

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Drayton Parslow Parish held at Greenacre Hall  
on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr. D. Perry, Chairman  
Cllr. M. Thum, Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. H. Harvey  
Cllr. C. Lester  
Cllr. P. Moore  
Cllr. S. Spavins

**Also present:** Deborah O'Brien, Minute-taker; No members of the Public

1. **Receive Apologies:** to accept apologies for absence - Cllr S. Colborne-Baber
2. **To confirm the minutes** of the last meeting - The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 20th May 2013 were confirmed as a true record.
3. Chairman Cllr David Perry welcomed those in attendance and gave the following report:

**The Recreation Ground – a gathering place for all**

Continued investment in the recreation ground and facilities around it are creating a wonderful multi-use experience for all in the village. Recent upgrades by the Sports and Social club committee together with a major refit to the rear area, with decking and a safe play area combined with tea and cakes from the Pavilion café make the area an increasingly popular venue for all age groups. With the bar open all tastes are catered for. If you haven't been down to the Sports and Social club recently you should really give it a try.

We have added a kissing gate to make access to the wonderful country walks behind our village more accessible, as well as a proper latch to the play area gate to prevent young children barrelling through the gate and out towards the road. We have also installed lighting on the path from the Sports and Social club so that those enjoying the facilities, particularly in the winter months can safely navigate their way on foot to the main road.

**New equipment for play area**

We are delighted to report that work will shortly start on a major upgrade to the children's play area. Using funds available from the Fox Lane development we have been successful in gaining a grant from WREN to support an investment in children's play equipment. Work is due to start in early July and should be complete in time for the summer holidays. The area will be closed during the work, however it will be well worth it, with a range of new play equipment targeted at our youngest residents.

**Village AED**

Sadly we don't have a red telephone box, however having found out that our unfashionable BT box was rarely used we have been able to adopt it from BT for the princely sum of £1. If you look today you'll see that it is now housing our new village Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

With an AED in place in conjunction with the use of CPR, the chances of surviving a sudden heart attack are dramatically increased, incredibly by 75% or more! Hopefully we will never need it, but by having an AED in our village we may just save a neighbour's life.

The AED is designed to be used by a lightly trained user, it will only fire if the patient has a heart problem that a shock can help with and it provides spoken instructions to the user.

Nevertheless it's better to be trained on how to use it, please contact your parish councillor if you would like training on this lifesaving equipment.

**Dog Bins**

Thank you to the many dog walkers of the village who pick up after their charges and use the dog bins. Unfortunately we still have owners who are leaving their animals' efforts in situ, causing a

nuisance and health hazard to others, particularly young children whose health can be permanently damaged by parasites in the Faeces.

We would also ask those who take the trouble to bag the waste not to leave it on fences for other people to pick up, which is pretty anti-social if you think about it, and also please don't put it in litter bins. The litterbin by the MUGA is emptied by volunteers who don't appreciate liquid poo escaping into their cars, and there is a dog bin only 30 metres away on the path to the sports and social club. We are adding an additional dog bin for the walkers who use Highway and the path behind Bargate farm, so please from now on pick up and when you do, please don't leave bags hanging on the fence.

### **New mower for the Rec**

After a poor record with our last mower, including a memorable cricket match against Mursley last year when there was a worry that smaller members of the cricket team might be lost in the long grass of the outfield, the Parish Council and Cricket Club have come together in a new arrangement for maintenance of the recreation field. We have purchased a new Hayter Triple sit-on mower, which can cut the recreation ground and the play area to a high standard. By using volunteers and superior equipment we are now able to cut 2-3 times per week rather than once per fortnight at a lower cost. Give our cutting volunteers a wave when you see them on the field! Drayton Parslow cricket is now played on a rolling carpet with professional looking stripes! Come down and take a look and enjoy a beer or a cup of tea at the Sports and Social club and Pavilion Café.

### **More on Grass cutting**

I am sure that many of you wonder about what is supposed to happen with regards to cutting the grass verges in Drayton Parslow. Those who talk to the contractors on the rare occasions when they can be found in the village are bemused by the answers, particularly when compared to what is supposed to happen!

There are two local government bodies, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. Cutting the verges inside and outside the 30 mph limit is the responsibility of Bucks on behalf of the Highways Authority. We are supposed to get 6 cuts per year inside the 30 MPH limit and 2 outside it, although they can make exceptions for dangerous junctions such as the crossroads. In the past (but not today) they subcontracted this work to AVDC, but no longer. There is a definitive map of the areas to be cut that you can see at this web location:

<http://maps.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/Localview/Sites/grasscutting/> however this morning the site appeared to be down. Contractors challenged in the village have claimed they are only cutting areas that are the responsibility of AVDC but this cannot be the case, they are in fact selectively cutting areas shown in the map above as Bucks responsibility. Enquiries have been lodged with Bucks including the cabinet officer responsible. In conversation it is clear that they are buried beneath a pile of complaints from all over the county about the hopeless cutting (or lack of it) by their contractors.

