

# PAULERSPURY PARISH COUNCIL



Paulerspury, Pury End, Heathencote & Pury Hill



## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

**MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 7:30PM**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 11 March 2024

### **Opening remarks by the Chairman of Paulerspury Parish Council, Mr Ian Westall**

Mr Westall welcomed those present and thanked them for attending the meeting. With the help of slides Mr Westall recounted to the audience what the parish council had achieved during the last twelve months and what the council was not allowed to assist with.

- Finance. Whilst the precept had remained unchanged from 2023-24 energy cost predictions for 2024-5 were as yet undefined.
- Planning. The council had considered 17 applications in the last 12 month. 4 had been objected to with 2 of those being approved by West Northamptonshire Council.

### **The Barley Mow.**

Mr Paulo Moraes is the new landlord and would be opening for business on 5 April 2024. He hopes to bring to the Barley Mow a wide selection of eating and drinking opportunities and intends to fully immerse the Barley Mow in village activities.

### **WNC Councillor Deanshanger Ward**

### **Mr William Barter**

Mr Barter said that the recent change to a Unity Council was beginning to show outcomes from the changes made. The new Local Plan was now in its draft form and would be going out to consultation in April. Mr Barter urged those present to look at the document and make comments.

Housing growth in future would focus on Northampton- in particular brownfield sites. Employment areas were still available at Junctions 15 and 15 a. The council had set a balanced budget with a 4.99% increase however the financial requirements of the Childrens' Trust were subject to demand. £90m had been saved thanks to economies of scale overall.

Mr Barter would always endeavour to make sure the views of the local communities were heard at planning meetings.

### **WNC Councillor Deanshanger Ward**

### **Mr Ken Pritchard**

Mr Pritchard said there had been a lot of complaints regarding development plans for the land near the Stony Stratford roundabout. 2700 houses were planned for Moulton, Broughton and other areas outside Northampton. Deanshanger council had received an application for 450 houses outside the confines. West Northants Council currently had 8.9 years of land available for building – 5years only required.

The Chief Constable was currently involved in an enquiry. A new Chief Fire Officer would be appointed soon.

**Paulerspury CE Primary School    Mr Paul Dunstan – words read by Mrs Baker (School Governor)**

There were currently 66 children on the school roll – possible number 140. This had a severe deleterious financial impact on the ability to provide the curriculum and sustainability was of concern under these circumstances. Whilst the school welcomed children from outside the catchment area media promotions had not as yet born fruit.

Staff members were excellent and working hard to provide the children with the best educational experience. A new writing strategy – The Write Stuff - had been introduced which had led to much improvement in the children’s imaginative use of vocabulary and sentence structure. Also introduced the Dimensions Structure. This was a topic based curriculum covering all subjects with the exception of maths, English, RE and PE. and had been very positively received by all.

Governors play a key role in the management of the school and currently there were vacancies.

**Paulerspury Village Hall**

**Mr Colin Morley**

The Village Hall Committee had been very successful with the fund raising events they had held. The Coronation Tea and the Murder Mystery events were sold out and the Horse Racing Night was very well attended too. The monthly Coffee Mornings average 40 attendees. A total of £4000 was raised last year which would be ploughed back into the hall. The hall would be decorated and new curtains hung. Feed back had been very positive and the hall was a very important asset for the village.

Pre School was the major user of the hall with many other groups occupying it through the months. 2 party bookings per month bring in welcome income. The Players use it for their productions occupying it for the Pantomime from October to February. Thanks were extended to the Parish Council for its support. Power costs were a major challenge and needed careful management. Clearance of the car park had been carried out by members of the committee and was due to be repeated this year.

Plans for the forthcoming months include a Musical Bingo, D-Day Celebration in conjunction with other village organisations, Race Night and a Murder Mystery.

**Paulerspury Horticultural Society**

**Mrs Elaine Mozdzynski**

The Horticultural Society had enjoyed a very successful year. Improved communication with members and the community in general had been successful with its own website with Instagram due to be launched soon. Financially the society was sound. Attendances were high and there were now 50 members on the roll. An interesting programme ensured good attendance at meetings with outside visits planned for the summer.

The Annual Bake and Grow Show had a good number of entrants rising from 255 in 2022 to 317 in 2023 and public attendance also increased. A focus group had been formed to explore ways of promoting the society and its events. The society would be contributing a “Forties Style” themed day for the D-Day Celebration event concentrating on Dig for Victory and the Women’s Land Army.

**St James’ Parish Church**

**Mr Jeff Creek**

The Church continues to have a weekly Communion Service, Evensong on the first Sunday of every month and Holy Communion on the second Sunday each month, Easter, Christmas and Advent services with weddings, christenings and funerals as required. There was a small regular congregation. The Church was also responsible for the spiritual welfare for the children at the Church of England Primary School.

Being over 800 years of age the church was showing its age. Several feet of water had made entry into the under-croft so a drainage system was required to prevent further occurrences. Woodworm and beetles were within the church and internal flagstones were uneven thus many thousands of pounds would be required for these repairs. The Parish Share currently stood at £30,000.00

Events had been held to raise funds: Coronation Dog Show, St George’s Day Lunch, Fete and Flower Festival, Christmas Market and Quiz Night which raised £850.

Future events were planned: Fete and Dog Show 13 July and a Christmas Market in November.

Reverend George who as a curate had been with the parish church for two years would be moving on shortly to be the priest in his own parish. He had been of great help during his tenure here. A farewell gift was planned.

### **Paulerspury Good Neighbours Club**

**Mrs J Smith – words read by Mrs Sawyer.**

Mrs Smith reported that various speakers had entertained the members with games, a quiz or a natter the alternative. Thanks to the generosity of volunteers cakes and sandwiches were provided for the afternoon tea which was then followed by the raffle. Membership had risen to 30 so thanks were extended to the Pre School for vacating the main hall in order to accommodate the increase in membership.

### **Paulerspury Players**

**Mr Ian Taylor pp. Mr Alec Wagner**

A successful year for the Players with increases in members and committee members. The Murder Mystery and the Pantomime sold out with the pantomime selling 700 tickets. Thanks to improved marketing there were now 5000 followers. A Panto Workshop was planned for the summer with the possibility of two sessions as last year's event was a sell out.

The Players would be taking part in the forthcoming 80<sup>th</sup> D-Day Celebration and putting on another Murder Mystery evening. Work on Dick Whittington, the pantomime for 2025, had already begun. Due to the success of the 2024 pantomime consideration was being given to a second matinee and an additional evening performance in future.

Thanks were given to all who helped the Players in numerous ways and to the various groups who gave up their bookings.

### **Paulerspury Bowls Cub**

Started in 1992 the club belongs to the Northampton Short Mat Bowls Association. Members play in the afternoon with league play taking place during the evening. Members travel from as far as Yardley Gobion, Potterspury, Greens Norton and Newport Pagnell.

## **TOPICS**

### **To consider proposals from the audience which will enhance the village**

- A request was made for a demonstration on how to use a defibrillator
- Comments were raised regarding the difficulty experienced when trying to join the A5 at peak times.
- Redundant metalwork, signage and cones litter the A5 verges – a request for their removal was made.
- A request was made for the removal of the Herras fencing left behind on Grays Lane following the development of Sheepscombe Close.
- The Parish Council was asked to consider additional ways of communicating with members of the public and whether advertisements in the Newsletter could be considered also.

There being no further comments the meeting closed at 8:50 pm.