

CHALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

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THE CHALGRAVE PARISH ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, APRIL 28th, 2015 at 7.30pm**
AT CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL. ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Lesley Smith,
Clerk to the Council.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE PARISH ASSEMBLY- to be confirmed at the Parish Council Meeting

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. TO AMEND & SIGN MINUTES OF 2014 PARISH ASSEMBLY
3. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
4. ANDREW SELOUS-PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE FOR SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE
5. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST
6. COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION-WARD COUNCILLOR HEATH & REACH WARD
7. POLICE REPORT
8. CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB REPORT
9. REPORT FROM THE PLOUGH, WINGFIELD
10. REPORT FROM THE QUEEN'S HEAD, TEBWORTH
11. ALL SAINTS' CHURCH REPORT
12. CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE REPORT
13. SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMITTEE REPORT
14. CHALGRAVE NEWS REPORT
15. BOOK CLUB REPORT
16. WI REPORT
17. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The opportunity follows to talk informally to our guests, councillors and each other. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly of Chalgrave held on Tuesday April 22nd, 2014 at Chalgrave Memorial Hall, Tebworth at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. Phil Parry (Chairman); Cllr. Ken Green; Cllr. Debbie Hampson; Cllr. Daniel Osborn; Cllr. M Wells; Clerk.

Guests: Andrew Selous MP: South West Bedfordshire
Mr Jim Tombe: Local Transport Plan Team Leader Central Bedfordshire
Council

Representatives from:

Chalgrave Memorial Hall Committee; Mr. Roger Masters
Sports Club; Mr Roger Burden
The Plough, Wingfield; Mr Roger Burden
Chalgrave News; Mr Roger Parker
Chalgrave WI; Mrs Debbie Parry

Public present: 18

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Roger Mence; Central Bedfordshire Cllr. Mark Versallion.

A written report from Cllr Versallion is included as an appendix to these minutes.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH ASSEMBLY-April 30th, 2013**

Signed as correct by the Chairman.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed residents, introduced the council members and described their roles within the council. Cllr Parry then gave his report, shown below in blue, on the Parish Council's activities over the past year.

Report. 'The Parish Council consists of myself as the Chairman and I am also one of the Council representatives of the West Trust; Ken Green, who is the Vice Chairman and heads up the Footpaths Committee and has responsibility for the Website; Daniel Osborn who is on the Planning Committee, is our Police Liaison as well as the second Council representative on the West Trust; Debbie Hampson is also on the Planning Committee and leads the Pond Project; Roger Mence who is able to attend many external meetings on our behalf; Mike Wells who leads the traffic calming measures including Speedwatch. Sharon Brown stepped down from the Council earlier this year – we thank her for her contribution to the running of the Council. We will be looking to co-opt someone new onto the council. And of course the most important member of the Parish Council and this is Lesley Smith who is our Parish Clerk.

As always the past year has been a very active one for the Parish Council. In case you are not aware we do a lot of work behind the scenes. We work on a voluntary basis trying to do as much as we can for our local community. As well as our monthly meetings and individual responsibilities we attend local and area meetings where decisions can be made that affect our Parish. We lobby MPs and local councillors, we defend the rural nature of our community, we encourage and support local activities, we look for ways of improving facilities and the infrastructure, we strive to keep our community spirit and, as your representatives, we listen to you.

Once again it would appear that the Parish Council has increased the Precept – this year by 1.5%. This is the amount that the Parish Council gets from your Council Tax Bill. At our meeting in February we decided that we would again not increase the precept this year. The increase has come from Central Beds Council. CBC calculates the amount householders pay for the precept by dividing what we ask for by the number of Band D properties in the Parish. There are, however, some Band D properties that, because of special circumstances, will get a reduced rate and be charged at a band C Rate. In the past Central Government has paid the difference direct to the Councils. Central Government has now stopped this. Now CBC calculates the tax base by dividing the number of Band D properties paying the Band D rate. This has meant that the number of Band D properties paying the Band D rate

has fallen and hence the increase. Central Government has requested Local Authorities to pay back the increase to Town and Parish Councils – Central Beds is one of only eight Authorities not to pay back the increase. Our Precept is £6816 per year. Between a quarter and a third of our precept we receive from you goes straight back into our community in the form of grants and awards. We keep a third for contingencies and the rest is used in the running of the Council activities.

The accounts can be viewed via the Clerk, as can all Parish Council documentation – minutes of meetings, correspondence, accounts, etc. - if you are a resident of the Parish.

Planning is one of our many concerns, both at a parish and county level. At a county and national level we are very vocal in our determination to protect the Green Belt. We want to maintain the rural nature of our Parish so we are keeping a careful watch on the housing development that will be coming toward our Parish from Houghton Regis. The A5/M1 link road will be the barrier to the development. Once the A5/M1 link road is opened there will be a weight ban on traffic through Tebworth plus we might get other traffic calming measures.

You also need to be aware that there may be planning application for a Solar Panel farm at Chalgrave Manor Farm.

We are concerned about the provision of Traveller and Gypsy sites. Whilst our parish is not directly involved, our neighbouring parishes are. We saw only recently in Harlington and Toddington the negative impact that some sections of the Traveller community can cause. However, we are heartened by the questions raised and debate in Parliament about defining a traveller and questioning why there appears to be one set of planning laws for the travelling community and another for the rest of the country. We are pleased that our MP Andrew Selous is central in raising these issues.

We will be doing more to monitor speeding through the parish. Mike is working with the Police on the Speedwatch campaign. This involves speed checks using a mobile speed sign in both Tebworth and Wingfield. Registration numbers of speeding vehicles are noted, we can send the numbers to the Police and they send out a letter to the owner the vehicle. If they are reported a second time they get a stronger letter – the third time they get a visit from the Police. Other Parishes are also involved in Speedwatch and registration numbers are coordinated by the Police.

We continue to pressure Highways to repair our roads which have suffered over the winter. You will have seen that some work has been done but there is still more to do. We also concerned about the temporary patching. We trust the Central Beds will apply for funding from the money set aside by the Government for road repairs after the extreme wet weather.

The unprecedented amount of rain that we have had at the end of last year and the beginning of this year has led to flooding in Parkview Lane, Hill Close, Hockliffe Road and down The Lane. We are getting all the gulleys cleared and we are in contact with Highways to look for solutions to Parkview Lane and Hill Close. You may remember we spent a considerable amount on Parkview Lane a few years ago and the flooding was cured – it may be that the soakaway has silted up or we may have to find a way of channelling the excess water.

There has been an increase in crime in our parish. Please be vigilant and lock up sheds, windows and doors. If you see anything suspicious please report it to the Police or to Dan, myself or any of the Parish Council.

Finally the Millennium Youth and the Community Awards for 2013. We have some nominations which is great. Both awards are to recognise a significant achievement or community service. The Millennium Youth Award is for 18 years and under and is a 'well done' for academic or sporting achievement, contribution to the community, overcoming difficulties, or other significant achievement. The Community Award is for over 18s and is a 'thank you' for service to the community. If you have a nomination please contact the Clerk, Lesley Smith, or any of the councillors asap.

You are invited to any of our meetings. They are usually on the third Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7:30.

4. REPORT by ANDREW SELOUS MP

Mr. Selous said that he was consistently lobbied by Chalgrave Parish Council. He asked residents to contact him individually if they have any issues. He will visit the parish at least once a year.

- a) **Mr Selous's Constituency.** 850 fewer people are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance than last year as jobs are being created.
- b) **Health.** Mr Selous is dissatisfied with the health services in Leighton Buzzard. He explained that much power had been devolved to GPs who have used money to enlarge surgeries but Leighton Buzzard actually needs to provide more services.

The region has acquired 27 new ambulances and 400 paramedics are being recruited.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital is doing quite well at the moment.

