

NOT YET RATIFIED

GREAT RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 3 May 2016 at the Great Rissington Club

Present: Parish Councillors Richard Cleverly (Chairman), John Durrant, Clive Billing, Colin Campbell, Liz Bannister, Natasha Surch, Michael Saunders (Parish Clerk). Local Government Electors (14).

In attendance: District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington.

1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Elizabeth and Jeremy Meyrick sent their apologies of absence due to Elizabeth's ill health. Prior to this, Elizabeth had confirmed to all Councillors of her decision to stand down as Chairman and Councillor. The Parish Council Clerk was then asked by all members of the Parish Council to write a letter to express gratitude for Elizabeth's many years of service to the Council and sorrow at the news of Elizabeth's ill health.

Councillor Moore expressed his apologies for absence by email with his report included. See Appendix A.

As acting Chairman, Richard Cleverly asked if there were any financial interests to be declared. No such declarations were made.

2 Election of Chairman

Richard Cleverly was proposed by John Durant and seconded by Clive Billing. No objections were raised. Richard was therefore announced as Chairman. Richard accepted the role stating his intention to keep it for approximately one year.

3 Election of Vice Chairmen

Clive Billing was proposed by Colin Campbell and seconded by John Durrant. No objections were raised to this proposition and so Clive was appointed Vice Chairman.

4 Ratification of (a) Parish Clerk, (b) Financial officer and (c) Tree Warden

The Chairman expressed thanks to the outgoing parish clerk, Graham Ramsay, for his service to the council over the past 3.5 years as outgoing Parish Clerk. A letter of thanks from Elizabeth Meyrick was given to Graham for his service to the council.

a & b) Michael Saunders was confirmed in post of both Parish Clerk and Financial Officer on a voluntary basis.

c) After stating his intention to continue as Tree Warden, Mark Darwent remains in this role on a voluntary basis. The Chairman thanked Mark for his on-going work in this role.

5 Minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairmen as an accurate record.

6 Matters arising

In light of planning approval for the application regarding the development of Waterbank despite strong representations made by the Parish Council, Colin Campbell expressed his concerns for the Parish Council's role in commenting on planning applications. Vice Chairman Clive Billing remarked that this approval happened despite the concerns raised by the Parish Council, remarking that there is nothing the council can do to help their neighbours if concerns are raised at meetings. District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington stated his agreement with Colin's concerns adding that Parishes have very little say regarding these matters and that this is a matter for planning law itself. Colin Campbell will write a letter to The Cotswolds MP, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown regarding the issue. This action was agreed by other councillors with a support from Clive Billing and a second from Chairman Richard Cleverly.

7 Accounts and financial matters

The financial Annual Return for 2015-16 was agreed by the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked David Turnbull for fulfilling the role of internal auditor.

The monthly accounts spread sheet was read and signed by Chairman Richard Cleverly as an accurate document.

8 Planning

None raised

9 Correspondence

None raised

10 Any other business

Clive Billing confirmed that the application to procure the telephone box has been submitted and a 90 day process is now in train.

11 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Great Rissington Club on 7 June 2016.

Minutes of The Annual Parish meeting held at 7:15 on Tuesday, 3 May 2016 at the Great Rissington Club

1 Report from District Councillor

District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington presented a report which included the proposal for Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Councils to be merged into a unitary authority and some significant local developments. A summary of his report is attached at Appendix B.

2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report by Elizabeth Meyrick was read by the Parish Clerk, Michael Saunders. The report contained a summary of the Parish Council's activity since the beginning of the previous tax year from April 2015.

