

# **CHRISHALL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Chrishall  
Held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 8.00pm in the New Village Hall, Crawley  
End, Chrishall.

PRESENT: Cllr Tom Jackson (Chair), Cllr Derek Ailes, Cllr Tracey Slade,  
Cllr John Kay, Cllr David Thomas, Cllr Ian Pitfield  
Belinda Irons (minutes) clerk to Chrishall Parish Council

PUBLIC: There were 14 members of the public present.

## **ORGANISATION REPRESENTATIVES:**

Women's Institute: Mrs Margaret Rogers  
Brand Trust: Mr Bill Rodda  
Chrishall Village Hall Committee: Mr Guy Rackham  
Chrishall Village Archive: Mr Fred Davies  
Chrishall book exchange: Mrs Barbara Smith  
Chrishall defibrillator and first aid: Mrs Alexis Beeching

The Red Cow PH: Mrs Alexis Beeching

APOLOGIES: Cllr Stephen Parish, Cllr Jane Holloway.  
Waste Busters presentation  
Arrow Taxis: Demand Responsive Transport

## **1. Chairman's Introduction and report:**

Chrishall Parish Council Chairman Tom Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman's report focused on 'austerity' and its impact on services provided by Essex County Council, Uttlesford District Council and Essex Constabulary.

Funding restrictions have meant that front line Policing has been severely restricted, with the loss of 80% of PCSOs and the closure of Saffron Walden, Stansted, and Great Dunmow Police Stations. The nearest Police Station is Braintree, where the nearest custody suite is also based.

Potholes are left for an extended period of time before being filled. Road drain cleansing is on an 18 month to 2 year programme, where it used to be done on a minimum annual basis. Hedges and ditches used to be managed, but this is not a statutory duty and is now the responsibility of the respective landowners.

The Chairman emphasised the need for all faults to be reported, with the Parish Council copied in for monitoring purposes.

It is also important to ensure that any issues and complaints are made not only to the managing Authority, but include Local Government representatives – Cllr John Lodge for Essex County Council, Cllr Robert Chambers for Uttlesford District Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner

for Essex, and Sir Alan Haselhurst MP to ensure that complaints go 'up the line' to those ultimately in control.

There was strong representation to ensure complaints are also made to the Saffron Walden Conservative Association in addition to those mentioned above.

Parishioners were strongly urged to ensure that property is correctly locked and secured, and that unusual people and vehicles should be recorded such as description of persons, and vehicle registration, make, model and colour, then report to the Police. The community has to work together to protect itself. Please be persistent when telephoning the non-emergency 101 telephone number for Essex Police.

Thanks were extended to Megan Porter, who has undertaken to inspect the play area as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Megan has done a fantastic job and was highly commended for her work and attitude.

The litter pick was very well attended and supported by the WI. Thanks were extended to the WI.

The War Memorial was cleaned by Parish Councillors. The commemorative sculpture is now installed, and Mrs Diane Firth, our local artist, has reinstated the lettering. The railings have been removed to provide a more open and inviting area around the memorial. Thanks were extended to all involved.

An official welcome was extended to new Councillor David Thomas.

Cllr Derek Ailes received the 'Councillor of the Year' award. Cllr Ailes was nominated by the Parish Council as he has demonstrated tenacity in the face of adversity when achieving the Methodist Chapel and Hall for the benefit of the parish, the negotiations for the freehold transfer of Jigneys Meadow to the Parish Council, and he commenced the renovation of the pavilion, which were all completed on a very restricted budget. Many congratulations were extended to Cllr Ailes.

Arrow Taxis: Demand Responsive Transport: the owner extended apologies. Mrs Stella Potter, the Parish Transport representative, reported that there had been significant teething problems with this system, but she was hopeful that these would be resolved over time. There is a four year contract in place. People were urged to use the service to ensure it continues and is cost effective.

There are alternative transport options available including Uttlesford Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, and 'Happy Travellers', which are all cost effective and accessible.

Following discussion, there was a recommendation that a meeting be held with Cllr John Lodge, Arrow Taxis, Chrishall Parish Council, Mrs Potter, other

villages, and Essex County Council officers to ensure that the service provided is fit for purpose.

A vote of thanks was offered to Mrs Potter for her hard work in this area

4. New Village Hall: Report from Chrishall Village Hall Committee  
Mr Guy Rackham thanked outgoing Chairman Mr Dominic Reilly for his hard work over the past 10 years.  
A new constitution has been formally adopted and is available for inspection. The Parish Council own the building.  
The financial situation became somewhat difficult, and the Parish Council provided a loan relieve the short term financial pressure. This will be repaid once the reserve is secured.  
A grant of £5,000 has been awarded by Essex County Council and other applications have been submitted. All capital works have and will be grant funded, but it will take time to achieve.  
The front doors and wheel chair access will be completed over this summer, along with a new kitchen.  
The next phase is double glazing and insulation to the chapel. A new sign will be funded by the WI.  
Barriers are to be installed to the front of the building to prevent vehicle damage.

Events: a race night is to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June with a fish and chip supper, and the autumn quiz night.

Bookings and information will be available through the web site:  
[www.chrishallvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.chrishallvillagehall.co.uk)

The committee are all motivated, and working together well for the benefit of the community. More private hire is welcomed.

100 Club: more members are needed.

Derek Ailes offered a vote of thanks to the Village Hall Committee for their hard work and commitment in their aims to get the buildings fit for use and an asset to the community.

5. Red Cow: update and activities: Alexis Beeching:  
Listed building consent has been granted to turn the 15<sup>th</sup> century barn into bed and breakfast accommodation. Significant structural work is to be carried out as the barn does not have any footings. Quotes are being sought for the build, and grant applications will be submitted. It costs a significant amount of money to keep the business going, and everyone was urged to visit at least once per week to help keep the pub going.

Defibrillator and CPR training: 30 members of the community have been trained by the British Heart Foundation. Very good feedback has

indicated the training gives people confidence to take action. Additional training sessions will be available in October. Thanks were offered to the Village Hall Committee for providing the venue free of charge.

British Telecom will allow the telephone box to be used to house the defibrillator through 'Community Heartbeat' provided the Parish Council purchases the phone box for £1, and maintains the phone box going forward.

In an emergency, dial 999 – the ambulance centre has details of every defibrillator and has access codes.

*A toast to the Queen on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

6. Pavilion update:

John Kay: the building:

The pavilion needed renovation, and the Parish Council took the decision to turn it into a more useful space to benefit the community. Grant funding and a generous private donation have enabled the work to be carried out without the use of public funds. The renovation has been slower than anticipated. A storage facility is to be installed for cricket equipment, mowers and strimmers, tables and chairs, etc. This is a necessity due to fire regulations and consideration of the potential for explosion with the combination of petrol fumes and school cookery lessons.

Land ownership is being regularised, as parts of the meadow are under the ownership of Essex County Council, The Diocese of Chelmsford (Chrishall Primary School), and shortly the Parish Council. The Land Registry will delineate the separate areas.

Concerns were expressed about a possible restriction of use whilst school is using the pavilion for cookery. The school has advised a teacher will always be present, and access will not be restricted. Cookery will usually be for short time periods.

The main vehicular access will be from Palmers Lane.

Mrs Barbara Smith: book exchange:

1,500 books have been acquired to date. The book exchange will be a very simple operation. Home made goods have been sold to fund the purchase of soft furnishings for the library area. Volunteers are needed to provide good opening hours. At the moment, it is planned to be open for two afternoons per week, plus every Saturday morning.

A huge thank you was offered to Carol Blackaby and Pat Cranwell for their hard work producing home crafted items for sale.

Mr Fred Davies: Chrishall village archive:

The web site has been rebuilt and the number of 'hits' is steadily increasing. The physical archive will be housed in the pavilion. The intention is for the archive to be a meeting place, help point, show case, venue for oral history, and the starting place for walks. The museum was a long term project run by Mrs Irene Cranwell, Mrs Susan Davies, and Mr Neville Reed. A permanent home is very welcomed.

7. Village Organisations: update

WI: Mrs Margaret Rogers:

The meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month and all ladies are welcomed. The annual meeting welcomes men too. There are currently 27 members who enjoy a variety of talks and activities including the WI training centre, Denham College where a wide variety of skills can be learned from cookery to stained glass. There is a darts team, visits to places of interest, walks and the annual garden party. There is a monthly news sheet.

Chrishall Primary School: Mr Laurence Brett:

The school is full and oversubscribed for the autumn term.

The school is a 'show case' in the District, with a spiritual garden, forest garden, and a fitness programme including run a mile a day, all attributed to a very energetic Head Teacher, Mrs Bratley.

There has been vandalism to the play area. A fence has been erected to prevent dog walkers intruding on school land during school time.

The school has formed a 'federation' with Manuden which means the head teacher and leaderships teams will be shared. This ensures the head teacher is retained, and extends budgets.

Vehicular access is going to be restricted to encourage walking, and parking will be available in the Red Cow.

Comments were received about parking on verges at school collection and dropping off times, and a need for parents to receive information by, for example, Face book.

Brand Trust: Mr Bill Rodda:

This charity was established over 20 years ago for the poor and needy of the parish by William Walter Brand, a local farmer. Approximately £250,000 has been distributed in this time, with a focus on provisions of education and associated requirements including school uniforms, trips, university, and also Council Tax and arrears.

The £20,000 household income limit has now been removed.

The web site has information enabling application.

Funds are given to individuals to help with heating costs, Lifeline, etc.

8. Jigneys Meadow: update by Derek Ailes

Negotiations to achieve Jigneys Meadow for the benefit of the parish have now reached 5 years due to Great Crested Newts, solicitors, planners and difficult negotiations. The Section 106 agreement now

requires the freehold of the land is transferred to the Parish Council by the 10<sup>th</sup> June this year. The Parish Council is waiting on the solicitors to process the documentation.

A vote of thanks was offered to Derek Ailes for his tenacity and patience in achieving the freehold of the Meadow, under difficult circumstances.

The Chairman commented that Derek Ailes had been awarded the nationally recognised 'Star Councillor' award from the National Association of Local Councils. This is a well deserved honour for a very hard working and dedicated Councillor.

9. Public Discussion

Speeding: the speed of vehicles travelling through the village has increased over time and is now considered dangerous, particularly in the mornings.

Some parishioners were in favour of flashing speed signs, whilst others were not. There was unanimous support to retain the rural aspect of the village.

Speed of vehicles needs to be measured to enable a considered approach to be taken.

The Parish Council will seek to establish a factual basis to work with going forward.

*Meeting closed at 10.35pm*