

Fifehead Magdalen Parish Annual General Meeting

held on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Chair: David Redwood (DR)

In attendance: Alix Brooke, Roger and Jo Trevor, Rosemary Redwood, Geoff Merrick, Chris and Karen Vallance, Angela Stevens, Jeannie and Andrew Lakeman, Peter Custard, Valerie Burnham, Mac Lafosse, Robin Longland, Pete and Rose Figgins, Anita and Adrian Exton, Rob Flower, Patsy Merrick (scribe)

Agenda Item 1: Election of Chairman

No new contenders volunteered or were suggested. David Redwood was proposed by Patsy Merrick and seconded by Andrew Lakeman. He 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:

Dee Trevor, Peter and Helen Mera, Andrew and Jacqueline Duncan, Sally Waters, Mary Sturges

Agenda Item 4: declaration of interests:

David Redwood stated that he had no pecuniary interests to declare.

Agenda Item 5: Minutes of the previous meeting:

DR read the minutes. Roger Trevor proposed them Angela Stevens seconded; they were unanimously voted to be a correct record and were duly signed and dated as such.

Agenda Item 6: Matters arising:

See Agenda Item number 10.

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

DR presented the accounts. DR suggested that there should be no subscription paid to the Aviation Environmental Federation this year, as it has proved to be of no use regarding Henstridge airfield. Instead DR suggested that we subscribe to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England. The price for this would be £50 for a year. After some discussion Angela Stevens proposed and Karen Vallance seconded; it was unanimously agreed to try this for one year. The accounts were proposed by Andrew Lakeman and seconded by Roger Trevor. They were unanimously voted to be correct. The Chairman thanked Mr Merrick for auditing the accounts.

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

DR is the Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish. He suggested that there is no need for any material changes to the wording adopted at the previous (2016) AGM and is as follows:

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.....

Patsy Merrick seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 8.2:

In accordance with statutory requirements, notice that our accounts will be available to view for thirty working days within a prescribed time-frame, must be placed on our website and/or the noticeboard. DR wished to adopt the dates suggested by the external auditor (BDD LLP), namely 5th June until 30th June 2017 inclusive. This notice will be posted on the website and noticeboard one day prior to the above start date.

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. (DR will ensure that Mr B Bryson is in agreement.) Currently the internal auditor is Mr G Merrick who has also agreed to continue in this role. They were all proposed by Andrew Lakeman, seconded by Alix Brooke, the voted being carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Village Matters

Village signage

Roger Trevor had asked for signage warning motorists about pedestrians in the road, as there are no pavements. NDDC does not want to allow any new signage. There was once a 30mph speed limit sign outside Mike Denning's house, which has been removed. It was suggested that the council be asked to replace this.

Footpath news

Improvement of the footpath, next to the Old School House and continuing across Roger Trevor's land, has been put on hold until the Council has, again, reviewed the situation. DR's latest communication from the Senior Ranger is that a small party of people will be viewing the footpath in the next few weeks.

Henstridge airfield

Nothing new has emerged since the last Parish meeting and it would seem that there is an impasse between the airfield owner and the Area East Planning Committee of SSDC. PF and DR continues to monitor overflights and notify the Case Officer (Adrian Noon) and airfield owner (Mr Jarvis) when such events are witnessed.

DR had attended a meeting with Simon Hoare MP and voiced his concern. SH was already aware of complaints by parishioners and written to the CEO of SSDC. Their response was predictably feeble.

DR said that when the matter is resolved we will have a part share with Marnhull PC of monies

Agenda Item 11: News from and questions for our guest:

Councillor Jane Westbrook introduced herself and spoke about three points.

Firstly, the problem of travellers whose summer encampment has previously been at Five Bridges lay-by will almost certainly return after their eviction from St James' Common, Shaftesbury. It seems to be common knowledge that there may be substance abuse and selling but the authorities lack evidence. The Council is pursuing various ways forward in collaboration with Wessex Water which has concerns about safe access of its employees to a sewage pumping station where the travellers park their caravans.

Secondly, the government priority for councils to build new houses, including affordable housing for people was planned for the area to the south of Gillingham. However the infrastructure (eg roads) is currently inadequate so plans are on hold pending £M3 being spent on local highways.

Thirdly, the cross roads at West Stour will be improved. A hedge, on the corner that makes using the cross roads dangerous due to lack of visibility on the road, will be removed, thus making the cross roads safer for drivers.

Item 12: Any other business:

Thanks to DR were given, for all his hard work.

DR thanked the parishioners for attending, and thanks Cllr Westbrook for her contributions to the meeting.

DR records his thanks to Patsy Merrick for her deftness with pen and paper.

Item 13: Date of next meeting.

To be arranged, probably in December, unless an urgent matter arises before then.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm