

# **PAULERSPURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 11 March 2013

in

Paulerspury Village Hall, High Street, Paulerspury

**PRESENT:** Thirty seven members of the public including District Councillor Mrs Sandra Barnes.

**CHAIRMAN OF PAULERSPURY PARISH COUNCIL, MR JOHN BARNES.**

Mr Barnes welcomed those present to the meeting.

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS SANDRA BARNES**

Mrs Barnes reported that for the third year in succession South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) had not increased its Council Tax.

SNC Development Control Committee (DCC) would discuss the **Moat Lane, Towcester** application on 14 March 2013. The sale of Springfields, the existing site of SNC offices, would provide the finance to ensure the transition of the council to new offices in Moat Lane would be cost neutral.

The **Towcester Vale -Southern Extension** application would be considered by the DCC on 11 April 2013. The developers were now being asked to consider modifications to the Old Stratford roundabout given the expected increase in traffic which would be generated by this development.

Changes had been made to the waste collection service in that a third wheeled bin would be provided to households to replace the current system of boxes.

When questioned about car park provision for the new SNC offices Mrs Barnes said that this matter was currently under discussion but not part of the Moat Lane application.

Mrs Barnes said how vital it was that the relief road incorporated in the Tove Valley application was instated as soon as possible.

Comments from the audience regarding the malfunction of the Zebra crossing in Towcester would be forwarded to the Highways Authority.

**POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER TARA COOKSAMMY**

PCSO Cooksammy reported that the crime figures (27 in total), for the Tove Ward Feb 2012 – 2013 had shown a decrease of some 7 crimes . Criminal damage incidents were down by 5 and theft – handling by 6. Machinery continued to be stolen in rural areas and schools were being targeted for the contents of their safes.

The dialling number 101 had been introduced for non- emergency calls

## **PAULERSPURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **MR TIM FOSTER**

There were 116 children on the school Roll. The past eighteen months had shown improvement in the school provision which had been confirmed by the recent "Good" Ofsted evaluation. The behaviour of the children bordered on "Outstanding". Three valued longstanding teachers had retired and three new appointments had been made. The aim now was to attain "Outstanding". The school was grateful to the Friends of Paulerspury and Paulerspury Players for their financial contribution.

The school had taken part in many diverse activities including celebrating the Olympics, a Dance Festival, a visit from representatives of the Space Centre and a visit from Olympian, Gail Emms. Various After-School Clubs were provided for the children and senior children would be visiting Dorset this year. The school continued to have strong links with St James, the parish church.

Staff and governors of the school were committed to making the school a great place. There was currently a vacancy for a Community Governor.

## **PAULERSPURY PRE SCHOOL**     **MRS JO KING**

Mrs King is the Chairman of the Pre School Committee and Mrs Michelle Burton the Supervisor. Mornings for the Pre School were fully booked – 27 in the morning with 14 – 18 places taken up in the afternoon. There were 7 members of staff. The outside area had been re-vamped to comply with Ofsted requirements. A recent Food Hygiene inspection awarded the Pre School a Five Star rating. The committee continued to raise funds to the benefit of the children.

## **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**     **MRS JANICE RABY**

The URC had had a traumatic year due to the demise of three very active members. Work being provided by the Probation Service had, unfortunately, to be terminated due to an unfortunate incident. Their work had been a great asset to the URC. Mrs Raby appealed to the audience for help in maintaining the churchyard following the loss of this help. Paulerspury Players continued to use the church for their rehearsals. The Parish Council was thanked for their grant towards further restoration work.

## **PAULERSPURY VILLAGE HALL**

## **MR R COLLETT**

Mr Collett said re-decoration of the hall would be the next project for the hall. Although the financial position of the Village Hall was sound letting charges had been raised by 3% to keep up with inflation. Mr Barnes was thanked for his work in running the 501 Club which raised £2,000. Fund raising was still needed however to keep the financial situation healthy. Mr Collett thanked treasurer, Mrs Pearce and caretaker, Miss Dunkley, and all the other committee members for their hard work.

## **ST JAMES' PARISH CHURCH**

## **MISS MOLLIE DUNKLEY**

Miss Dunkley said that a lot of external building work had been undertaken in the past year in order to preserve the building. The "Pury End" porch had been re-roofed and the tower louvres had been replaced (essential for keeping out flying vermin). Further work was required on the interior of the South wall and the bells. The gilding on the clock would be carried out when the weather improved. The Church had to pay approximately £10,000 to the Peterborough Diocese per year as the "Parish Share". The financial support given by the village was much appreciated.

The Flower Festival would be held this year. The church had a very close relationship with the Primary School with the children attending various services and coming to the church to hear talk about the church.

