

## **Fifehead Magdalen Parish Annual General Meeting**

held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Chair:** David Redwood

**In attendance:** Alix Brooke, Roger and Jo Trevor, Rosemary Redwood, Geoff Merrick, Dee Trevor, Chris and Karen Vallance, Angela Stevens, Jeannie Lakeman, Peter Custard, Valerie Burnham, Robin Longland, Patsy Merrick (scribe)

### **Agenda Item 1: Election of Chairman**

No new contenders volunteered or were suggested. David Redwood was re-elected unanimously.

### **Agenda Item 2: Welcome to guest Councillor Jane Westbrook**

(Conservative ward member for the Stours and Marnhull)

### **Agenda Item 3 Apologies for absence:**

Thomas Trevor, Peter and Helen Mera, Andrew and Jacqueline Duncan, Pat and Neil Hopkins, Andrew Lakeman, Patsy Lidsey, Rose and Pete Figgins.

### **Agenda Item 4: declaration of interests:**

David Redwood stated that he had no interests to declare.

### **Agenda Item 5: Minutes of the previous meeting:**

DR read the minutes. DT proposed them RR seconded and they were unanimously voted to be a correct record and were duly signed and dated.

### **Agenda Item 6: Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **Agenda Item 7: Presentation, acceptance and approval of the Annual Accounts for 2015-16:**

DR presented the accounts. RL wondered if the telephone kiosk should be included as a Parish asset. (There are no other assets.) The kiosk was purchased from BT for a nominal £1 and is not, for accounting purposes, regarded as a financial asset and neither does it carry public liability insurance, this coming under the umbrella of NDCC.

DR thanked GM for his auditing and asked that the meeting accept the accounts. The accounts were proposed by AS and seconded by JL. They were unanimously voted to be correct.

### **Agenda Item 8: Governance Statement and acceptance and approval of the Statement**

Financial auditing has changed under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The upshot, as we have a turnover of less than £25,000, is that from 2017 we no longer will be externally audited. Therefore a new set of regulations come into play, namely the Transparency Requirements Regulations 2015, which means the Parish must ensure that everything is properly conducted. To this end the following Governance Statement was tabled at the last AGM and, there having been no changes made or suggested, is now to be ratified:

In my roles as both Chairman of Fifehead Magdalen Parish Meeting and the Responsible Financial Officer I am required to ensure that there is a transparent and effective system of internal controls that meet the needs of the Parish whilst safeguarding public funds in accordance with the relevant statutory financial regulations.

The controls are:

- The Parish accounts are available for inspection, with prior notice, at any reasonable time throughout the year.
- All payments are endorsed by an authorised counter signatory.
- Accounts will be posted onto the Parish website.
- Estimated annual spending requirements (the Precept) will be agreed each year.
- The Annual Governance Statement required by the external auditors will be presented for approval at the annual Parish Meeting.

Signed and dated.....

Proposed by PM, seconded by CV they were unanimously agreed to be fit for purpose.

### **Agenda Item 9: Cheque signatories and internal auditor**

Currently, the signatories are Mr P Mera and Mr B Bryson. Both have agreed to continue in this role. Currently the internal auditor is Mr G Merrick who has also agreed to continue in this role. They were all proposed by JL, seconded by CV and unanimously voted for.

### **Agenda Item 10: Village Matters**

Road drainage: The drains from the T junction and down Fifehead hill have been power cleaned, camera assessed and roots macerated.

Similar clearance at the church end of the village and down to the sewage plant.

DR thanked the parishioners who spent time clearing the gutters of muck and weeds.

Village signage: New village signs in situ. HGV sign adjacent to Henstridge silos was re-erected by NDCC after it had been uprooted.

DR had constructed and installed two new fingers to the T junction signpost.

Footpath news: Contact had been made with Graham Stanley, Senior Ranger for N Dorset. Accompanied by DR, GM and AL, he visited the site of the footpath adjacent to the Old School House and said a better path will be laid, the kissing gate replaced by a larger one and he is currently waiting for estimates from sub-contractors.

The footpath at the river bridge on the Stour Provost/Fifehead Magdalen boundary will also be repaired in due course.

Henstridge airfield: We await deliberations from SSDC on Mr Jarvis' application to extend dramatically his flying operations. Lengthy representations including speaking at a planning meeting have been made by DR in conjunction with neighbouring parish chairmen.

#### **Agenda Item 11: Questions for our guest:**

Councillor Jane Westbrook introduced herself and gave the meeting a thorough overview of the areas in which she is involved, as a councillor:

The TriPartnership between N.Dorset, Portland, Weymouth and W Dorset.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee within the Council.

Planning Policy

Local Action Group for Leader Funding – EU money for local businesses.

Selling the now redundant Council building in Blandford. (The planning etc. services have now been moved to the new Council Building in Dorchester, though there is still a small local hub in Blandford.)

Re-invigorating Sturminster Newton, with refurbishment and the aim to make it a thriving community once again.

Sourcing housing for Syrian Immigrants.

Gillingham Extension: This is a large, ongoing project, as many villages along the B3092 and A30, including East Stour, could be adversely affected by the increase in traffic. In addition to traffic control, infrastructures such as GPs, schools and potential local jobs have to be taken into account. Furthermore, this large area of land that is effectively being concreted

over could present flooding problems for areas far and wide around the vicinity of the building extension therefore this, too, is a major potential problem that must be monitored.

**Item 12: Any other business:**

CV brought up the problem of noise pollution caused by motorbike scrambling, plus the problem of speeding on the roads. Cllr Westbrook suggested that speed guns and Hi-Viz yellow jackets could be issued to three people in the village if anyone wanted to be part of a Community Speed Watch. East Stour could be approached for loan of their kit . KV volunteered. No further comment was made by the meeting and no one else volunteered.

**Item 13: Date of next meeting.**

DR records his thanks to PM for taking and typing up the minutes.

On behalf of everyone present DR thanked Cllr Westbrook for taking the time to visit us and giving us an insight into the workings of her official duties.

The next meeting to be arranged in approximately 6 months.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm