

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Assembly of Chalgrave held on Thursday April 11th, 2024 at the Memorial Hall, Tebworth at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Ken Green; Cllr Harvey Greenwood; Cllr. Phil Parry (Chairman); Cllr Kevin Ludgate; 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 Memorial Hall
Chalgrave Sports Club
Chalgrave Senior Citizens' Committee
Chalgrave WI
Chalgrave News
Book Club

Public present: 25

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jane Spiers; Police.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PARISH ASSEMBLY-APRIL 13th, 2023

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 summary of the work of the Parish Council and its activities over the past year. He also mentioned:

- i. This year's precept is £9,100.00. About a fifth goes back into our community in the form of grants and awards. The amount the PC is allowed to allocate is limited. 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.
- ii. As well as the usual concerns over the past year, other issues of concern are flooding, lorries travelling through our villages, Tebworth Solar Farm and constant fly tipping. CBC is usually quick to attend to fly tipping when we report it.
- iii. We are lobbying CBC to clear the gulleys as well as working on the flooding opposite the Queen's Head and down The Lane.
- iv. Tebworth Solar Farm has caused a lot of disruption. We have been in contact with the contractors to restore Chalgrave Road and minimise the disruption. The PC is in conversation with the developers to discuss community benefit or funding for projects in the parish. There should also be community funding from Chalgrave Manor Solar Farm.
- v. The Speed Watch Team is out once a month in Tebworth and Wingfield to remind drivers of the speed limit. We now have permission from the police to operate on Hockliffe Road to monitor the speed of traffic entering Tebworth.
- vi. The development at Ivy Farm Barns is still not resolved. The current cladding on Plot 2 is not what was originally agreed by CBC Planning, which was larch or oak.
- vii. The PC is looking into rewilding some of the verges in the parish and enhance the area opposite the Queen's Head.

- viii. Chalgrave is a low crime area but there are break-ins and burglaries. Make sure windows and doors are locked and outbuildings are secure. Please report anything you think is suspicious to the police and report any crimes.
- ix. Request for nominations for the Millennium and Community Awards.
- x. Summary given of the West's Educational Trust and what grants are awarded for. Applications to Lesley Smith, Clerk to West's.
- xi. If you have a concern please contact one of the cllrs or the clerk rather than posting something on Facebook. We request, in particular, that you refrain from posting anonymously. Contact details of the cllrs and clerk are in the Chalgrave News and on the Chalgrave Parish Council website.
- xii. You are warmly invited to attend any of the Parish Council meetings which are usually on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Agendas and minutes are posted on the noticeboards and on the website.

4. POLICE REPORT

No report this year.

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:

Local Businesses. Mr Selous has recently visited four local businesses.

- i. The new Lidl warehouse will employ 1500 people when at full capacity and is recruiting at the moment.
- ii. Arnold White are responsible for building both the tallest and the most powerful wind turbines in England as well as an electric vehicle charging station at Checkley Wood.
- iii. The Online Tasting Company is a startup which has moved to Leighton Buzzard and has plans for the future to enable people to sample different wines in a much more environmentally sustainable way.
- iv. Baileys Travel in Waterbourne Walk, stood by all their customers through the pandemic.
- v. He is also working to help make sure that Universal Studios choose Bedfordshire, rather than anywhere else to build a new theme park, which will create huge job and other opportunities throughout the whole of Bedfordshire.

Apprenticeships. Apprenticeship week has just ended and it was wonderful to see Central Bedfordshire College providing more engineering apprenticeships in Leighton Buzzard to add to the ones in Dunstable and Houghton Regis.

Education. Mr Selous has been lobbying for changes to the national schools funding formula to be fairer to Central Bedfordshire as well as supporting improvements for children with special educational needs and disabilities. He is also working to get the Bidwell West primary school built.

Other matters.

- i. Mr Selous wants a larger police footprint in Houghton Regis and expanded primary care there as well as in Leighton Buzzard.
- ii. There is a new ambulance patient transport service in Dunstable for the whole of south Bedfordshire.

Mr Selous remained for the rest of the Assembly and took residents' questions and comments during the informal part of the evening.

6. WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION

- a) Budget 2024/25. Central Beds Council (CBC) has agreed a 5% increase in council tax but some services will have to be cut. CBC had used some of its reserves in the past but inflation and extra funding for children with special needs has necessitated the increase.
- b) The Plough Inn is now a Community Asset.

Cllr Versallion remained for the rest of the Assembly and took residents' questions and comments during the informal part of the evening.