In the mean time, it looks increasingly likely that Bucks will want to devolve the mowing to the local communities, and to this end we are working with Stewkley who already have an outsource contract in place to develop a plan with other local villages to take over the mowing. Supported by money from BCC (at least to start with) this will allow us to maintain our green areas to a decent standard, rather than the lack of tidiness today, and at the same time offer employment opportunities to village residents who want to do some of the cutting. This is likely to happen in 2015 and we'll keep you posted on progress.

### **Potholes and more**

Transport for Buckinghamshire is responsible for the maintenance of the roadways and footpaths in and around the village. In addition, they have a site to report potholes

<http://www.transportforbucks.net/BCC-report-a-problem.aspx> and a blog to show what they're up to [www.trbpotholes.blogspot.co.uk/](http://www.trbpotholes.blogspot.co.uk/). We report problems on the highways and footpaths from our village walks and when advised by residents and are given a reference number by TFB to track progress.

Unfortunately TFB are rather short-staffed, so whilst we keep reminding them of problems such as rivers of water running down the road, and the blocked footpath between New Road and North Close, our requests languish on a list of problems across the county waiting for their work crews to get to after their emergency work.

In the case of hedges spilling out of gardens we write to residents to ask them to cut them back, however we cannot force people to do it, and this is sometimes harder in cases where the people living in the house are renting it. It is worth bearing in mind that when eventually TFB get around to doing the work, they will bill the property owners as appropriate, no doubt backed up by a humourless approach to debt collection.

#### **Fibre Broadband**

Some of you may know that BT has a contract to rollout broadband to 90% of the county, having filled out an expression of interest, I recently received an email to say that our local exchange (Mursley) has been added to the rollout plans, however a retraction was sent the following day and the exchange still shows on the Openreach site as not currently in the plan, so the position is unclear. If you haven't done so already, please register your interest in Fibre Broadband at <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx>, the more people who register, the better chance we have.

#### **The Dorcas Lane Wind Farm appeal**

On 24 June the appeal against AVDC's rejection of the proposal kicked off at the Oculus in Aylesbury. Led by a planning inspector, she will provide a report to Mr. Pickles the Secretary of State who will make the final decision. Give that this was a workday there was a good turnout of local residents as well as some not-so-local supporters of the proposal. For the Parish Council David Perry spoke during public representations on the 27 June on behalf of the village, reflecting the sentiments expressed directly and through the earlier petitioning process. There were three no doubt pricy barristers arguing the various cases to the inspector along with a raft of expert witnesses.

#### **New Parish Councillors and Clerk**

Having a little while ago said "goodbye" to Andrea Wood and more recently Ian Blair, We're delighted to welcome Sue Spavins and Steven Colborne-Baber to the Parish Council. Sue is a long-term village resident and Steven has been in the village for over 4 years and has young children in our local school.

In addition we are welcoming a new resident to the village, Deborah O'Brien who will also be our new Clerk, as Sue Mordue has taken another position.

#### **Village design statement**

We are making slow but steady progress on a village design statement. Surveys have been distributed throughout the village, the questions are based on those used by other parishes. Our initial response rate was about 20% but we are supposed to be nearer to 80%, so the councillors are doing more face-to-face visits to get the numbers up. Once the survey is complete we will ask for village stakeholders to join into writing and approving the plan

#### **War memorial clean**

In light of the anniversary of the start of WW1, we have commissioned a specialist company to clean and repair the war memorial. We are waiting for this work to be scheduled

#### **Water for the allotments**

Following the installation of a water supply to the allotments, reports are that this has proved a good addition to the facilities available. We have had some turnover of holders, thanks to Helen Harvey for coordinating on this. We have also had to do some work on trees around the perimeter, with some further work still to be done.

#### **Caravan club**

Following a catastrophic visit by a caravan club this year, the council has significantly tightened the criteria for rallies, so far this year we have not had any bookings. The consensus view is that the minor loss of income is not a problem for the Parish Council finances and we are content if there are no further bookings

**Speedwatch and additional VAS**

The Parish Council has contributed a small extra amount to allow the purchase of an additional VAS through the LAF, reports from the team suggest that the VAS is having an impact on the average speeds in the village.

**Wind farms and support via S137 monies.**

The Parish Council has made an S137 donation to the Stop Salden Turbines committee to support their opposition work.

- 4. **To receive reports from other Village Organisations - None**
- 5. **To agree the date of the next meeting – May 2015**

The meeting closed at 7:45 p.m. Signed..... Date.....