

## **Little Tew Parish Meeting**

**Minutes of the AGM held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**

### **18/01 Welcome and apologies**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

#### **In attendance:**

Clive Nightingale (Chair), Chris Hollander (Parish Clerk), Viv Bennett, Stephen Bennett, Tom White, Eileen White, Mike Tomlinson, Mike Bennett, Brenda Gibson, Barry Gibson, Ann Carter, Alan Mauro, Andrew Dunstan, Margaret Norris, Jackie Bradley, David Cooper, Jamie Horner, Rob Pollock, Tif Loehnis, Councillor Hibbert-Biles

#### **Apologies:**

Peter Buckman, Wendy Preece, Percy Bradley, Ben Bradley, Tomas Bradley, J. Latham-Warde, Emma Bradley, A. Horev, Elizabeth Cooper

### **18/02 Report from County Councillor**

Hilary Hibbert-Biles reported that the County Council had made savings of £350m. At the same time there was an increase in children's and adult services. The Council had achieved a balanced budget, with an increase in Council Tax of 5.99%. All District Councils have signed up to the Council's infrastructure funding programme. County councillors are allocated departmental budgets of £15k (in Councillor Hibbert-Biles' case £30k, since she has responsibility for both public health and education). The Quality Commission judges Oxfordshire a "Good" Council.

The Councillor acknowledged the problem of degrading road surfaces and potholes. She said that the Council was looking to provide a long-term fix rather than the present temporary filling and patching. Her attention was drawn in particular to the poor state of the road past The Meetings linking the A361 and the B4022. It was felt that increased traffic using this road for quick access to Soho Farmhouse was adding to the problem. Villagers had noted an increase in Soho-related traffic through Little Tew itself, possibly because satnav gave the route through Little Tew (having no speed limit) as the quickest route. In response, regarding the speed limit issue, Hilary Hibbert-Biles said that she might be able to provide funding for surveys and signage for a 30mph speed limit for the village. The Chair should contact Anthony Kirkwood at OCC.

Among other challenges for the Council, Hilary Hibbert-Biles spoke both of homelessness and of special needs funding for education. Asked about help for roof repairs at Great Tew School, she was not optimistic. Finally, she said Oxfordshire had withdrawn from its contract with Carillion.

The Chair thanked the Councillor for coming and reporting, and for her offer of assistance with a possible village speed limit. He said he would contact Anthony Kirkwood.

**18/03 Approval of, and matters arising from, the minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2017**

The meeting unanimously approved the minutes, Barry Gibson proposing and Eileen White seconding. Under matters arising Alan Mauro reported on the high cost of reprinting the Millenium Book. It was suggested that an email version could be supplied. At this time some doubt was raised about the usefulness of village notice boards in the age of e- communication.

**18/04 Chairman's Report**

The Chair reported that he had been asked by Peter Buckman to invite the meeting to oppose planning consent to the construction of a five-bedroom house at Quarry Barn. There was some apprehension concerning "in-fill" if the western boundary of the built village were to be extended, and a feeling that the process by which a new agricultural building becomes, in a short space of time, a domestic residence constitutes a loophole in planning restrictions. The Chair was happy to express a view to OCC if the meeting so wished. He was requested so to do, Mike Tomlinson proposing and Barry Gibson seconding.

The Chair was reminded that it is our custom to thank Hubert Hutt at this time for looking after parish land on the Church Enstone road, keeping it secure and making it attractive. Thanks were duly given.

**18/05 Presentation of the Little Tew Cup**

In recognition of the contribution of *The Newsletter* to the village community, of the work involved and of the pleasure provided by the end product, the Cup was awarded to Tif Loehnis.

**18/06 Accounts: approval of annual return**

Barry Gibson presented the accounts to the meeting. He reported that the Timberyard room incurs annual running costs of about £1,200, and that it will be necessary for the parish to raise a precept to cover this expense. It was suggested that information about the Timberyard room might form part of a welcome pack for newcomers to the village. Warm thanks were offered to Barry as the accounts were approved. He is standing down after long service. David Cooper, our auditor, was warmly thanked also.

**18/07 The need to raise a precept in 2019**

It was agreed that this matter be considered and voted on at the next meeting. Another annual expense - salt for village roads in winter - may need to be met from parish funds.

**18/08 Election of Parish Meeting officers and internal auditor**

There being no new nominations, the existing officers were re-elected.

**18/09 Election of Timberyard Room officers**

There are not, currently, any offices to fill.

**18/10 Great Tew School Report**

Viv Bennett reported once again the remarkable success of Great Tew School Funding remained a problem (not only the school roof, see 18/02) and one

solution might be to seek Academy status. The School Fete would be held on 30 June.

**18/11 Poor's Land Charity Report**

Mike Tomlinson presented the report. Income and outgoings remained as before. The Chair had written to the tenant advising an increase in rent from £1,200 to £2,300 approximately, per annum. One suggestion was that some of the increased income be used for land maintenance.

**18/12 Timberyard Room Report**

(to follow)

**18/13 Any Other Business**

Possible uses - or removal - of the phone box were considered. This to be determined at the next meeting. The bridleway to Magpie Farm has a ditch that needs clearing. Light aircraft noise may be an increasing nuisance - perhaps Enstone airfield should be contacted. Concern was expressed about hogweed (apparently a landowner's responsibility).

**18/14 Dates of future meetings**

It was agreed that the next parish meeting be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at 7:30pm