

FALFIELD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Falfield Village Hall

Present

Parish Councillors: Mrs J Hathway (Chairman), Ms E. Jarvis, Mr K Fryer, Mrs V Stanley & Mrs O' Connor

Clerk: Mr J Carpenter **Public:** Ward Cllr John O' Neill, and one Parishioner

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Gregory

2. Report from Chairman

Falfield Parish Council Annual Report 16th May 2017.

The Council continues to work on behalf of the residents of Falfield, and the year 2016/2017, as always, has been a busy year.

Changes within the structure of the Parish Council.

The Council was sorry to say 'goodbye' to Mrs. Dawn Bramley, the Council's Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer in October 2016. However after advertising for a replacement for Mrs. Bramley interviews were held and Mr. James Carpenter was appointed to take up the post in November 2016 as the Council's Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

During the year the Council was also sorry to lose the very valuable Cllr. Andy Isaacs as Cllr. Isaacs's work commitments made it impossible for him to attend Council meeting. However the Council was pleased to co-opt Cllr Stanley and Cllr Gregory.

Cllr Fryer regularly attends the Community Engagement Forum (formally the Safer Stronger Group) for our area. Councillor Fryer always gives very worthwhile feedback to the Council.

From April 2016 to March 2017, Cllr O'Connor served as the Council's representative on the Falfield Village Hall Committee. Cllr Stanley was nominated and agreed as the representative from April 2017 to March 2018.

Other meetings attended for information gathering and working on behalf of the Parish Council.

- Town and Parish Meetings
- Oldbury Stakeholders meetings.
- William Stephens Charity Meetings
- Thornbury Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

Future Parish Council Meetings

It was resolved in September 2016 that because of the increased workload, Parish Council Meetings would meet every month except August and December.

The Annual Big Clean

The 2017 Big Clean was undertaken by 11 Adults and 4 children which included help from HMP Eastwood Park.

Planning Applications

Viewed numerous Planning Applications. Planning permission was granted this year for the conversion of some existing buildings into four new dwellings and we look forward to welcoming the future occupants of Dudden Farm and The Haven into the parish.

One significant planning application which involved a lot of time was the Henage Farm development put forward by Cotswold Homes. This application was rejected by South Gloucestershire Council for a

number of reasons. It is understood that this application may go to Appeal in the summer of 2017. The Buckover Village perspective development was also discussed at great length.

Assets

The Council has maintained its Assets. Also with the help of a working party from HMP Leyhill Prison working party cleared the ivy off of three bus shelters.

Police Reports

The Council continued to receive Police reports for the Parish, although these are not as regular as in previous years.

HMP Eastwood Park

Representatives from the Parish Council met with the Governor of HMP Eastwood Park, Suzy Diamond White and with Mr McBrien, the Community Engagement Manager of HMP Eastwood Park. These meetings continue to be very positive. Cllr Hathway and Mr James Carpenter, our Clerk attended a Family and Friends Day on April 27 on behalf of the Council. This proved to be very interesting as we toured the Prison and heard of the good things that are happening at the Establishment. We were also treated to a display of the control of anger management amongst inmates as well as a display of drug detection for all who enter within the gates of the establishment.

Bus Stops

We continue to monitor the Bus situation and are still waiting for a positive outcome for Bus Stops to be placed on the approach road to the M5 Junction 14.

Outward Looking

At the instigation Rockhampton Parish Council, contact has been made with the surrounding Parish Councils, it was resolved that 'Agreed' Parish Council Minutes would be exchanged. Also if the opportunity arose for Parish Councils to work together on housing issues Falfield Parish Council would be very co-operative.

Work/commitments ongoing are:

The Cotswold Homes development
The monitoring of the Joint Spatial Plan

Continuing commitment

On Remembrance Sunday, a representative from the Parish Council laid a Poppy Wreath at the War Memorial on Bristol Road as well as attending the Annual Remembrance Service at St George Church.

As a postscript, Mr Carpenter and Cllr Hathway attended a training evening in early May which was delivered by ALCA (Avon Local Councillor Association)

In gratitude I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors and Ward Councillor John O'Neill for their hard and dedicated work throughout the year and look forward to another productive year ahead.

**Mrs J Hathway,
Chairman, Falfield Parish Council**

3. Financial Report from the Clerk

The 2016/2017 Statement of Accounts and Annual Return form (Sections 1 and 2) have been completed and are ready to sign off at the Annual Council Meeting. The Internal Audit was completed earlier in May allowing for Section 4 of the Annual Return form to also be signed.

The Parish Council ended the 2016/2017 financial year with a closing balance of £14,976.87, of these funds £5,415.00 are earmarked to items including covering any future election costs, providing the Village Hall with a contingency fund, asset replacements and training. The remaining un-earmarked funds are appropriate for a small Parish Council with no other source of income.

During the year other than the receipt of the annual precept the Parish Council also received a refund of £970.93 from South Gloucestershire Council following an investigation which established that the cost of grass cutting on the Village Green had also been included in the Localism charges for cutting of the grass verges under the responsibility of the Parish Council. This refund covered over payments going back to 2008.

During the year three donation payments were made, the annual grant of £75.00 to the Benefice Newsletter, £20.00 to The Falfield & Stone Brownies and £60.00 to The Royal British Legion.

James Carpenter
Clerk & RFO, Falfield Parish Council

4. Items Raised by Electors of the Parish

None

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

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