

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Drayton Parslow Parish held in the Sports & Social Club
on Monday 24th April 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. D. Perry, Chairman
Cllr. M. Thum, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. A. Batley
Cllr. S. Colborne-Baber
Cllr. H. Harvey
Cllr. P. Moore
Cllr. S. Spavins

Also present: Deborah O'Brien, Minute-taker; Mr R. Wemyss; Mr L. Colby; Mr L. Fahy; PC P. Duthie

1. **Receive Apologies:** Mrs K Foley (DPSSC) , Mr. J. Perry (PCC), County Cllr Janet Blake and District Cllrs Neil Blake & Ben Everitt submitted their apologies
2. **To confirm the minutes** of the last meeting - The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 25th April 2016 were confirmed as a true record.
3. **Chairman Cllr David Perry welcomed those in attendance and submitted the following report:**

General

Our clerk has achieved CILCA PG2013 which allowed us to adopt a General Power of Competence.

Our former website suffered an outage due to the old version of the CMS it was built on, this has been replaced with two new wordpress sites, one for the Parish Council and the other for the balance of village societies etc.

It was RESOLVED that the Precept request for 2017/2018 should be £30,860.00 which is an increase of 10% or £0.20p per week per tax band D household due to anticipated costs.

Broadband

We continue to wait for fibre to be lit in the village, despite some activity during the second half of 2016, civils permits expired, and we have no clear guidance on when the service will be up and running. This is a source of some frustration due to the level of raised expectations created by AV Broadband.

BT have pulled fibre to the area of the existing cabinet in Church end, but show no signs of installing the new cabinet required to support the VDSL equipment. BT has requested match funding to do any work in the village, but Gigaclear 'may' be an option. UK Village were also contacted but they have no immediate plans in this area.

Planning

We have seen continued interest in new developments for the village, with one substantial development of 24 homes proposed and expected to go for planning in the coming weeks. Partly as a result of this an initiative is underway to produce a neighbourhood plan which, in conjunction with the pending Vale of Aylesbury Plan would allow us to stipulate the number of additional houses we might accept and to have control over where they will be built. This is likely to take another 18 months or so, during which time developers are able to apply for planning subject only to the saved policies of the former AVDLP.

Residents are monitoring the pig farm for odours, and periodic reports to the environment agency when rubbish burning takes place.

We have an illegal temporary home on the edge of the parish boundary and are waiting for enforcement to have it removed.

Bucks CC

We have successfully operated our first season of outsourced mowing in the village with better results than the previous Bucks contractor.

Potholes continue to be a nuisance and the general lack of budget as an excuse frustrates us all when we are looking for Bucks to step up to its obligations. The area outside the pub is of concern, and we had requests to improve the area around the mid-village bus stop, neither of which were supported. We have to bully Bucks to cut back the vision splays at the crossroads.

In general we are not impressed by the unitary proposal from Bucks, in no small part because it has unrealistic assumptions about the level of community involvement required to make it work and general budgetary concerns over the long term ability to deliver services using current models.

Traffic

The PC undertook a traffic study, supported by a 50% LAF grant. This did not offer any magic bullet to the problems with speeding and parking around the school, but it does provide a framework for the various options open to use to fund, the majority of which are prohibitively expensive.

Recreation

We have been involved in a protracted effort to normalise the boundaries of PC land at the recreation ground. Carrington have supported this, provided we meet the costs, but we have had significantly poor service from our solicitors, which is ongoing at this time. We will be seeking some form of redress from the partners or the ombudsman in due course.

Carrington are amenable to a longer lease on the upper rec which would be useful as we proceed with planning for grant applications for its levelling.

The MUGA has been re-sanded to refresh the playing surface, and we have replaced the nets over the goal ends which had broken.

Mowing by the cricket club of the rec continues satisfactorily.

We have been able to continue post office services in the village after the retirement of Paula who previously operated the mobile service for Swanbourne. We hope that the village will use the service so we can continue to enjoy it. The postmaster is also able to provide shop supplies as he runs a retail shop with his home post office in Deanshanger.

There was no fireworks display this year after last year's accident. This is unlikely to resume, unfortunately.

We have had a case of criminal damage to the fence at the lower rec by an individual who was locked in. Unfortunately the village witness has not been prepared to give evidence for fear of reprisal so it will not go to trial. The Parish Council is resolved to pursue the individual through civil courts, assuming the police will give their name and address.

