

MINUTES OF THE MILCOMBE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, MILCOMBE ON TUESDAY 1 MAY 2018 AT 8.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Marlene Cowell (Chairman); Councillors Peter Booth, Alex Honey and Myra Peters.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), County Councillor Kieron Mallon, District Councillor Hugo Brown, PCSO Jayne Langford, Ahmed Farah & Andrew Dewsbury from Skanska/Oxfordshire County Council and six members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Michael Haynes and Parish Councillors Mandie McCullough and David Hughes.

1/18 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2/18 MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017.

3/18 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Kieron Mallon had circulated his report. Councillor Mallon also thanked the Parish Council for supporting the Cherry Tree Centre in Bloxham.

Councillor Myra Peters asked Councillor Mallon about the issue of potholes in the County. Councillor Mallon referred to his report and advised that an extra £1m had been allocated to the repair of potholes, plus £1m from the Government. A 'Dragon Catcher' had also been purchased by the County Council to repair rural roads. Councillor Mallon encouraged all residents to report potholes to the County Council's 'Fix My Street' web site and he was aware of the poor state of the A361. He also emphasised to the meeting that the main issue the County Council had was that the majority of its budget was spent on the provision of adult social care.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mallon for his report.

The report would be available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

4/18 SKANSKA UK/OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL VOLUNTEERING EVENTS – Ahmed Farah and Andrew Dewsbury from Skanska/Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) attended the meeting to discuss their volunteer events for supporting local communities.

Skanska/OCC employees were given a day off to carry out volunteer work in villages in the County, which would promote health and wellbeing of employees and the community. The volunteering events could be support for community projects or community groups, but not for individuals.

The Chairman thanked Ahmed Farah and Andrew Dewsbury for attending the meeting and it was agreed that any suitable projects would be suggested to Mr Farah via the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked them both for attending and they left the meeting at this point.

5/18 PCSO JAYNE LANGFORD – RURAL CRIME – PCSO Jayne Langford reported that she was based at Banbury Police Station and her team covered Banbury and 36 villages

surrounding villages. There were 11 members in the team, but they were currently 6 officers short.

PCSO Langford highlighted some issues which were affecting Milcombe and the surrounding areas at the present time:

- The Nottingham Knockers were currently knocking on doors around Banbury, Deddington, Adderbury and Bloxham trying to sell their cleaning products. However the Police could only intervene if they were aggressive or rude and it was likely they could be in Milcombe in the near future.
- Farmers in the area had a number of their lambs slaughtered on their land last year and the thieves were cutting meat out and leaving the rest of the body. Some lambs have also been stolen recently too and PCSO Langford asked residents to look out for suspicious vehicles.
- Index plates had been taken off a car in Milcombe last night.
- There were a number of 'Pick Pockets' around in Banbury at the moment.
- Cold calling was a problem, especially relating to computers. People would ring asking for the access details to personal computers to help solve an alleged issue. Once they had control, they would demand money to give control back to the owner.
- Hare Coursing was an issue in the area and it should be reported to the Police because it was illegal.
- There had been two attempted burglaries in Milcombe in the last couple of months and PCSO Langford encouraged people to leave lights on when they went out in the evening. Also, windows and side gates should remain locked.

Councillor Myra Peters also reported that there had been some reports of oil theft in the area too.

Councillor Myra Peters also asked PCSO Langford about the idea of installing CCTV cameras in the village. It had been suggested that a camera could be installed by the Horse and Groom Pub and also by Milcombe crossroads.

PCSO Langford advised that CCTV cameras on the main road through the village would probably have to be monitored by a company or the Police and there were strict regulations about their position and location.

It would however, be less bureaucratic to install an ANPR system which would log the index plates on cars. However, this would only result in advisory letters being sent to drivers who were caught speeding. PCSO Langford suggested that the Parishes could work together to purchase a SID device which would also monitor speed. However, volunteers would be needed to use the device because the Police did not have the resources to do this.

Chairman thanked PCSO Langford for her presentation.

6/18 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/2018 – Prior to the meeting, the Chairman had circulated her report on the Parish Council's work for the last 12 months.

The report covered issues relating to grants, planning matters, the play area, the Dovecote, speeding, grass cutting, dog waste bins, street lighting and the annual village litter pick.

The Chairman also thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work during the year.

The full report would be available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

County Councillor Kieron Mallon reported that the St Mary's Thursday Club had received a grant of £5000 from the County Council which would enable the Club to stay open for another year.

Councillor Alex Honey reported that he would be downloading the information which had been collated by the VAS and presenting this to a future Parish Council meeting.

7/18 DISCUSSION OF CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman asked if there were had any questions on her report.

There were no questions.

8/17 FINANCIAL REPORT - The Clerk presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the financial report for 2017/2018. The figures had been subject to internal audit and gave an accurate picture of the activities of the year. There were no matters of clarification.

The Parish Council accounts for 2017/2018 would be available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

8/17 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Prior to the meeting, District Councillor Hugo Brown had circulated his report.

Councillor Brown highlighted a number of issues within his report including housing, planning matters and Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Councillor Brown thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support this year and he encouraged everyone to vote at the elections on 3 May 2018.

The report would be available on the village web site www.milcombe.com

The Chairman thanked Councillor Brown for his report.

9/17 VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS – The Chairman reported that there was no representative from the Milcombe Newsletter (MNL) and the Conservation Group no longer existed.

The Chairman reported that she had received information from David Charles about the MNL and that he was stepping down. She advised that Mark Boardman was happy to continue to produce the MNL but he needed help from another volunteer.

With regard to the Milcombe Charities, John Holding reported that the AGM was being held next week and the Village Fete was on 16 June 2018. The Chairman reported that the kitchen and the Hall appeared much cleaner recently. It was reported that the Hall

was cleaned twice a month and although that was not enough, the problem was the cost. There had been a delay with the submission of the planning application for the Hall as more information was required by the Architect.

10/17 RESIDENTS QUESTIONS – A resident asked about S106 funds which were available to the village. It was reported that some Section 106 funds which had been allocated to Milcombe, had since been reallocated to Bloxham Recreation Ground because there were no sports pitches in Milcombe where the funds could be spent.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

(The meeting closed at 9.20pm)

Chairman
April 2019