

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly of Chalgrave held on Thursday April 14th, 2022 at the Memorial Hall, Tebworth at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr. Phil Parry (Chairman); Cllr Kevin Ludgate; Cllr Jan Day; Cllr Peter Warburton; Lesley Smith-Clerk

Also present:

Andrew Selous MP for Southwest Bedfordshire
Ward Cllr. Mark Versallion Heath & Reach Ward

Representatives from:

All Saints Church, Chalgrave; Steve Calder
Chalgrave Memorial Hall; Jan Day
Chalgrave Sports Club; Kevin Hydes
Chalgrave Senior Citizens' Committee; Roger Fenwick
Chalgrave WI; Debbie Parry

Public present: 17

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ken Green; Cllr Frances Masters; PC Luke Skelton.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH ASSEMBLY-APRIL 20th, 2021

Approved by the council and signed as correct by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed residents, introduced the council members and explained their roles within the council. Cllr Parry then gave a brief summary of the work of the Parish Council and its activities over the past year. He also mentioned:

- i. There is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Contact the clerk or any of the cllrs if interested.
- ii. This year's precept is £7939. About a quarter goes back into our community in the form of grants and awards. The council is limited to £8.82 per elector to allocate to grants. A third is kept for contingencies and rest is used in the running of the council's activities. The accounts can be viewed on the website or via the clerk.
- iii. The Speedwatch Team has not been active over the past two years because of lockdowns and problems with the speed monitor. We now have a new monitor so Speedwatches will resume on Toddington Road and in Wingfield.
- iv. The Lords Hill roundabout continues to be dangerous and now there are no road markings as you approach the roundabout from the A5. We warned Highways England about the dangers of the roundabout in 2017. Cllr Mark Versallion has organised meetings with them so we are hopeful they will do something this year.
- v. Fly tipping continues to be a problem in the parish. Cllr Masters is quick to report any incidences to Central Beds Council (CBC), which is usually very prompt to respond and clear. CBC has mobile CCTV cameras that we could use and, through Cllr Versallion, we hope to be able to have them from time to time.
- vi. We have an Emergency Plan. This is primarily for the Emergency Services to have knowledge of key contacts and the available facilities in the parish should there be a serious incident in the area. We have a small team of parishioners who are willing to help, for example, if there is adverse weather or power outages. The team were in operation during lockdown collecting shopping etc.
- vii. Planning is a constant concern. There are new houses down The Lane and others being built behind Ivy Farm and on College Farm. This increases our housing stock by about 10%. We recognise the need for new homes but we strive to maintain the rural nature of the parish. We examine every planning application and make sure that no planning rules are broken.

- viii. There are plans for solar farms, not only in our parish but in the local area. A solar farm is being built at Chalgrave Manor. There are plans for another between Toddington Road and Chalgrave Road and another in Tilsworth. We recognise the need for renewable energy but there are concerns about the number of farms in our immediate area.
- ix. We live in a low crime area but make sure your property is secure. Please report anything you think is suspicious and report any crimes.
- x. We respond to Central Beds Council online consultations that are relevant to the parish but they can also be responded to individually as it is important your voice is heard.
- xi. We have double yellow lines at the bottom of Wingfield Road. We were reluctant to have them but cars continued to park on the corner, despite requests not to, severely restricting visibility. The situation has improved although one or two vehicles are parking on the lines overnight.
- xii. Request for nominations for the Millennium and Community Awards.
- xiii. Invitation to any of the Parish Council meetings which are usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

4. POLICE REPORT

PC Skelton sent his apologies. He wanted to attend this meeting along with his colleague but they were sent to assist Response in the North of the county today.

PC Skelton sent the figures below which show the reported crimes over the last 12 months for the area:

31/03/2022 - THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A MOTOR VEH Wingfield Road. – Theft of Ford Transit.

26/01/2022 - DOMESTIC ABUSE – Harassment.

22/01/2022 - DEATH BY DRIVING UNLI, DISQ OR UNINS - *Toddington Road Tebworth, Chalgrave.*

06/11/2021 - PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS - *Verbal altercation – parties known to each other – victim has now moved away from area – not supporting police action.*

09/08/21 - POSSESSION OF OTHER WEAPONS – *filed due to M/H concerns.*

29/05/2021 - ASSAULT - *altercation at golf club – suspect trespassing and collecting golf balls.*

03/05/21 - THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE - *Vehicle insecure as SORN, handbag taken.*

The following Antisocial Behaviour incidents have been recorded:

3 incidents – 1 abandoned vehicle, 1 speeding vehicle and 1 x fireworks near horse field.