### **PAULERSPURY PLAYERS**

### **MR ALEC WAGNER**

Mr Wagner said the Players had brought the "The Railway Children" - a travelling performance theatre to the village in May 2012 which was followed by participation in the Jubilee 2012 village celebrations. They had been able to donate funds to both the Primary School and the Pre School. 15 children attended a Summer School to progress their writing skills which was followed by a play performance.

500 people enjoyed the 2013 pantomime, "Aladdin", which raised £1000 to be shared amongst local organisations.

Mr Wagner recorded his thanks to the URC and Paulerspury Village Hall for their storage facilities and the URC also for freely allowing the Players to rehearse in the chapel.

A song writing course would be held in April 2013 and in May the Looking Glass Theatre would be performing "Treasure Island" and a Drama and Music Workshop would be held in the summer.

### **JUBILEE 2013 CELEBRATION. MR NIGEL BLACKWELL**

This was held on 4 June 2013. £2500 was raised from the community and the Parish Council to fund the event. Many items were donated and time was generously given by the committee formed to organise the event.

The fancy dress parade was very well supported with many turning out in red, white and blue outfits. Residents enjoyed the Tea Dance, the games, the disco and picnic (free hot dogs and ice cream for the children). The Hog Roast sold out completely and the band played until the beacon was lit at 10:00pm all culminating in a firework display to end the evening.

Photographs were taken by many on the day which have been recorded in two books. The books will be given to the URC Chapel and St James' church for display at appropriate events. A DVD of the day was also compiled.

A suggestion to erect a flag pole in the parish would be considered by the Parish Council. Suggestions for its position would be invited from Parish residents.

### **BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – MR J RABY**

Mr Raby said £1100 had been raised at the last collection. He thanked all collectors and donors and asked for further volunteer collectors. After collecting for many years Mrs Doreen Blackwell would be retiring from her round.

## **CHAIRMAN OF PAULERSPURY PARISH COUNCIL MR JOHN BARNES**

### **Parish Confines**

Mr Barnes reported the current position regarding progress by South Northants Council on the issues relating to village confines

An Issues Paper would be forthcoming on 13 March 2013 which would relate to matters concerning village confines. If approved by the Cabinet of SNC, a six week public consultation period would ensue.

The issues to be considered:

- 1) Whether parishes with confines should continue to have confines or take the alternative of an “Open Countryside” policy.
- 2) Parishes to define and designate “Important Open Spaces.

This may include agricultural land, incorporated into gardens, being designated “Important Open Space” and thus not be available for building purposes.

- 3) To identify land or sites in a parish (adjacent to existing or newly defined confines) for specified development, supported by the community.
- 4) To identify “community assets”. If assets were identified then there would be a period of time for communities to consider purchasing an asset (such as a village pub) if it were likely to be lost to the village.

### **Website**

The Parish Council had taken responsibility for a new website –[www.paulerspuryparish.org.uk](http://www.paulerspuryparish.org.uk) -for the parish. This was not a Parish Council website but one for the parish (Heathencote, Towcester, Pury Hill, Pury End and Paulerspury), funded by the parish council and managed by the parish council. A small group of people from the parish council had joined with Ms Andrea Lord to create the website. The Parish Council was grateful to Ms Lord for setting up the website and for being the webmaster.

### **Parish Precept**

The increase from the current year in the Parish Precept element of council tax for 2013-2014 for a Band D property would be £5.31.

### **Questions from the audience**

1. Kingstons Farm Had the Parish Council any information on the future of Kingstons Farm, Lumber Lane.

Mr Barnes answered that, to date, the “For Sale” signs were still at the entrance.

2. Filling potholes Despair was expressed at the state of the parish roads and the manner in which potholes were filled by Northamptonshire County Council.

Mr Barnes said that the parish council reported all potholes which reached the depth and width criteria. The method of filling the potholes left much to be desired. Mr Alan Walker, District Councillor for Deanshanger Ward, stated that potholes should be fully prepared before the tarmac was applied. The clerk noted his comments.

3. Telephone Box, High Street, near Church Green

The Parish Council had purchased this box for £1. The state of the box was a cause for concern. The options were to

- a) Refurbish the box or
- b) Sell it

This matter would be discussed at a meeting of the Parish Council. Suggestions for what should happen to it were invited from the meeting.

4. Street Lighting

A query was raised about the additional light on the High Street. The additional light on the Kennel Lane Estate had been installed by the developers of the estate.

5. Water on the frontage of Nos. 29 -33 High Street

Construction work was being carried out near these properties which may resolve this issue.

6. Healthcare Foundation Trust

Mr Andrew Bailey advised the audience that, as a member of the Healthcare Foundation Trust, he would welcome comments from residents with regard to service levels experienced by residents within the National Health Service (NHS).

Mr Frank Kelly, member of the Patient Participation Panel, Towcester, said that he also would welcome comments from residents on their experiences within the NHS

The meeting closed at 9:26 pm.

