

# BUCKLAND NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

**Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**at 8.00pm The Parish Room, Buckland Newton**

**Present:** Nicki Barker, Mark Needham, Chris Osmond, John Baker, Lin Townsend, Mark Hammick, Rodney Cuff Parish Clerk – Vanessa Wellstead

**1. Apologies:** Andy Foot, Trevor Marpole, John Baker

**2. Welcome by Vice Chair:**

Cllr Barker welcomed electors to the meeting and highlighted some of the items that the Parish Council have been involved with over the last year which included:

1. No increase in this year's precept of £5775.
2. We continue to manage Sir William Ackroyd's Legacy prudently.
3. The children's play area is now 18 months old and is continuing to prove popular. We have found a different company to inspect it at a much reduced cost.
4. Charlie Gorton has constructed 2 beautiful oak notice boards. One is located adjacent to the play area and was paid for out of the Play Area Sustainability Grant. The second is located on the wall of the shop and the PC has shared 50% of the cost with the shop.
5. PLAYING FIELD: We reappointed the County Council Grounds Maintenance Team to cut the playing field as this is the most economic option at £552/year and they do a good job
6. Rodney Cuff strims all the other more difficult areas.
7. As planned a small iron gate of similar design, was installed in April adjacent to the field gate, opposite the school. This has a removable common post so we now have the ability to access the field with large machinery. In March this year we have had the main iron gate shot blasted, repaired and repainted to match.
8. The intention is to have the rest of the iron railings prepared for painting later this year. In order to save funds we are hoping to arrange a group of volunteers from the village to carry out the painting. We are waiting for an improvement in weather for this to get started.
9. The hedge on the western boundary has for a long time been overdue for hedge laying. We have had a number of quotes for doing the whole boundary and in order to stay within our precept budget we are doing it in 3 tranches, spread over this year and next 2 years.
10. Cllr Rodney Cuff has created an "in keeping" cycle rack out of a large fallen log. This has been installed adjacent to the children's play area.
11. ALLOTMENTS: These are continuing to prove popular and the PC continues to act as the intermediary between rent collection from the Allotment Holders Committee and rent payment to the County Council. The annual rent being £250.
12. OUTREACH POST OFFICE: We have been keeping a "Watching Brief" on the endless troubles with particularly the Outreach equipment. In February this year we organized a visit by Oliver Letwin and the PO representative Ms Tarling to see at first hand the issues. This resulted in a temporary improvement, but the equipment problems are back again. The Parish Council will be writing a further letter to Ms Tarling and recently have again advised Oliver Letwin of the issues.
13. B3143 RURAL ROADS SCHEME: Cllr Jill Haynes has advised us that the funding is still in place for some of the improvements to take place. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May members of the PC met with DCC officers to look again at the proposed changes. These will come back to us for consultation in the near future.
14. In Cosmore the entrance gates to the 50mph zone were finally installed.
15. Submission of planning comments.
16. AFFORDABLE HOUSES: Lydden Meadow was finally completed at the end of July and all 10 houses were occupied by residents and families with a strong local connection by early September. This is a project that the PC have supported strongly throughout its long 7 years coming to fruition and the 10 houses represent a legacy that will remain the property of the village for the future.

Once the build costs have been paid off in ca. 20 years time, the rent will provide a very significant income to the village. The houses are managed on behalf of the Parish by Buckland Newton Community Property Trust.

17. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** This is an important issue for us as a PC to head up. Under the new planning arrangements it gives us the potential to have some real control over how the village develops in the future, rather than being at the end of a developer's or Government planners whim. It is not an easy route and Cllr John Baker has shouldered the responsibility to drive it forward. The PC kicked it off with a village open meeting last September with Jo Witherden from WDDC explaining the rationale and route forward, Oliver Letwin giving us a Government overview and Cllr Horsington from Cerne Abbas, where a prototype is being trialed explaining the many difficulties and pitfalls. Since then a working group has been formed and much effort has gone in to establish what exists at present, before ideas get floated as to the way forward. It is essential to engage residents throughout the whole Parish and at each milestone, the group intend to inform and gather responses from Parishioners.

### **3. Matters raised by Electors**

- 3.1 Charlie Gorton attended the meeting to talk about the ongoing problems with the Outreach Post Office service.

Over the last few weeks, the outdated equipment has failed on several occasions forcing customers to go elsewhere for a Post Office service.

A significant drop in numbers of people using the Outreach Service could affect its future.

The Parish Council agreed that an efficient Outreach Post Office is very important and provides a much needed service for the local community. A system that is not fit for purpose is unacceptable.

*Parish Clerk to send follow up email to the Post Office*

### **4. Play Area**

1. Cllr Marpole had organised a quote to replace two fence posts and to install mesh around the base of the play area fence at a cost of £130 plus vat. The councillors agreed to go ahead.

*Proposed MH Secoded RC AIF*

2. Cllr Cuff had tightened the zip wire.

### **5. Post Office**

See item 3.1

### **6. Neighbourhood Plan**

No update on progress until next month's meeting.

### **7. B3143 - Rural Roads Scheme**

An onsite meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May with representatives from the Council.

Several options were discussed particularly with regard to the footpath. It was generally agreed that the footpath should be constructed on the opposite side of the road to the shop as originally planned.

There was also a suggestion to lay different coloured tarmac at the crossroads.

The centre white line would need to be removed where the footpath is installed.

Designs are to be drawn up and should be presented to the Parish Council at a later date.

The meeting was then concluded at 8.43pm

**Next meeting Tuesday, 12th June 2012 at 8:00pm, Parish Room**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_