5. ANDREW SELOUS MP

Andrew Selous MP for South West Bedfordshire kindly joined the Parish Assembly. He updated the Parish Council and residents on the following:

- a) General Practice is a main issue in this area. The number of surgeries and available appointments is already below average. Covid and the number of new houses are having an adverse effect. However the Luton and Dunstable Hospital is due for a big expansion.
- b) Policing. The impact of the rural funding formula is not good because Bedfordshire is treated as a rural area. The government has made a commitment to change the funding formula. Mr Selous also has issues with the allocation of officers.
- c) Traffic through Hockliffe. The police have worked with National Highways between January and March 2022. During that time the police issued 257 fixed penalty notices for speeding. National Highways has promised to do something about controlling the speed of traffic through Hockliffe.
- d) Business Skills Shortages. There are staff shortages for some local businesses and there is a danger some of them might fold.
- e) Buses. More money is available for providing local buses. The government has provided £2.7 million and Central Bedfordshire Council has also provided money.
- f) Education. Key Stage 2 results are not as good as they should be therefore extra money has been provided for our area. A register for home schooling is to be set up.
- g) Fly Tipping. Mr Selous is pleased that the parish council has contacted McDonalds regarding the amount of their litter found in the parish.

Mr Selous then took questions from councillors and residents.

6. ALL SAINTS CHURCH REPORT

Steve Calder has been All Saints treasurer for 10 years.

Events

- a) 30 people celebrated All Saints 800-year anniversary on September 12th, 2020 in the grounds of the church.
- b) Pop Up Tea Rooms continue to be a success. In addition to cakes, soup & quiches will be served. They will continue on the 4th Wednesday of each month apart from May. Thanks to the success of the pop up tea room some of the ladies are keen to have chance to meet another day each month - to play games, do craft or have a lunch and a singalong. The Pop Up Tea Rooms bring people together in a community hub and it would be good to consider how else we can be church in Tebworth.
- c) The church is hosting a Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea on May 21st, 2022. If nice weather this will be held outdoors. Tickets need to be booked-contact Alison Stone.
- d) A Wine & Cheese Music Evening is planned for October 1st, 2022.

e) Services

- i. Once the weather is warm enough, we will once again hold some of our Sunday services outside.
- ii. Maundy Thursday April 14th.
- iii. Good Friday April 15th 9.30am Easter Reflection Service.
- iv. Easter Sunday April 17th 9.30am.

We will be decorating the church for Easter celebrations again this year, thanks to a wonderful team of volunteers.

f) Other News

- i. The roof had to be repaired after the storms as 40 tiles came off, 6 of which had to be replaced
- ii. The Youth Group met again this month with the older group last week and the younger group this week with time to think about Lent and about prayer and we also had good fun eating pancakes and playing games.
- iii. Messy Church restarted on Friday March 11th (after a break due to Covid) and we had fun craft activities, songs, tea and a Bible story. It is so good to meet up with our young families again.
- iv. Linda and Nigel led assemblies at Parkfields School focussing on Prayer and thinking particularly of Ukraine. Linda continues as a lower school governor and leads a weekly collective worship at St George's Lower School meeting either on zoom, in key stage bubbles and now this half-term, finally meeting as a whole school again. It is so good to be able to be part of school again.
- v. Linda has been running two Monday groups looking at 'The Bible Course' over 8 weeks with a group at the rectory and another group online.
- vi. The Quintet Lent online course started on Thursday 10th March.
- vii. The organist, David Owen, plays his last service with us on 20th March as he is moving so we will be looking for another organist soon.

Thank you for your help and support.

7. SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) **Membership.** Members are 65 or over and there are 45 people on the list at the moment. They receive a supermarket voucher as a Christmas present and are invited to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner. They also receive a birthday card on their birthday.
- b) **Finances.** The committee has asked for a grant from the Parish Council this year as they have not had the benefit of the proceeds from the Round Table float for two years so any help would be very welcome. The committee received a grant from the Parish Council last year plus a donation towards the end of the year.
- c) **Senior Citizens' Committee.** The committee is small and thanks go to all the people that help to collect money and distribute birthday and Christmas gifts.

8. WI REPORT

After a 2-year break Debbie Parry has returned as President of Chalgrave WI. She explained that, nationally, the WI has struggled because of Covid. Several WIs have folded in the past couple of years. Whilst some WIs chose to reduce their subs or dispose of them altogether Chalgrave WI kept them at full rate and invested in some virtual speakers, for example a magician and a stage lighting designer. Debbie

put together goody bags for all members and hand delivered them so she could have doorstep chats with everyone.