3 Open Session

a) Sheila Jesson pointed out that there are two points of view to a planning application. Clive Billing wished to make clear that his issue with the planning approval was not an attempt to reverse planning approval for Waterbank but that this was the catalyst to make him ask 'what is the point of the Parish Council in representing the community voting unanimously against something if that vote is ignored.'

b) A concern was raised regarding the poor condition of a verge outside of Gunn House. John Durrant suggested that a letter be written by the Parish Clerk to the residents of Gunn House. This would request the residents to inform the builders of the damage and ask that this be repaired.

c) In the light of the proposed merger of Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Councils into a unitary authority, the question was raised as to how this will be determined. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington stated that he did not know and that it would be done purely to increase efficiency, if possible.

d) In the light of speculated changes to merge the Cotswold and Oxfordshire Council, the question was raised regarding who decides county autonomy. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington stated that he did not know and that it would be done purely to increase efficiency, if possible.

e) Helen Spooner expressed concern regarding the high number of traffic signs placed throughout the village. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington believes that the appropriate number of signs on a road is determined by the county council's Highways department. Elizabeth Bannister asked Mark MacKenzie-Charrington how Little Rissington got their 20 MPH speed restriction. Mark MacKenzie-Charrington explained that this process took three years and constant fund raising to have these signs put in place.

f) Colin Surch expressed concern at the plans for the grassing over of the green outside Great Rissington Primary School. The Chairman said this had been determined by a Parish Council vote some time ago. John Durrant said the decision was taken to prevent the erosion of the green by cars being parked on the land. Colin Campbell stated that since the green has had work done, erosion of the green has stopped and there has been less damage done by vans.

The meeting was closed by Chairman Richard Cleverly at 19:47

Appendix A

Local Highways Budget

- VAS on the approach from Upper Rissington
- Replacement village sign on the approach from Bourton on the Water

These items are all included in my budget for 2016/17 and I regret the delay in their delivery.

GCC Highways Maintenance

Water egressing from a property known as Waterbank . GCC discussing the issue with the builders to determine a solution.

Blocked gullies -Gullies have been emptied and jetted but additional work is required on the outfall ditches.

Refresh H markings by the Lamb Inn and enter new markings by The Green as recently agreed with the parish council.

Lengthmen`s Project: Week Commencing 16th May 2016

- Cleaning of all traffic/direction signs in and around the village
- General review of potholes
- Cut verges on Heaven Field side in Rectory Lane
- Clear gravel dislodged by recent heavy rain from road.

Appendix B

April 2016 Annual Parish Meetings

The Rissingtons

District Councillor's Report

1)

- Do you know what this flag represents? *Gloucestershire* with a county motto of *Prorsum Semper – Ever Forward*
- Gloucestershire, a non-metropolitan county made up of 862,000 residents living in 25 principal settlements from Chipping Campden in the north to Wotton-under-Edge in the south. In addition there is South Gloucestershire which became a Unitary Authority 20 years ago.
- The Gloucestershire that we live in is governed by the County Council under which there are 6 distinct districts:
 - Gloucester City
 - Tewkesbury
 - Cheltenham
 - Cotswolds
 - Stroud
 - Forest of Dean
- These districts have responsibility for overseeing;
 - Housing
 - Planning
 - Leisure & recreation
 - Waste collection
 - Environmental Health
 - Revenue collection – Council Tax
- Politically the region is represented by 6 MPs and our region of the Cotswolds has a population of circa 84,640 in one of the largest constituencies in the country or 450 square miles.
- The GVA or Gross Value Added by Gloucestershire can be broken down as follows;
 - Agriculture 2%
 - Industry 28%
 - Services 70%
- This is all a preamble to the big question on the horizon as to whether as a county we go for Devolution or here in the Cotswolds we go for Unitary government with West Oxfordshire.
- The case for Devolution is that we get greater control over how our public resources are spent. Crucially local government finances are becoming unsustainable with ever decreasing support from Central Government with a fall of 13.9% in 2015/16 and an ever increasing demand from our aging population and demand for better children services which have grown by 14.5% over the same period. By being independent we can retain our locally raised funding and put them to the local need, not the dictate from Westminster.
 - A number of the strategic aims of the many County Councils wishing to take this route are:
 - Long-term Financial Settlement – budget of at least 5 years not annually

