

Sutton Benger Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Wednesday 15th April 2015 at the Village Hall, Sutton Benger

Present

Councillors: E Pope (Chair), D Alexander, N Davis, P Jones, and H Parry-Jones, K Pound, G Woodville

Also present: Linda Bragg, Parish Clerk, Cllr Howard Greenman, Kevin Watson and Ian Bell, Mark Ellis and 16 members of the public.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr K Smedley (holiday).

APM.1 ⁽¹⁵⁾ **Chair's Introduction**

Cllr Pope welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

APM.2 ⁽¹⁵⁾ **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 9th April 2014 were approved and signed.

APM.3 ⁽¹⁵⁾ **Review of the Year – the Parish Council**

Cllr Pope's report included:

- i. Planning matters dealt with by the Parish Council (PC), including Frampton Farm, Arms Farm and The Park.
- ii. Thanks given to Jane Verspeak for her work on obtaining the defibrillators for the village, one of which was sponsored by the PC; the PCC for welcoming newcomers to the village; the Playpark Refurbishment Sub-committee (PRSC) for their efforts in improving the playpark; the Clerk for all her hard work and support; the Speedwatch group for their work; the Tree Warden for looking after and advising the PC on the trees within the parish. Lastly, she thanked all the Councillors for their continuing support.

The PC were successful in getting the 20mph limit in Chestnut Road approved by Wilts Council.

There was a new Noticeboard in Sutton Benger at The Post Office in The Bell.

The Clerk is undertaking the CiLCA qualification.

There is to be a litter bin installed at the bus shelter.

The Wiltshire Council Housing Group Survey was distributed to all parishioners.

The S106 monies for the bus stop from The Park development had been received and she outlined what it could and couldn't be used for.

- iii. She emphasised the need to fill the three spaces for Parish Councillors and explained some of the requirements needed and put out a request for people to come forward. Areas specifically needing Cllrs for included Planning, Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), Personnel, Chippenham Area Transport Group (CATG) and Emergency Planning.
- iv. A financial update for 2014-15 was given and an explanation that the seemingly large sum of money in the kitty was inflated by the S106 monies. A question was raised from the public on whether the additional houses in the village contributed to the increase in the precept – Cllr Pope advised that they had.

APM.4 ⁽¹⁵⁾ **Neighbourhood Development Plan– Presentation by Kevin Watson and Ian Bell, Christian Malford NDP Team**

Kevin Watson and Ian Bell gave a presentation on their NDP. Various questions were asked about the process, assistance received from Wiltshire Council and available funding.

Cllr Pope thanked them for their presentation.

There was a short break in proceedings.

APM.5 ⁽¹⁵⁾ **Wiltshire Council**

County Cllr H Greenman gave an update on issues from Wiltshire Council including:

- Sutton Benger is designated as a large village and a NDP would be useful in determining future developments.
- The need for a shop within the village should be addressed in future planning applications.
- The implication that the planning application for The Range in Chippenham would have on the wider Chippenham area.
- Figures for the housing requirements in Wiltshire from the Wiltshire Core Strategy were 42,000 extra homes by 2026 – 16,500 of which had already been built and plans for a further 20,300 were in place.
- The formation and purpose of the Parish Forum, which he chairs, as a separate entity from the Chippenham Area Board. They are a good opportunity for rural parishes to network and discuss common concerns.
- The pressures put on Wilts Council in respect of the numbers of people migrating to the County and the number of over 80s putting increasing pressure on front-line services.
- The council tax 0% rise again this year, paying for garden waste removal, pot-holes and flood defences.
- The one-stop shop offices for all services in WC wer being introduced across the County.

A full copy of Cllr Greenman’s report forms part of these minutes and is available on request from the Clerk and the PC website.

Questions were raised on the following matters:

- High speed broadband – how can it be improved;
- How WC will benefit from Lyneham re-opening.
- Repairs to the High Street, Sutton Benger.

Cllr Pope thanked Cllr Greenman for his update.

Question Time

There was an informal Question Time where the Parish Councillors mingled with the members of the public answering questions.

Meeting ended at 21.45 hrs

Next Meeting Date

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 13th May 2015 commencing 19:45.

Chairman..... **Date**.....