Chalgrave WI got involved with WI Wanderers which brought together groups across the country and they attended each other's meetings for free.

As things started opening up there were theatre visits, a garden party, stand up paddleboarding and alpaca walking.

Face-to-face meetings resumed last September with a jewellery making session, afternoon tea at Woburn coffee house and a Christmas party at Tilsworth Golf Club.

The WI went cashless this year, making tea and coffee free and self-service! A SumUp machine was purchased to take payments for other refreshments, guest fees etc. which helps simplify the accounting.

Sub-groups consist of the well-established book group, a supper club and a craft group.

The WI has a new logo designed with input from members and brought to life by Jack Malster. The logo incorporates the suffragette colours of white for purity, purple for dignity and green for hope, has figures holding hands, hearts and prosecco bubbles!



Everyone re-joined last year. There were 13 new joiners, making a total of 46 members. Any woman interested in trying the WI can attend one or two sessions for a small fee.

9. CHALGRAVE NEWS REPORT

- a) **Thanks** to everyone who has contributed to the Chalgrave News over the years and to those who contributed to the memorable first lockdown issue. Despite a couple of bumpy years the team has managed to keep publishing despite not being able to meet face to face or hold any fund raising activities.
- b) **Advertising.** At the start of the first lockdown all the advertisers were given a 'free run' as many of their businesses were closed. Since then some advertisers have been lost but new ones have been gained. **Future Editions.** Thanks to the Parish Council for a grant which has helped with the News' printing costs. The team are confident that it can keep publishing for the foreseeable future.
- c) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee.** The team are planning a bumper Jubilee issue and would welcome any contributions, especially photos of previous jubilee celebrations and the Queen's coronation. Photos from this year's celebrations will also be welcome.

10. BOOK CLUB REPORT

The Book Club is still going strong with seven members. We read a wide variety of books, some of which have been fantastic whilst other have drawn mixed reactions. We take it in turns to host the meetings, which usually happen every four to six weeks and we chat and discuss the book over a coffee and cake.

We also have the occasional lunch and have recently been to The French Horn in Steppingley. This is a lovely pub and restaurant and the food was very good.

If anyone would like to join us please contact Noeleen Thomson.

11. CHALGRAVE SPORTS CLUB

Chalgrave Sports Club has enjoyed a transformative year. The Committee has worked hard to provide opportunities for its members and the community to get involved in activities for the benefit of both physical and mental health.

a) Activities.

- i. Park Run at Houghton Hall on 1st Saturday of the month. Members have attended to run, walk or dog-walk the 5km route. A professional coach is on hand for warm ups and warm downs for all abilities.
- ii. Golf days have been organised.
- iii. Other Sporting Activities Planned
 - a cricket match at Parkfields Middle School, Toddington
 - group cycling
 - open water swimming for beginners later this year.

b) Fund raising

- Quiz Night was held at the end of April 2022 at Chalgrave Memorial Hall
- Race Night was held last October at the hall.

Both events were very successful. Special thanks to Simon Gatward and John Parker for their efforts in preparation and on the nights. At both events, half of the profits made was donated to Parkfields Middle School and St. Georges Lower School respectively for sporting equipment and opportunities for their pupils. We also made a donation to the Toddington Scout Group. Our next event will see a return of the Race Night on Saturday 15th October. Please come along for a great night and support your local sports club.

Please follow us on Facebook to find out more.

12. CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT

- a) **Bookings.** Things are picking up after the pandemic and there are regular bookings for a variety of activities. There are also bookings for parties and wedding celebrations.
- b) **Pop-up Tea Rooms** are held once a month. They are jointly run by the Memorial Hall and All Saints Church and have been very successful and well attended.
- c) **Committee Members.** Thanks go to three members who have stepped down this year for all the work they have put in. There are three new members with, hopefully, two more to follow soon bringing the committee up to full strength again.
- d) **Play Area.** Following its annual inspection by the Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents, the play area had to be closed as it had reached the end of its life. The committee is looking at grants and raising funds to replace it. They are also consulting with residents for what they would like included in the new play area.
- e) **Queen's Platinum Jubilee.** The hall is celebrating on June 3rd with live music, fun and games. It begins at 1pm with the Dog Show and ends around 6pm. Entry is free and refreshments will be available. Please contact the committee if you would like to be involved with organising the Jubilee event.

13. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

None

14. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be arranged for April 2023

Formal meeting closed at 20.55

Ward Cllr Mark Versallion arrived at this point after attending a full council meeting of Central Bedfordshire Council.

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

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