- c) **Crime** is a big issue currently. People must be able to rely on the police statistics so please report any crime so that they are recorded. Mr Selous is not happy with the new policing model and he will continue to raise this with the Chief Constable.
- d) **Rail Travel.** Thameslink has taken delivery of 40 new carriages which will provide 4,000 extra seats.
- e) **A5-M1 Link Road.** Construction will begin soon. Mr Selous hopes it will provide a boundary to the building north of Houghton Regis. Developers will provide £45 million towards the cost of building the road.
- f) **Superfast Broadband.** The government is contributing £3 million extra to Central Bedfordshire Council for superfast broadband.
- g) **Schools.** The standards are not good enough and are slightly below the national average. In worldwide terms they are not good enough either. Mr Selous is pushing for higher standards.

5. **REPORT by MR JIM TOMBE**

a) **Major Projects.**

- i. Houghton Regis North 1 and 2
- ii. A5-M1 Link.
- iii. Woodside Link

All are due to commence in the summer 2014. Mr Selous and ward councillors are lobbying to put the infrastructure in place. Mr Tombe pointed out that the three projects are interlinked. Congestion is a problem in Dunstable and there is rat-running through Chalgrave Parish. Hopefully these will reduce once the link road is built. There will be a weight restriction for Tebworth and Wingfield eventually. Major construction begins in 2015 with completion by 2017. Once complete the A5 will be de-trunked. When this occurs and the Woodside link is complete CBC has the opportunity to study the traffic in this area. Villages have problems with speeding traffic and some money is available for minor traffic calming projects.

- b) **Bus Routes.** Services have increased in towns but are not so good in rural areas.
- c) **Rogation Sunday.** Countryside Services have much involvement and are happy to help with footpaths etc.

Mr Tombe then asked if there were any questions or comments:

1. Cllr Green commented that Chalgrave PC had expressed doubts that traffic through the parish would decrease after the A5-M1 link had been built.
2. Roger Parker asked if there was a chance of traffic lights at the C193/A5 junction. Mr Tombe replied that the A5 was the responsibility of the Highways Agency and CBC would be happy to lobby with Chalgrave PC and residents on that.

Cllr Green mentioned that the Local Area Transport Plan had 3 or 4 areas marked as priority in Tebworth and Wingfield. There has been no response from CBC. Mr Tombe suggested following up with Ben King, Principal Transport Planner Transport Strategy Team CBC.

6. **SPORTS CLUB REPORT BY MR ROGER BURDEN**

- a) **Cricket.** The season starts this Sunday.
- b) **Sports Pavilion.** The club is trying to replace the club house but £3,000 is required to buy Portakabins plus erection costs of £1,000 approximately.
- c) **Race Night** will be held soon to raise money for the club house.
- d) **10/10 Cricket Competition** will be held on Sunday, June 22nd, 2014. There will be a barbeque, beer tent and play equipment for children.
- a) **New Players** over 16 are needed. A new club house can be bought if numbers are maintained. Then the club hopes to form a junior side.
- b) **Ground Maintenance.** Much work has been carried out and the grounds are looking good.

7. REPORT from THE PLOUGH by MR ROGER BURDEN

- a) **The Plough Pub.** The pub is still for sale.
- b) **Quiz Nights** are held every other Sunday and are very popular.
- c) **Dominoes and Crib.** There are two Dominoes teams and one Crib team. All money raised goes to charity.
- d) **Events.**
 - i. Sunday, June 29th, 2014-3.30pm onwards: Beer Festival and Tony Smith Classic Car Rally and barbeque.
 - ii. Sunday, July 13th, 2014-3.30pm onwards: Classic and Prestige Car Event, Beer Festival and Hog Roast. Proceeds will go to Keech Hospice.

8. REPORT from THE QUEENS HEAD

The Queen's Head is now a Community Asset. Two fund raising events are planned.

9. CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT by MR ROGER MASTERS

Mr Masters explained that it was the job of the Memorial Hall Committee to maintain the hall for the parish.

