

KIRTLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 6.30 p.m.

Parish Council members present: Mrs K Buckingham-Fry, S Jenkins, D Richardson (Chairman),
R Sadler, Mrs R Powles (Parish Clerk),
Apologies: Cllrs Barry Wood and Ian Corkin (Cherwell District Council);
Cllr Carmen Griffiths (Oxfordshire County Council)
Parishioners attending: Mr Neil Spencer, Mrs Sandra Spencer, Mr John Hunter, Mr Jonathan
Haynes, Mr Simon Goddard, Mr Tony Summerfield, Revd Gareth
Miller, Dr Helen Macbeth, Mr Christopher Powles, Mrs Jo Richardson

Cllr Richardson opened the meeting.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of 24th May 2017 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

(Full report available on request from the Clerk) Cllr Richardson gave apologies on behalf of Councillors Wood and Corkin (Cherwell District Council) and Cllr Griffiths (Oxfordshire County Council). He particularly thanked former Parish Councillor Chairman Mr David Pratt and Vice Chair Dr Helen Macbeth for their invaluable hard work on behalf of the parish over many years until their retirement following the Parish Council elections on 3rd May; he also thanked former Councillor Sam Tylor, who also retired in May, for his much appreciated five years of service.

3. Financial Report

Cllr Sadler presented the End of Year Financial Statement to 31st March 2018. Payments of £25,210 were below receipts of £29,341 so the Council had traded within its means and was in a stable financial position. However, costs excluded free hours from volunteers, including from many present at the meeting. The Precept had been pegged at the previous year's level, at £24,000, and equated to about £1 per parish property per week. The £36,000 cash at bank permitted a reserve of £34,000 which was the combined total of a year's Precept, ringfenced sums and target reserves. This year it was anticipated expenditure would include repairs to the tractor shed roof and new fencing for the Play Area, and the Council hoped to make progress on the Churchyard extension project.

4. Reports by the District Councillor and Village organisations

Cllr Richardson read the report received from District Cllr Corkin *(full report available on request from the Clerk)*. This included confirmation that with regret on both sides the partnership between Cherwell and South Northamptonshire District Councils would end, following the Local Government Review of Northamptonshire County Council.

Village organizations: verbal reports were presented:

KWACS: Mr Powles described the past year's meetings and ongoing work. Evening lecture topics had covered Otmoor, the origin of the apple, water voles, the Lost World of South America, canals, deer, and life in trees. KWACs' ongoing conservation projects were the Pond, hedgehogs, the Quarry, and the Churchyard. A series of twentieth anniversary walks had been organized, including a visit to Dr Barry Juniper's apple orchards at Wytham. Future activities were a presence at the Village Fete, further work with Kirtlington Hedgehog Street, and lectures on insects, badger behavior, dung beetles and cuckoos.

Parochial Church Council: Revd Gareth Miller was now at the end of his first year as Rector of the benefice. He encouraged use of the Church for events. Several large funerals had taken place in the past year. The Lenten lectures had been well-attended and there was a strong link with the School. The Churchyard presented some maintenance challenges but KWACs' assistance was welcome. The PCC had gained two new members and the pattern of services had been reviewed and a new mid-morning one was being considered. He described the re-launch in September 2017 following the major repairs to the roof and interior. He considered the Church to be essentially in good shape.

The Kirtlington Charities: Mr Haynes reported the Charities had an income of about £1,500 per annum, which was distributed in the village to those who were "needy". The Trustees had explored the option of selling the land and had obtained pro bono legal advice, and had applied to register title to the land; registration of full title was not yet possible

however. The Trustees had possessory title and would acquire full title in six or seven years. The Trustees had a non-charging agent and a new tenant and had received the year's income in the form of the single farm payment for the Kirtlington land and for the section of the SSSI site (Arncott Bridge Meadows). He asked that anyone who wished to suggest potential beneficiaries contact him, Mrs Mowat or Mrs Samworth.

Footpaths society: Dr Macbeth thanked Mrs Mason and Mrs Lewis, who had recently stepped down, for their past work. She hoped to find a new volunteer who would take on the separate role of footpath warden liaising with the County Council's public access team. Dr Macbeth had assisted in a recent objection to an application for a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) past Slade Farm. This year unfortunately it has not been possible to organize a visit by the Community Service team to carry out clearance of footpath surfaces in the village centre.

Public transport (buses): Dr Macbeth thanked Mrs Shackleton for her very active assistance in attending the County Council's public transport rep meetings (also attended by Dr Macbeth). She noted the village was very lucky to have kept a bus service, and had done so because of S106 money from the Heyford Park developments. She noted also that the discussions about possible future train services between Oxford and Cambridge, and Oxford via Islip, were ongoing.

1st Kirtlington Scouts: Mr Goddard as Assistant Beaver leader described the resurrection in October 2017 of the Scout group, with Mr Richardson as Chair. There were now about 15 Beavers, and there had been a good turnout for Remembrance Sunday. They had helped clear the Sports Field after the Fireworks display and the December party had been successful. In January they had helped clear the Scout Hut and worked to gain various badges. Cubs had also had a good year and had gained many badges including the top level silver awards. Overall the group was growing and was in need of adult volunteers.

Village Hall Management Committee: Mrs Richardson outlined the recent few changes to the team which was comprised of volunteers, with honorariums being paid to Mrs Allison and Mr Harrison. Bookings were now managed online via the website and the Hall's eco status had also been maintained. The surrounding garden area had been improved thanks to discounted plants from Bunkers Hill nursery. The condition of the floor in the main hall was still a problem and a replacement surface would cost in the region of £25,000. The curtains had all recently been replaced, new equipment had been provided for the kitchen, and the kitchen cupboards had been allocated. Daytime use of the Hall by businesses had increased. The Fireworks display had produced the largest profit to date, at over £4,000. Gigaclear had confirmed the provision of free Wifi for the foreseeable future. Costly repairs were needed for sections of external woodwork. She noted there were unfilled vacancies on the Committee.

Welcome Club: Mr Spencer reported the club was still going strong although numbers were lower than in previous years and now included members from Bletchington and Islip. There was now no age restriction, and new members were needed on the committee. The year's programme had included many successful and enjoyable day trips by coach, and events in the village hall and at the Golf Club, the village hall and Golf Club being easier to attend for members with mobility problems. He was hopeful that the club would be able to continue providing members with entertainment and days out.

Written reports (copies available on request from the Parish Clerk) were presented as received from:

Parish Council Chairman's Report (Cllr Richardson)	Cherwell District Council (Cllr Ian Corkin)
Allotments Association	Kirtlington Care
Kirtlington Film Club	Kirtlington Good Neighbour Scheme
Royal British Legion	School Endowment Trust
Kirtlington Stars (under 10's Football)	Sustainable Kirtlington
Kirtlington Youth Club	

Reports not received:

Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police, Village News Team

Cllr Richardson said that the reports reflected the very great efforts by all involved in village activities although clearly even more volunteers were needed, and he thanked all for their work.

5. Any Other Business

Cllr Richardson invited questions from those present; no questions were raised.

Cllr Richardson closed the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

Signed	D. M. RICHARDSON	Chairman
Date	30 APRIL 2019	