

NORTH NIBLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD ON MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, NORTH NIBLEY AT 7.30 PM.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Mr K Brown (chairman)

Mrs J Burton

Mr K Larkin

Mr D Palmer

Mr D Purnell

Mr L Smitherman

Mr R Symons

District Councillors: Mr K Tucker

County Councillor: Dr J Cordwell

Clerk: Mrs E Oakley

The Burial Clerk and grant recipients as representatives of local organisations were in attendance. However other attendance was poor as one member of the public attended.

- 1. The Chairman opened the Meeting** and welcomed parishioners and councillors. Attendees were also welcome to stay on for the April Parish Council meeting following.
- 2. The Chairman invited apologies.** An apology had been received from District Cllr Mr G Butcher.
- 3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2017.** The Clerk reported that the Minutes had previously been displayed on the Parish Council notice boards and on the Council's website. The Chairman asked for the Minutes to be approved. **It was agreed** that the Minutes should be signed as a correct record. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman. The Clerk provided the Meeting with a verbal update on matters arising from the Meeting:
 - **Speed awareness programme.** The clerk reported two training sessions had run successfully in July 2017 after which six trainees were signed off as qualified. Councillors and volunteers then took part in local sessions to monitor speed at sites approved as safe by the Police. Subsequently other sites had been discussed as suitable for volunteers to monitor traffic and these await approval.
 - **Broadband.** The clerk reported the Parish Council continued to monitor the quality of the new broadband service and extended thanks to parishioners who had responded to the clerk's requests in OTE for individual reports on their experience of the service.
- 4. The Council's Annual Report for 2017/18.** The Chairman of the Parish Council read a synopsis of the Annual Report. (Report aside). He highlighted the council website launched in 2016 had seen a steady increase in visitors during 2017 and 2018. There were over 3,000 page views for the year ending March 2018. Following the sale of the Breakheart Hill land, a number of key improvements had been made to the cemetery and memorial garden to include a new memorial garden section, resurfacing of cemetery paths, and hedge and tree trimming. The council had also arranged the installation of a sign to request voluntary reserving of a parking space for cemetery and memorial garden visitors in the layby on Wotton Rd. Arrangements had been made for a new assistant to the Burial Clerk. She has facilitated day to day work of liaising with funeral directors, relatives and the organisation of burials and interments. The clerk continues to deal with the financial aspects of the cemetery. The council organised the annual "Village Clean-Up Day" on 17th March 2018 during which around 40 bags were collected. The council was successful in helping to ensure the two parish BT phone boxes were retained as active despite a national initiative by BT to close boxes overall.

The council had awarded grants to support local organisations in providing services to people in the Parish, has continued to contribute regularly to “On The Edge” as a means of keeping parishioners informed of the Council’s activities, has commented upon new Planning applications and Appeals to Stroud District Council and has contributed to the district authority consultation on Options and Issues for its future planning strategy. The council has received guidance from the district authority on exercising of dogs in public areas and will continue to monitor this issue within the parish, is due to receive assistance from a new internal auditor appointment this spring and has been advised of the appointment of a new external auditor for the 2017/18 annual review of council finances and practices.

The council continues to monitor the condition of parish footpaths and monitor hedges within the parish where growth may impact on public highways or rights of way, has renewed its membership of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils to access expertise, training provision, and networking events, has notified parishioners of key local events to include road closures with details posted on the council website. The chairman especially wished to thank the Burial Clerk, Marlene King, for all her work over many years. The chairman listed the council’s main Assets, (Report aside), confirming that Cllr Keith Larkin continues to serve on the Recreation Field Trust.

5. The Clerk provided an overview of how North Nibley Parish Council had spent its **Budget in 2017/18** in hard copy format. (Report aside). She stated figures were summaries of main categories of annual income and expenditure and still subject to audit. She highlighted annual income was composed of main elements of, the precept, a good income from the cemetery for the year, a land rental payment and a small wayleave payment. A major expenditure item was capital expenditure on two main cemetery and memorial garden improvements, the extension to the memorial garden and the resurfacing of cemetery paths. Capital expenditure on the cemetery and memorial garden was reflected in the **capital section** of the annual summary, whilst on-going general cemetery maintenance was shown in the **cemetery and churchyard section**. In response to a question from the meeting, the clerk confirmed income presented was in the format of main categories as adopted for meetings over the last few years. As such they did not include some additional income which was reflected in the overall income totals, for example from a grant for speed awareness equipment.

6. The Open Session. The Chairman announced a short break to enable those attending to read councillors’ written reports displayed around the room. The Chairman invited parishioners to raise questions of their elected representatives. In response to a question, the clerk and councillors confirmed the two parish phone boxes were still owned and operated by BT. However volunteers were welcome to assist with freshening them up and the clerk would invite assistance from an article in OTE. Whether this service could be paid for was raised by a member of the meeting stating the call for local volunteers was quite high for other activities. In reply to a question Cllr L Smitherman confirmed that the new village information board is nearly ready and should be completed and erected within the next few months.

7. The Chairman provided an outline of the Council’s plans for 2018/19 confirming there would be no increase to the 2018/19 Parish Precept over the previous year. The council retains sufficient reserves to meet its commitments under its risk management policy, and also additional reserves to enable some key new projects be considered to include further improvements to the fabric of the memorial garden.

In 2018/19 Council Year the Parish Council will:

Continue to explore options for affordable housing within the Parish and will communicate key development to parishioners through the council website and OTE reports. Will continue to monitor the condition of the cemetery and memorial garden with a view to further improvements to include a plinth as part of the memorial garden wall. Will review and update its Cemetery regulations to reflect the new facilities becoming available.

8. The Chairman invited the following local organisations to receive grant cheques from the Parish Council and explain to the meeting how they intend to use their grant. He also requested a further report from recipients when each grant is spent.

- **Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper. £50.** The recipient explained this was for weekly recordings of readings from the Gazette. As it was increasingly difficult to find enough content in The Gazette alone, the donation meant it would be possible to get hold of additional material. The recipients would like to see a digital version of OTE. There were currently no clients in North Nibley but if anyone at the meeting knew of anyone who is visually impaired, CVTN is a free service available through the post.
- **On The Edge. £300.** The recipient said that whilst the publication has an income from adverts, this doesn't cover the cost of printing and the grant would allow printing of colour pages. It cost £180 to print 360 copies, but with part colour sections, it cost half as much again.
- **North Nibley Primary school. £1,000.** The recipient explained she was a foundation governor. Last year's grant was for a noticeboard which was now about to be installed. The grant for this year would contribute to the building fund for a new classroom overall costing £80,000 to £100,000 for which parents would also be fund raising.
- **Citizens Advice Bureau. £100.** The recipient explained the grant would support the IT costs of a weekly outreach session in Wotton Under Edge. The CAB was the only place to get free confidential advice.
- **North Nibley Pre-School. £350.** As a representative was not able to attend the meeting the clerk would post the grant cheque as agreed for purchase of a play kitchen and tablet computer.

There being no further matters for discussion the Meeting closed at 8.30 pm. The Chairman thanked members of the public for their attendance and contributions.