Agency, together with 45 members of the public making a total of 57 in attendance.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm by welcoming everyone, thanking them for attending and introduced all the Councillors.

- 1) **Apologies:** Fred Jones
- 2) **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2010 having been circulated, it was proposed by Harry Carrier that they be taken as a true record, seconded by John Burford, and they were signed by the chairman.
- 3) **Matters Arising:**
- 4) **Guest Speaker:** Alexander Maddan, the Chief Executive of Agrivert Ltd, assisted by James Astor, the Managing Director, gave an explanation and update, demonstrated with slides, of the recently installed Digestate Plant at Worton Farms. The talk proved most interesting and gave Yarnton residents the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding possible odours and airborne bacteria from the slurry lagoon. Mr Madden said that should Yarnton Residents experience odours coming from the lagoon then he would either cease using the lagoon or cover the lagoon itself. The talk concluded with a lively and lengthy questions and answers session when hopefully concerns about the facility were answered satisfactory, with Michael Gibbard as the County Councillor reminding that concerns and observations about the plant and slurry lagoon when in use should be directed through him as the first point of contact on the liaison committee with Agrivert. The Chairman thanked Alexander Madden for his presentation and he departed from the meeting.
- 5) **Statement of Accounts:** The Receipt and Payment Account for year ending 31 March 2011 as circulated was explained and showed a balance carried forward as £60,126, a decrease of £80,998, the decrease being explained due to the satisfactory completion of the village hall extension by Cooper Construction and the payment of the final retention which was the major event during this period. The allocation and balance of funds from this total was explained as follows:-

Cemetery	19,554
Ground Maintenance	3,308
Playing Fields	667
Village Hall	16,668
Youth Club	650
General Account	<u>19,277</u>
	60,126

Questions were invited, and the accounts were considered in a healthy state. No questions were asked.

- 6) **Council's Observations:** The Budget for this financial year from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 was determined at the budget meeting on 19 Jan. 2011, when after consideration of estimated income and expenditure, and applications for grants etc, a total figure of £43,600 was agreed, which resulted in a Precept calculation based on a band D property equivalent of £41.64, a small reduction of 2.7%
The Precept is paid to us by Cherwell D.C. 50% in April and 50% in September.
The major item programmed for 2011/12 was the proposed new pavilion at Littlemarsh playing field which has planning approval and is awaiting the balance of funding of around £200,000 yet to be determined. It is hoped to carry out the work this year.
Questions were invited. There were none.

7)

Chairman's Observations:

Village Hall: The extensions to the village hall are now completed although further improvements planned for next year are being delayed by health and safety commitments, i.e. the main ceiling needs replacing but to do that the whole room will have to have scaffolding installed for approximately five weeks.

We have recently installed a further small kitchen area in the small hall as when two separate groups are using the hall at the same time only one can use the main kitchen.

The bookings for the hall are excellent and if it continues like this, the hall will become self-financing for at least this year.

Congratulations to the Village Hall committee who have worked so hard and controlled the whole exercise successfully. They deserve a big thank you.

Playing Fields Committee: They are continuing to make improvements to both areas and are in the middle of planning a new pavilion at the main football ground.

Yarnton Park is being well used by many young footballers and it is a great credit to Fred Jones and all the other adults who work so hard to keep these youngsters occupied and very fit.

Another success story is the visits of the Youth Play Bus and the Computer Training Vehicle. It is hoped to bring them in use again in the autumn.

William Fletcher School: Anna represents the Council on the School Governors Board and keeps us fully up to date with any changes. She was able this week to inform us of the changes to be made to accommodate the extra pupils from the Berkeley Homes estate. Apparently, there will not be as many children as first envisaged.

Neighbourhood Watch and Police Liaison: P.C. Tony Alderman and PCSO Mike Earl are still with us and, I am very glad to say, they have without doubt made a difference to our village. I thank them both for their hard work. They are in regular contact with us and keep the council fully informed.

Flood Preventing: We are still working on the village surface drainage systems and have had excellent results with the main ditches leading down to Pixie Mead and to the Siphon, which runs under the canal. The Thames Water Environmental Dept. has cleaned all of the ditches from the village down to the canal. They have also strengthened the canal banks to prevent the canal leaking into the low-lying fields.