Community

We invested in commemorative medals for the queens 90th birthday which were provided to all the children in the village.

4. Mr Richard Wemyss gave a report on behalf of the Greenacre Hall Committee:

The Committee would like to thank the Parish Council for using the Hall for meetings and thus supporting it for the last 15 years. The Hall is breaking even financially. They are in need of additional Committee members. The Committee would like to make use of S106 monies for the hall – they are aware that it cannot be used for electronic blinds but would like to investigate its availability for Short-mat indoor bowls. (The Clerk advised that if costings and details are provided she will enquire of the S106 officer). They are also looking to develop usage through yoga classes.

5. Mr Wemyss also reported on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC wishes to thank the Parish Council for its continued support of £750 donation towards mowing costs.

6. Mr Lionel Colby reported on behalf of the Cricket Club:

Mr Colby thanked the Parish Council and the Sports & Social Club for its continued help. The season will start on 28th April and continue until early September. The teams consist of many players from outside the village. There will be a Cricket Club Ball on 9th September – information can be obtained from Barrie & Sarah Norman.

The Cub members are still mowing the upper rec area – approx. 100 hours per season ; the facilities available are much appreciated. They are still looking at levelling and drainage and Mr Colby is to re-assess the quotes ensuring they provide for extensive drainage. The ditch between the rec and Denne's requires hedging and ditching which will hopefully improve drainage.

7. PC Phil Duthie gave a report:

There were 8 recordable crimes in Drayton Parslow in the last year – 2 were burglaries (Sheds); 4 criminal damage; 1 drug offence and 1 theft. He commented on the damage done to the recreation car park fence – prosecution has been unsuccessful due to the lack of independent witness to corroborate events.

The subject of drones was raised and he advised that these are illegal if flown on the rec (distance and population proximity) and he recommended a notice stating this.

8. Report via e-mail from Mrs Kirsty Foley, Drayton Parslow Sports & Social Club (DPSSC)

Lots of change at the Sports & Social club –resulting in a significant improvement on our situation last year.

Firstly we have an amazing new Treasurer – Alan Batley. Alan's input has been phenomenal, he has a strong steer on our finances, and has been leading the way with driving improvements to the way the club operates e.g. the soon-to-be-installed EPOS system, which will take our till out of the dark ages and into the realms of being able to accurately measure sales vs purchases. We cannot express how delighted we are to have Alan on the team, and how grateful we are to him for taking on the Treasurer role (and for doing such a fantastic job at it). Alan has also vastly improved communication and team-working between the club and the Village Hall (with whom we share a number of bills / costs e.g. Gas and PAT testing), and there is potential to link in with the Pub.

The second biggest change would be our long-term hire booking - Abbey Smith Bridge Club. A long-term booking could not have come at a better time for us, and has almost single-handedly transformed our financial situation, turning us from a club that was facing financial doom, to one that should break even and might even (touch wood) make a (marginal) profit this Financial Year.

In terms of Events, sadly we had to cancel our March Comedy Night due to poor ticket sales.

However, the Family Quiz Night organised by Linda, Sally and the VPA team, was a great success and the clubhouse was filled with families enjoying themselves. We are hoping for good weather, and strong support, at the Easter Egg hunt, again organised by the Fedoriws for the benefit of the village families. Sarah Norman is already planning the Cricket ball in September, which is sure to be a fabulous night (this year we will make sure no rogue Champagne bottles end up blocking the Village Hall gutters.....).

We are delighted to welcome back the mobile Post Office. Hopefully, once their presence is advertised, they will get some customers up on a Tuesday afternoon! Thanks to the Parish Council for supporting this via our rent payments. We are also grateful to Deborah for producing such a lovely Village Website, which helps us advertise our presence beyond our current reliance on Village News and posters through the village.

Overall, a much better picture than the one we had to present last year. Fingers crossed for a glorious Summer, with lots of Cricket drinking and a busy VPA to give a strong boost to our Summer takings. Our AGM is set for Wednesday 3rd May 2017.

