

TINGEWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY
26th May 2016

Present:	Richard Fenemore	Chairman
	Pat Swinburne	Parish Councillor
	Sarah Churchfield	Parish Councillor
	Patrick Fealey.	District Councillor
	Robin Stuchbury.	County Councillor
	Samantha Chandler	Parish Clerk

Apologies:	Martin Hornsey	Vice Chairman
	Trisha Lightfoot	Parish Councillor
	Dave Roy	Parish Councillor

In Attendance: 3 Members of the Public

1. To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting, held on the 21st May 2015

Proposed: Cllr. Swinburne Seconded: Cllr. Churchfield Agreed

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 21st May 2015

None

3. To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council.

Cllr Fenemore has just taken over as Chairman as Peter Smith, the Chairman for 12 years, has moved out of the Village. Cllr Fenemore thanked Peter for all the hard work he has done for the Village.

In the past year a lot of roads have been repaired and the cemetery gates have been repaired. Cllr Fenemore thanked Mr Styles for keeping the cemetery looking nice.

The Fete made a loss last year because of the weather, however was otherwise a success.

The Parish is in the process of buying the Rec Ground. There is currently a mens football team who play on the field and soon there will also be a boys football team starting as a Village team.

Cllr. Fenemore thanked the other Councillors for their hard work and extended thanks to Dawn Rogers for all the hard work she has put in over the last 8 years as Parish Clerk.

4. To receive the Financial Report of the Parish Council.

The Clerk presented the years financial accounts. The internal auditor has approved the Annual Return and it will be submitted to the external auditor.

5. To receive a report by the County Councillor.

Some road works proposed last year have been carried out in Tingewick, with more throughout Buckingham. A report has been done regarding abuse and sexual flirtation in employment, with recommendations taken forward.

A report has been done on narrowing the gap in education and for children going on to work; Bucks Pathway to Learning will help. Overall Junior schools in Buckingham and surrounds are well catered for and with good OFSTED.

Going forward the focus is on growth in Buckingham and its surrounds, which is estimated to be up to 42%, as there will be a need for new infrastructure to support the growth.

A report will be published at the end of this year with proposals surrounding the elderly, more specifically Community Care, as the population gets older it is cheaper and better to keep people in their own homes for as long as possible.

Cllr. Stuchbury is also challenging cabinet leaders on Childrens Centres as it is proposed for some to be closed down because of recent budget cuts.

6. To receive a report by the District Councillor.

A report was provided to the Parish Council

7. To receive a report from St Mary Magdalene Church

Thanks expressed to those who help maintain and clean the church and those who help prepare for and serve refreshments at services, also to Barbara Hood for organ playing and Jean Bone for secretary duties. The flower rota enables appropriate and beautiful presentation of the church.

Churchwardens have taken approximately a dozen services in the last year as well as organizing the cutting back of the holly tree, clearing drains and gutters and removing vegetation around the church.

New pew runners welcomed with a generous gift from the Estate of Mrs. June Perry and have provided comfort on chilly days. There are also six new folding tables with tablecloths and the church notice board will soon be replaced with a new smarter board.

Bell ringers attended on several occasions including the Queen's Birthday which also saw the new St George's flag raised by Martin Hornsey, the Tower Captain, thanks to him and Brian Speed and all who contribute to the cost of new flags.

Planning permission has been petitioned to remove old pews at the west end of the church and to level the floor there by removing pew plinths, to make greater use of the space. Also seeking permission to repair the ceiling in the North West aisle.

The Tingewick Park project will bring new people into the parish and plans are being prepared to deliver welcome packs to each household.

Thanks also expressed to Chris Parsons as treasurer, Rev. Chris Carter and Rev. Liz Simpson.

Acknowledgement to Ed and Michael for the Benefits Choir, started in 2001, which has expanded under Ed's leadership. There is no other parish choir in Buckingham. They often receive requests for playing at funerals and other events.

The Rector's Report was published in the April edition of the Link.

8. To receive a report by the Civil Charities Commission

It was explained that the Civil Charities Commission deals with people who might be in trouble, therefore as a matter of confidentiality, names and specific financial information will not be mentioned.

Resources are not large and are declining in recent years with fewer donations, believed to be due to interest rates, offset by notable deaths in recent years.

8 awards made last year, most just before Christmas, totalling approximately £1,000.

9. To receive a report by the Tingewick Village Hall Committee.

None

10. To receive a report by the Tingewick and District News.

Advertising revenue is currently enough to cover costs however this may need to be reevaluated when the new housing development opens as the distribution will be increased. Concern was expressed regarding current advertisers perhaps pulling out if they are to be charged more for their advertisements.

John expressed his desire to "hand over the reigns" of the publication believing that new blood and fresh ideas will be of great benefit as well as affording him more free time to enjoy.

11. To receive a report by Neighbourhood Watch.

None

12. To receive a report by Roundwood School.

Roundwood School continues to flourish with 170 children (45 of whom are residents of the Tingewick and Westbury areas) currently on roll; 71 at the Tingewick site (Infants 4-6 year olds) and 99 at the Gawcott Site (Juniors 7-11 year olds) This is an increase since the 2007 amalgamation number of 94 for both sites.