- a) **Bookings.** There are regular bookings from the WI and Parish Council as well as weddings and funerals.
- b) **Hiring Rates.** There is a two-tier system, one for the parish and one for everybody else.
- c) **Maintenance.** The hall committee intend to upgrade the kitchen this year.

10. SENIORS CITIZENS' COMMITTEE REPORT by MR ROGER MASTERS

Mr Masters thanked the Chalgrave News for donating money to the committee. There was also a donation from the Santa Float. Not as much money was raised as hoped for as Hockliffe is not on the rota now. However there are enough funds to pay for the annual Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens so the committee will not need to ask for a grant from the parish council.

11. CHALGRAVE NEWS REPORT by MR ROGER PARKER

- a) The **Chalgrave News** has had another successful year. It is circulated free of charge four times a year to 225 homes in Chalgrave Parish. It aims to provide a light-hearted look at village life with plenty of local news and lots of colour photographs. However there are occasions when a more serious approach is required.
- b) **Contributions to the News.** The News has a pool of regular writers but it is always looking for more contributors. It encourages people to send one-off items such as news of a birth or marriage. All the News requires is a brief email, ideally with a photo. The News is also looking for anyone interested in writing regular articles.
- c) **Advertising.** The News is largely supported by regular advertisers. The adverts are crucial for the magazine's success so if using the services of the advertisers please let them know they were found in the News.
- d) **Costs.** These have crept ahead of advertising income so funds need to be boosted if the News is to maintain its present format. The Annual Chalgrave News Quiz was held last month which people seemed to enjoy. Donations or sponsoring a page or a regular feature would be much appreciated. Contact details for the News are published in each edition.

12. BOOK CLUB REPORT

Cllr Parry read the report by Mrs Noeleen Thompson.

The Book Club has been running for about 12 years. The members meet every four to six weeks and take it in turns to host the meeting providing coffee, biscuits and a good natter. Members review the books they have read but also discuss a wide range of subjects and it is a lovely way of getting a few villagers together for a relaxing chat. However two members have recently moved away so it is difficult to have all 10 members together at the same time. The annual pre-Christmas lunch was in November at The Birch, Woburn and was enjoyed by all.

A number of books have been read throughout the year ranging from the excellent Wicked Girls to the not so good The Boat. However most are enjoyed by everyone and a good selection have been picked.

13. WI REPORT by MRS DEBBIE PARRY

Chalgrave WI reformed after 20 years in 2011. It now has 34 members and meets every second Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Copies of the 2013 Annual Report and the 2014 calendar are available. There is also a Facebook page with lots of pictures of the WI's activities.

The agenda is varied, including a Pamper Evening, Image Consultant, talks on Dream Interpretation, Crystals, Angels, Modern Art, Bletchley Park and Antiques with David Fletcher from BBC's 'Flog It!', a Ghostbusting evening at the vicarage, talks from a local vet and a local magistrate and a belly dancing demonstration. Two cheese and wine evenings have also been held.

Outings have included visits to the horse races, greyhound racing, a Meatloaf concert and the V and A museum to see the David Bowie exhibition.

For the remainder of the year the WI has an Indian cookery demo, talk on the Victorian pharmacy and will be rerunning the popular swishing event, going clay pigeon shooting, 20 members will be dressing up as pink ladies and attending the Sing a long a Grease event at the Milton Keynes theatre. A "behind the ropes" tour of Turvey house with David Fletcher from BBC TV's 'Flog it!' is also being organised. The emphasis is on making friends and having fun.

14. OTHER MATTERS

- a) **Volunteering.** Cllr Parry commented that much goes on in the parish and he asked people to become involved in local events, organisations and projects such as renovation of Tebworth Pond.
- b) **West Trust.** Information from Cllrs Parry and Osborn.

15. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be arranged for April 2015.

The public were then offered refreshments and given the opportunity to talk to cllrs.

Meeting closed at 10pm

Signed by Chairman..... Dated.....