- EU Structural Funds – to have complete strategic control over EU funds
 - Council Tax – end the Council Tax referendum policy and grant power to hold revaluations. Review the number of bands and ratios from band to band and set the tax rate.
 - Business Rate Retention – 100% of Business Rate growth to be retained locally.
 - Stamp Duty – retain all Stamp Duty on new dwellings built in the country area to be retained and reinvested in affordable housing and associated infrastructure.
 - Fuel Duty – To explore the local retention of a proportion of Fuel Duty to address specific local infrastructure & transport issues.
- The contrasting route is to join with West Oxfordshire, with whom we already have a very close and good working relationship, and establish a Unitary authority. The CDC currently share many of the main administrative roles including Chief Executive, Legal Services & waste collection through Ubico. These proactive moves have meant that the CDC has been able to maintain their front line services while receiving less from Central Government as well as actually reducing the District Council's share of Council Tax by 25% over the last 3 years.
- The responsibilities that a Unitary authority could take over include:
 - Education
 - Strategic Planning
 - Transport Planning
 - Public Transport
 - Highways
 - Fire Service
 - Social Services
 - Libraries
 In addition to those that the District Councils already manage and which I referred to earlier.
- It has been emphasised naturally that we will still be a region within Gloucestershire, not part of Oxfordshire, where incidentally virtually all their District Councils are going down the Unitary route with neighbouring, cross county border, communities.
 - As you can imagine the County Councillors in Gloucester are all up in arms at the idea we in the Cotswolds might break away. Likewise the leadership of the CDC feel that under a Unitary authority with West Oxfordshire that a far better service can be delivered to our respective communities. The whole thing is now being evaluated to see what the financial as well as practical benefits pan out and by the end of the summer I'm sure we will know much more and I hope we will be given the opportunity to voice our respective opinions.

2)

- 637 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, RAF Little Rissington, Upper Rissington
Waiting for feedback from Squadron Leader Woolridge about when flying will recommence. It had been suggested that it would have been so by now but the delays may be caused by operational requirements as well as waiting till the new 45 bed accommodation block is completed as well as the flight simulator installed. Initially there will be 4 gliders but with the intention of increasing this to 8.

Flying will be between dawn & dusk, mainly at weekends, public holidays and week days over seasonal holiday periods.

Flight paths will vary so no one village takes the brunt of it, depending on wind directions.

3)

- Badham Pharmacy, Upper Rissington.
The responses to the research have now been received both electronically as well as by hard copy. They are now being compiled into a research document that will form the basis of an appeal to GCC NHS Panel for a hearing in June

- Nursery School Upper Rissington
I will be as much as a month before CDC planning is in a position to decide whether they will accept the change of use from B1 employment use to residential in Delfin Way. At this time of year the CDC look at all the planning consents over the last year and are therefore able to calculate the loss or gain in employment space. Depending on the outcome it will influence their professional decision on applications such as this.

Without a consent to the change of use there will no longer be an offer on the table from the developers to gift the £300,000 needed to build the new facility. In the meanwhile the governors of the Great Rissington & Upper Rissington schools have gone ahead with a planning application for the new facility within the new school's grounds.

4)

- A429 or Fosse Way

As I reported to the last Parish Council meeting a task force has been set up by County Councillors Nigel Moor and Paul Hodgkinson to study in detail the many safety and other issues along the entire length from Warwickshire to Wiltshire.

Meetings have been held down the entire length and local concerns noted. These will be put into a Draft Report which we will be able to comment on before its finalised and put to the County Council.

The time scale is the Draft Report should be ready by the end of May with the final report going forward before the end of the summer.

5)

- Cotswold District Local Plan – Submission 19

The latest stage of the Local Plan is now ready to be considered at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting next Thursday 21st April. This is the Draft Document that will, following any further minor amendments, finally go to Central Government early in the Autumn for ratification towards the middle of next year.

Looking at the local communities interestingly Bourton's retail centre is ranked 3rd in the District and surprisingly above Moreton & Tetbury. The Local Plan does not make allowances for any more housing owing to the high number of consents that have come forward since 2011. The same could be said for Stow and Upper Rissington

MMC/18th April 2016