The school continues to play an active part in village life, taking part in multiple events and special days.

13. To receive a report by Tingewick Pre-School.

None

14. To receive a report by the Tingewick Historical Society.

There have been a lot of speakers in past year, some with large crowds drawn for the storytelling.

The late President Mary Watkins' contribution to the village was celebrated along with a display of some of her collections about the history of the village.

There was also an outing to Chetwode which included coffee and cake and a guided tour.

Invitation received to display at the Old Gaol in the new year, which will hopefully generate some increased publicity for the Society.

Thanks are extended to all the members for their hard work.

15. To receive a report by Tingewick and Water Stratford Horticultural Society.

A welcome, small increase to member numbers this year, following a decline since 2001. Membership now totaling 117. Attempting to maintain or increase numbers in future by generating more interest in the Society by advertising membership info and events in the Tingewick News, local newspapers, MK18 magazine and Aylesbury Vale Times. Information about the Spring & Summer Shows reaches a broader audience through advertisements screened at The Film Place and Buckingham Garden Centre. Local Estate Agents advertise and sponsor the two shows and other local horticultural societies are also advised of events. New events have been introduced and for the first time a full 12 month programme has been organized and published in advance in the hopes that this will also encourage new members to see what an active society it is, with a variety of events. Presently there are also 3 local businesses who offer a 10% discount to members.

2015 saw 11 events hosted and 2016 has already seen a quiz night, the Spring Show, households entering the Spring Garden competition and a coach trip.

16. To receive a report by the Tingewick Diamonds

Tingewick Diamonds is a social club for people aged 60+ who live in and around the village. There are 30 members in total and attendance is usually around 20-25 at each meet. Started 7 yrs ago with help from parish council. There are a variety of events and excursions, with the group last week going to Gloucester.

17. To receive a report by the Whist Drive

None

18. To receive a report by the Tingewick Patchers

None

19. To receive a report from the Tingewick Dancers

None

20. To receive a report by the Tingewick Line Dancers

None

21. To receive a report from Tingewick Scouts.

None

22. To receive a report from the Tingewick Café

The Café re-opened on September 4th 2015, under new management. There is now a team of 14 volunteers making up 4 teams, who work monthly on a rota system.

It was decided that profits would be given to the Village Hall with the exception of national charities which always fall on a Friday. In the 8 months since opening, (to the end of April '16) charitable donations totalled £572 and profits directed to the Village Hall totalled £2,234.

Community events have also been developed, including the Christmas Craft Fair and Spring Craft Fair. A village mum with her own nail business provides manicures and nail painting sessions on the first Friday of each month and the last Friday of each month now hosts the Exchange Stage where people can swap and give away unwanted items. Themed mornings are also held, including Halloween, Christmas and Easter.

Customer numbers have increased considerably with many regulars from the local area as well as passing trade and a strong "takeaway" business, helped of late by the builders from the new housing development.

23. To receive a report from any other local organisations.

None

The meeting was officially closed at 2100hrs.

These **accounts** are for the financial year 2015/16

The Parish Council requested a precept of £25,788

And was awarded a grant of £800 to ease the financial burden to local authorities caused by a national change in the way council tax benefit is paid and to allow Parish Councils to build up reserves.

This grant was available for the current financial year but is unlikely to be available next year.

In addition to the precept the **income** for the year was £11,426

The **expenditure** was £29,296 (which includes paid VAT) this was in accordance with the budget for the year with a small surplus to be transferred to the reserve account.

The Parish Council is required to carry a reserve each year to meet unexpected expenses and the reserve is healthy and sufficient to meet unforeseen circumstances for the coming year.

You have with your papers the closing balance sheet and a cash flow report breaking down the headings of expense. I have a more detailed list of expenditure for the year if there are any questions.

The accounts have been approved by the Parish Council's internal auditor and have been submitted to the external auditor.

Aylesbury Vale District Council has continued to make significant savings to fill the funding gap created by annual reductions of Government Grants. The figure for the last six years stands at £14m. That savings figure is made up of costs reductions through increased efficiency plus additional income from commercial activities and asset rental.

The work is ongoing because we anticipate that a further £6m will be needed over the next three years until Government Grant disappears altogether.

Cost savings can't be generated merely by cutting out layers of management - that is only a race to the bottom and service provision will fail. What we're doing is creating a completely new organisational structure with just two main departments - Community Fulfilment and Customer Fulfilment.

The same range of services will be provided, plus additional ones determined by our customers, but the myriad of departments will disappear. This commercial approach to running a local authority is ground breaking, but essential to ensure that AVDC survives. Many other authorities across the country have buried their heads in the sand for too long - reluctant to implement changes and hoping that grants will return. They won't, and those councils run a serious risk of going broke in the very near future.

Some authorities have recognised that what we've done at AVDC is worthy of a closer look and 117 delegates attended a conference in February where we gave them an insight into how we've achieved such large savings. That was a free event but at a follow-up event a month later delegates paid to hear more details. We're now working with ten of those authorities who'll be engaging us on a consultancy basis to help them implement some of our ideas.