9. Report via e-mail from County Cllr Janet Blake:

Challenging times continue for the Authority with significant reductions in central government grant of over 40% in the last five years. This impacts all services commissioned and provided by the County Council from domiciliary care for the elderly, child protection for our most vulnerable youngsters through to home to school transport, SEN provision, libraries, roads and footpaths and much more. Road repairs and maintenance continue to be the main focus for parishes in my division which has a large network of mainly rural class C and unclassified roads. Many of these roads are in very poor condition and have been underfunded for many years. BCC and other local authorities continue to

lobby government with some success – authorities nationally were awarded a pothole repair fund but it's a drop in the ocean compared to the extent of the problem and is very thinly spread across the whole of the county.

East West Rail is generally agreed to be of benefit in terms of offering better connectivity and a boost to the local economy. BCC will be seeking the best mitigation for villages and residents affected by any local construction phase issues. The County Council's strategic planning department has been involved in producing infrastructure and sustainability plans to support the District Councils with their local plans.

At the end of last year the County Council submitted its proposal to the Secretary of State to become a unitary authority for the county. The District Councils have submitted a proposal for two unitary authorities – one in the south of the county and one in the north. A decision is awaited from the Secretary of State but this may be delayed due to the forthcoming general election.

**10. Report via e-mail from District Cllr Neil Blake:
Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP).**

The draft VALP went out for consultation last summer and is now being finalised for its progress through Scrutiny, Cabinet and finally Council in July. The final housing number is likely to be in the region of 28,000 and this is made up of our own needs (19,500) plus the unmet needs of neighbouring authorities – mainly in the south of the County. We've fought hard to ensure that the southern Districts in Bucks meet as much of their own needs as possible by utilising areas of green belt and their agreement to this has kept AVDC's overall requirement as low as possible. The starting point for our plan is 2013 so any houses built, or given planning permission, since then will count as part of the 27,000. The latest figure accounts for over half of the overall requirement. The main area for housing growth will be around Aylesbury and with the town having been granted Garden Town status there will be funds available from Central Government to enable us to prepare feasibility studies in respect of green spaces, leisure facilities, design and infrastructure projects to link the new houses to the town centre and provide roads to take through traffic round the town.

Town Centre Development.

Work has started on the next phase of redeveloping Aylesbury Town Centre. This will consist of four new restaurants with 47 residential units above. There will also be an attractive public realm area (financed by the Government's Local Growth Fund) that'll attract increased footfall into the town. A deal with our development partner, Durkan, will mean that AVDC will retain ownership of the restaurants – providing us with a rental income which will help to offset the continuing loss of Government grants.

Unitary Debate.

The four District Councils have submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State to change the governance in Bucks. Under that proposal the County will be split into two new unitary authorities – one covering the area of Aylesbury Vale and the other covering the area currently administered by the three "southern" Districts. There are significant differences between the north and south of the County and we believe that those differences can be more effectively managed by introducing new governance arrangements "north and south". The County Council had previously submitted a proposal for a new single unitary for Bucks that would do away with the District Councils. The Secretary of State will decide which of the two proposals to approve but the timescale of that decision is not yet known.

Commercial AVDC.

The Council has continued to push ahead with its aim of being a much more commercially minded organisation. We've led the way in many areas including migrating nearly all of our systems to "The Cloud" (working with Amazon Web Services), introducing "My Account" and webchat which enable residents to access a range of information 24/7, expanding the success of the Vale Lottery so that over 140 organisations are now benefiting financially from the scheme, transforming our services to make them more efficient and cost-effective, selling goods and services to residents and businesses through Limecart and IncGen and providing ultra-fast broadband to rural areas through Aylesbury Vale Broadband (AVB). It's been a testing year for AVB and we've been on a massive learning curve. We've attracted significant competition since we started trading and that's meant that we've had to change our original plans more than once during the year as other operators have sought to move into the areas in which we planned to work. However, we now have a number of villages in which we have our main fibre supply installed so we're entering a consolidation phase where we're going back

to each of those villages to connect up individual properties. I'd like to thank villages such as Drayton Parslow for being so patient over the past few months but I'm sure the unscheduled, and frustrating, wait will be worth it when you're up and running with speeds of up to 300Mbps or more.

Over the past 12 months we've held three conferences for other local authorities around the country to learn how we've managed to cope with the loss of grants. We're now working with many of them, on a consultancy basis, so that they can implement our ideas and start making similar savings to those that we've achieved (£16m over the past six years).

I'm really sorry that I can't be with you this evening but if you'd like more information on anything in this report please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cllr Perry thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.