We now seriously need to examine the ditches within the village itself. Particularly where householders have illegally filled in the ditches to extend their gardens, and where some residents have piped the ditches using a too small diameter pipe. Both of these actions cause flooding to their neighbours.

Harry and John have produced a flood warning system, details of which were reported in the Village News. Sand bags can now be purchased from the District Council at a charge of £3.00 each should the need arise. We also have an emergency reserve of £500, which could be used for a bulk purchase of bags in an emergency. I would remind you that some fifteen properties were seriously damaged in the village the last time we had a severe storm. It might be worth taking a good look at your insurance policies with this in mind.

Dog Fouling: There have been some complaints about dog fouling. Consequently, we have had an additional dog waste bin installed in the Red lion Car Park, which is well used. Unfortunately, there will always be a few irresponsible owners.

8)

Report of District and County Councillor's: -

Council Tax: Cherwell has kept its promise not to increase council tax despite having to find savings of over £3million and to maintain front line services. One saving has been to appoint a new Chief Executive to be shared with neighbouring South Northants District Council. Eventually many of the senior officer roles will be shared between the two authorities giving an eventual saving of over £1million.

Oxfordshire County Council has also to make savings, £11 million in the first year, but again has pledged not to increase council tax. Decisions still have to be finalised on what level of cuts might be made on schools, highways, libraries, museums and day centres.

Planning: Cherwell's new local plan has been delayed as we study the implications of the government's Localism Bill. However it seems that the target of 13,400 new homes in Cherwell by 2026 imposed by the South East Plan can now be relaxed. A lesser figure of 12,500 is now more realistic and can be accommodated largely in Banbury, Bicester and RAF Upper Heyford, thereby reducing the pressure on rural villages.

Oxfordshire County Council is pursuing its intention to provide a waste recycling centre in Langford Lane, Kidlington as a replacement for Redbridge. The impact of this, particularly from increased traffic through our village, is still being evaluated.

The County Council is also the planning authority that is looking to grant planning permission to Agrivert for the slurry lagoon at Worton Farm.

Cherwell District Council have recently given planning permission for a new access to Begbroke Science Park which will see the construction of a full signalised junction on the A44 midway between Yarnton and Begbroke. This will have the added benefit of releasing funds to construct the long awaited signalised pedestrian crossing of the A44 at Gravel Pits Lane.

Local Development: Sanctuary Care are making good progress with their new 60 bed Nursing Home behind William Fletcher School. With completion later this year, the home will provide employment for up to 80 local people.

Berkeley Homes however have put their intended Extra Care Home in Cassington Road on hold for the time being.

General: Responsibility for concessionary fares transferred from District Councils to the County Council on 1st April and there will now be a common policy for the whole of Oxfordshire. An immediate benefit locally is that the starting time is now 9.00am (rather than 9.30am).

Oxford Airport continues to grow spasmodically, and will even be hosting a major air show in August. I continue to have regular meetings with the Airport Manager to report instances of low flying and deviation from flight paths (where applicable)

As always, I will continue to work with fellow District Councillor Trevor Stevens, and County Councillor Maurice Billington in the best interests of Yarnton village and its residents.

9) **To Consider Written Resolutions:** - None submitted.

10) **Parishioner's Questions:** -

* Comment was made about the parking of cars in The Garth and Rutten Lane during school start and finish times, and mention that parking within 10 metres of a road junction is illegal. These incidents must be reported to the police at the time of occurrence.

* Yarnton Park has recently had a problem with broken glass and bottles creating a health and safety risk and also underage drinking during the evenings. The police will be informed.

* Comment was made about the length of time the alterations were taking to convert 9 & 11 The Garth to flats. Whilst a condition of a start time within three years is issued, the completion time for any building work is not stipulated.

* It was asked when the kerb radius of the Rutten Lane/A44 roundabout would be improved. Now that funding had been made available from a local developer to finance the A44 Toucan Pedestrian Crossing this year, O.C.C. were hoping to carry out this work later this year.

* Comment was made of the noise from the band practice when an event was being held in the main hall. An additional door has been fitted today which should greatly improve the problem.

* It was commented that insufficient time and procedures were at present available when one village hall booking ended and another was due to start. It was noted.

Answers were given where possible on the above questions, but it was agreed to renew pressure until all the items had been attended to.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Peter Luke
Clerk to the Council

Signed

Date