So what have we done?

We've moved completely to the cloud, using Amazon Cloud Services to store our data. No more PCs on desks and no servers in our offices thus reducing our maintenance costs dramatically. We were the first local authority in the country to go along this route.

We've introduced My Account. This is a facility that enables customers to interrogate our systems, and their personal information, whenever they want. They can set up direct debits to pay for their services, claim discounts on council tax, apply for licences and benefits, report problems with their bin collections - and that list will grow. It means that we can deploy the staff that used to handle these matters on more productive work.

The Vale Lottery was introduced last November - again, we were the first local authority to set one up - and it's already raising £60,000 a year for good causes across The Vale. To date, 111 community groups have signed up and people who enter can choose from that list where they'd like their money to go. 58 pence in the pound goes to good causes.

We're continuing to invest in commercial property and we've now spent £100m improving Aylesbury Town Centre by way of building the theatre, Waitrose, Travelodge and the new University. Not only will this investment make Aylesbury a better place to visit, improving the local economy, but it'll generate rental income for the Council. The next phase is to build four new restaurants with residential units above. We've just exchanged contracts with our developer partner and we're pressing on with the submission of a detailed planning application.

Aylesbury Vale Broadband was set up last year to provide superfast broadband in rural parts of The Vale. The pilot project in North Marston was successful so we're now pushing on to Granborough and looking for other areas to cover. Over 50 communities have registered an interest which makes choosing very difficult. We intended to provide **superfast** broadband but we are now offering **ultrafast** broadband - speeds of 300Mbps. BT has been extremely unhelpful and is trying to thwart our plans - a sure sign that we're doing things right and stepping on their toes - but we're adamant that we'll push on with our programme.

We've formed two other new companies to further our commercial aspirations. One will seek to provide additional services and products to residents and the other to commercial organisations. I can't tell you what those services and products will be yet because we'll be asking our customers what they want, rather than providing products that we think they want. We'll be sending out regular newsletters to those who've registered an interest to build up a customer relationship and generate ideas. Initially, we're targeting customers who've signed up to our brown bin service because they're already paying for an extra service and the response has been very encouraging.

Council Tax was increased by 1.99% this year - that amounts to £2.70 a year for the average household. Our longer term plan is to do away with a council tax charge altogether, but that will depend on the success of our commercial activities.

And whilst this has all been going on there's been the small matter of preparing our Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. This will determine the location of housing

and economic growth for the next 20 years, with its associated infrastructure. At present we're looking to accommodate around 31,000 new homes - 21,000 for our own requirements and 10,000 for the unmet needs of other authorities. We're insisting that detailed green belt and brownfield site reviews are undertaken by those other authorities to ensure that we're not being asked to take on housing that could be provided locally.

That's a quick run-through of where we are and what we've been doing. There's lots going on and more to come.

Bank Reconciliation

Tingewick Parish Council

Financial year ending 31 March 2016

Prepared by Dawn Rogers Parish Clerk 3rd April 2016

Balance per bank statements as at 31 March 2016:	£	£
Current account	4,981	
High Interest account	36,273	
Recreation Ground Account No 1	1,301	
Recreation Ground Account No 2	635	
Events Account	3,777	
		46,967
Less unrepresented cheques		
203377	48	
203402	33	
		81
Net balances as at 31 March 2016		46,886
Cash Book		
Opening Balance 1 April 2015		38,968
Add: Receipts in the year		37,214
Less: Payments in the year		29,296
Closing balance per cash book as at 31 March 2016		46,886

Cash Flow Report

01/04/15 Through 31/03/16 (in Pounds)

Category Description	01/04/15- 31/03/16
INFLOWS	
Cemetery	2,960.00
Fete (Income)	4,038.12
Grant Payment	800.00
Interest	20.99
Precept	25,788.00
Recreation Ground Booking	1,430.00
Recreation Ground Fundraising	230.00
FROM VAT Control	1,946.82
TOTAL INFLOWS	37,213.93
OUTFLOWS	
Audit	243.70
Best Kept Village	15.00
Christmas	414.92
Dog Bins	503.40
Election	125.00
Electricity Supply	409.41
Fete	4,613.57
Footpaths	558.00
Grass Cutting	1,075.00
Ground Maintenance (Pond)	730.00
Ground Maints (Churchyard)	1,460.85
Grounds Maintenance (Cemetery)	2,335.25
Information Commissioner	35.00
Insurance	1,308.88
Lease	937.50
Meeting Room	180.00
MVAS	180.00
Payroll	(3,985.20)
Play Equipment Repairs	48.46
Recreation Ground Maint	2,140.15
S137	50.00
Safety Inspections	155.00
Stationery & Sundries	630.49
Street Furniture	308.21
Street Lighting Maintenance	456.20
Street Lighting Supply	3,166.35
Subscriptions	266.92
Tingewick News	99.00
Water	251.13
Website	900.00
TO VAT Control	1,713.49
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	29,296.08
OVERALL TOTAL	7,917.85