

**CHORLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the meeting of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at the Parish Office,  
Rickmansworth Road, Chorleywood, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016**

**MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE**

**Chairman: \* Tony Edwards**

<b>Councillors:</b>	<b>* Jo Clarke</b>	<b>* David Raw</b>
	<b>* Barbara Dickens</b>	<b>* Martin Trevett</b>
	<b>* Raj Khiroya</b>	<b>* Steve Watkins</b>
	<b>* Rodney Kipps</b>	<b>* Jane White</b>
	<b>* Jill Leeming</b>	<b>* Jenny Wood</b>
	<b>* Ken Morris</b>	<b>* Jackie Worrall</b>
	<b>* Alison Preedy</b>	

**Three Vacancies**

\*Denotes member present

<b>Officers Present</b>	<b>Mrs Y Merritt – Clerk</b>
	<b>Mrs C James – Deputy Clerk</b>
	<b>Mrs M Putman – Admin Officer</b>
	<b>Miss L Hamilton – Admin Officer</b>

**There was one member of the public present**

**15/91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was noted that John Copley, Harry Davies and Barbara Green, all had resigned from the Council for different reasons.

**15/92 NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING**

In accordance with statute the notice convening the meeting had been duly published on the Council's notice boards and elsewhere throughout the Parish.

**15/93 MINUTES**

The Council  
RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015, having been noted at the Full Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, be adopted as a true and correct record.

**15/94 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

Each of the Committee Chairman presented their annual reports.

Each of the Council's representatives on outside bodies presented their Annual Reports.

The following comments were made:-

### **Twinning**

Cllr Steve Watkins advised that next year would be the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Twinning and that plans were being made for an event in Chorleywood to mark this. The Clerk advised that the Policy and Resources Committee would be receiving a request in due course.

### **Chiltern Open Air Museum.**

Cllr Steve Watkins advised that since the report had been produced County Councillor Chris Hayward had been introduced to the Director and Secretary on a visit to the Museum and had said that he would try to help the museum and had given a donation of £700 for replacement gates.

### **Income and Expenditure Accounts**

Cllr Raj Khuroya queried the interest on investments and asked where these were held. The Clerk responded that investments were held with Scottish Widows, Nat West and TSB. She also advised that the Current Account had a higher interest rate than the Instant access Account and therefore the remaining balance was split between the two. She further advised that it was something that she wanted to look at in the coming year. In response to a question on the reserves she explained the different elements of the reserves. It was noted that it was a requirement to keep an amount equivalent to half the precept in reserves. Cllr David Raw asked for an explanation of what was in the category of expenditure that was under the expenditure heading. It was explained to be anything that did not fall within the other categories e.g. Chorleywood in Bloom. The Clerk advised that a report could be produced detailing the items under this heading and forwarded to Cllr David Raw. The increase in income for Open Spaces was noted as an anomaly as it was down to the insurance money received for repairs to the wall at Christchurch which had not yet been possible to complete and therefore the increase in income reflected this.

On the Halls Income and Expenditure Account it was noted that lettings were down. The RVS were no longer operating meals on wheels and therefore this booking had been lost at the Bullsland Hall. The War Memorial Hall had been closed for building works which had overrun. However in the forthcoming year there was good news with the possible rental of the Hollybush Hall. It was also noted that the Bookshop had started to rebook some events at the War Memorial Hall. With respect to the letting of the Hollybush Hall for a Montessori School, it was noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was being drawn up to make sure that any money spent by the Council up front was recoverable if the hirer pulled out. Cllr Tony Edwards clarified that if all went ahead to plan, the £20k to be received as the letting fee was equivalent to the grant from the Parish Council to the Halls.

## **Annual Attendance Record**

Cllrs Tony Edwards and Steve Watkins were praised for the phenomenal record of meetings attended.

The Chairman thanked all committee chairman and representatives for their reports

The Council

RESOLVED

To note the Annual Reports of the Parish Council for the Municipal year 2015/16.

## **15/96 OPEN FORUM**

Greg Hill Chairman of Friends of the Common stated that he hoped to continue the good relationships with the Council, Office and Rangers and gave support for the Nature Trail in principle.

Cllr Tony Edwards then addressed Members as this would be the last meeting he would be chairing as Chairman. He stated that it had been a privilege and an honour to have served as Chairman for the last two years – and a lot of hard work.

He had endeavoured to act even-handedly and impartially and treat his fellow Councillors and the Parish Staff with the courtesy and respect that they deserve. He stated that unfortunately at the previous Tuesday's Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting Cllr Barbara Green had made some unfounded remarks about the Officer's willingness to carry out duties required of them by the Parish Council. He said that he must point out that those remarks were her personal views and not those of the Council. He stated that he also believed that a public apology and retraction of that statement would be in order.

He said that the Council had had highs and lows over this period, some of the lows remain with him, having a face-off with travellers in the pouring rain was not one of the better experiences. Presenting a lovely lady with flowers on her 105th birthday, handing out boxes of biscuits to pensioners at their luncheon club at Christmas and the ability to raise funds for the charities he supported more than made up for the lows.

Then of course there was last week's decision, which had, he hoped, put the question of a play area on the Common to bed for good. The issue had taken up an inordinate amount of Councillor and Officer time since the end of 2014 and he hoped that the Council could now move on with other pressing issues, the Nature Trail, signage on the Common, the Neighbourhood Plan and the reconfiguration of the office building to name but a few. He stated that he started his term as Chairman as one of 17 Councillors but that they now numbered only 14 and wondered why that was.

He stated that he was now handing the mantle over to Cllr Jane White and he knew that she would do a first class job, she had been a great support to him over the last 12 months as had been Cllr Steve Watkins in the previous year.

Finally, he wanted to thank everyone round the table for their help, support and guidance. He went on to say "and what about the professionals". He stated that the Officers and Rangers were a great team and that the Council was lucky to have every one of them. He said that the Council must treat them with the respect that they deserve – and sometimes listen to their advice. He ended his address with a thank to everyone.

**15/97 CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the meeting having opened at 7.30 pm closed at 7.57 pm.

These minutes have been checked by the Chairman

Signed .....Via Email..... Dated.....

These minutes have been agreed at Committee and signed by the Chairman

Signed ..... Dated .....