7. CHURCH REPORT

- a) Pop Up Tea Room has been very successful and continues on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

- b) Repair to the Church Beams will be very costly. The church is seeking grants to help with the cost.
- c) Services at the church continue for the present. The church may have to hold Benefice services once repairs to the beams begin.

8. SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE REPORT

- a) Membership. Members are 65 or over. They receive a £20 supermarket voucher as a Christmas present and are invited to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner at Parkfields Middle School. They also receive a card on their birthday.
Finances. The committee needs to raise £700 approximately for the vouchers. The Round Table float raised £550. Thanks to the Parish Council for its grant.
- b) 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. Members also help with odd jobs for people.

9. WI REPORT

- a) Membership. The WI is in its 14th year.
- b) Meetings and Activities.
 - Talks:
 - Anecdotes on a handbag collection
 - Author, comedienne and actress, Sarah Harrison
 - Birds of prey
 - Suffragette talk
 - Celebrant talk on the changing face of life ceremonies
 - Decluttering
 - Indoor Kurling
 - Walk around Aspley Woods
 - Singing for fun and confidence
 - Brick Lane Music Hall
 - Christmas crafts
 - Belly dancing workshop
- c) Clubs
 - Book Group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month.
 - Supper Club This takes place on the third Friday of the month.
 - Craft Club runs on the third Monday of the month at Chalgrave Memorial Hall from 7-9pm.
- d) 2024/25: Upcoming events
AGM; hedgehog talk; walk; Auction Room; Indoor Kurling; spies; wartime story; Christmas crafts

Guests are welcome to the meetings on second Tuesday of the month at 8pm.

10. CHALGRAVE NEWS REPORT

The News is a quarterly parish magazine delivered to all households in Chalgrave. It is self-funded and aims to cover news and issues related to the parish.

Contributors are asked to submit their reports promptly. Thanks are given to all the contributors including to those who have moved away.

Help delivering the magazine and help from anyone wishing to be involved would be welcome. Thanks went to the editorial team.

11. BOOK CLUB REPORT

The Book Club is still going strong with six members. We read a wide variety of books, some of which have been fantastic, others have drawn mixed reactions.

We take it in turns to host a meeting, which usually happens every four to six weeks. We chat and discuss the book over a coffee and cake. We also have an annual lunch. In January we went to The Cottage restaurant in Leighton Buzzard and had a fabulous lunch.

If anyone would like to join please contact Noeleen Thomson on 07899 094777.

12. SPORTS CLUB REPORT

Upcoming activities

Quiz Night; April 20th, 2024

Spring Golf Day; May 18th, 2024

Go-Karting

Ten Pin bowling and indoor golf are being considered

Ongoing activities

Mile a Day MAD 2024 challenge

5 km Park Run at Houghton Hall every month

Yoga: Currently Saturday mornings and Monday evenings. Monday evenings only after the summer holidays.

Golf days

The club raises money for local schools e.g. St George's Lower School.

13. CHALGRAVE MEMORIAL HALL

The Chairs are in their second year of post

- a) Introduction. The hall has been the centre of the parish since its inception hosting a variety of events including the Chalgrave Games and Pop-Up Tea Rooms. The hall committee is grateful for support from its own members and the Parish community.
- b) Finances. Running costs have been exceptional this year. Expenses include:
 - Updating the fire alarm system
 - Upgrading the electrics in the hall
 - Improving the exterior lighting
- c) Links with the Parish Council. The PC is receptive to adding a bleed kit to the defibrillator and working together on opportunities to obtain funding for the community from the Tebworth Solar Farm development.
- d) Children's Playground has been dismantled for health and safety reasons. Thanks to Roger Fenwick for undertaking this task. On behalf of the hall committee Frances Masters and Will Randall sought funding from the National Lottery. Unfortunately, the land has to be formally registered with Land Registry for the application to proceed, which is likely to incur significant legal costs.
- e) Bookings. Jane Spiers has taken over from Velda Cooke as Booking Secretary. The Chairs thanked Velda for her services.
- f) Website. The website will be refreshed in the coming months with more functionality and information for potential hirers.
- g) Chalgrave Games; Saturday, 13 July 2024. The theme is 'Traditional'.
- h) Invitation to join the hall committee or be a friend of the hall to help with specific events.

14. TIME AND DATE OF 2025 PARISH ASSEMBLY

To be arranged.

Formal meeting closed at 20.45

The public were then offered refreshments and given the opportunity to chat to councillors and guests.

Signed by Chair.....

Dated.....