

## **THE PARISH MEETING OF WHISSENDINE 2018**

This was held in the Village School, Main Street, Whissendine, on Wednesday 14th March 2018 beginning at 7:30pm

Present: Mr Will Farr (Chairman)

Mr Ian Arnold (Ward Councillor)

Mrs Linda Arnold, Mr Rob Comber, Mr David Hatton, Mrs Pat Lake, Dr Sue Lammin,

Mrs Cynthia Moss (Parish Councillors)

Mrs Elaine Everington (Parish Clerk, taking minutes)

Dr Andrew Moyce of the Whissendine Environment Group, Ms. Jean Penny of the Good Neighbour Scheme, Mr. Brian Maunders of Neighbourhood Watch, Mr. M. Dickinson of the Village Hall, Mrs J. A. Millington of Rainbows.

Apologies were given on behalf of P.C. Laurie Appleton, Leicestershire Police and Mrs Ann Maddison, on behalf of the Whissendine Sports Club.

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending this year's AGM.

### **2. Minutes of the 2017 Parish Meeting**

These had been available in advance of the meeting from the website and paper copies were at the meeting. They were accepted on proposal of Mr D. Hatton and signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Police Comments**

**P. C. Laurie Appleton sent his apologies and the following update.**

The following crime has been reported to police on Rutland North beat: -

Burglary Dwelling	-	Ryhall
Burglary other than dwelling	-	Greetham, Stretton
Assault	-	Great Casterton
Theft from motor vehicle	-	6 x A1 (HGV's), Great Casterton
Theft	-	Barnsdale, Whissendine, Langham, Burley, 2 x Market Overton
Criminal damage	-	Pickworth (Hare Coursing)
Bilking	-	Great Casterton

We are noticing an increase in thefts on the beat and so would ask that if anybody sees anything suspicious that they report through to 101 or 999 if a crime is taking place. I am looking for local residents to help set up Property Marking Events in your villages to allow local residents to mark any property they have stored in outbuildings, sheds and garages to try and prevent thefts and also to help identify property if recovered. The marking of the property is free and open to all to attend. If you are interested in helping me arrange an event please contact me

[laurie.appleton@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:laurie.appleton@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk) .For both Rutland North and Rutland South the priority continue to be Rural Crime with links to Hare Coursing. We have noticed a reduction in reports of Hare Coursing and so will be targeting Burglary patrols and vehicle crime and will update through @Rutland Police any incidents.

PC 1742 Appleton

#### **4. Parish Council Chairman: Annual Report**

Firstly, I wish to say thank you to the Parish Councillors for their hard work throughout the year. It is this work behind the scenes that sometimes takes up a lot of time.

Also, I would like to thank Elaine, the Parish Clerk, for taking on various tasks during the past year.

Village Green: The new bench was erected on the Village Green and it appears to get a fair amount of use, especially in good weather.

Cow Lane: The car passing place is still on the agenda and a further request will be forwarded to Rutland County Council, as from the new financial year.

The Ward Councillor: Welcome to Ian Arnold as the new Ward Councillor and thank you for his help over the last few months.

The Grapevine: We now have the new look magazine with some colour which seems to have gone down well.

I would like to give a big thank you to Nicki, the Editor, for getting this up and running.

The Banks: The WPC is looking at ideas to make this an area people can visit and enjoy. We are also looking at the small children's area which has been in operation for some time now and the equipment is getting to look very old and will soon be passed repair. Money will need to be put aside for this, as the precept from one year will not cover this.

Village Groups: This year as in the past, the Parish Council has supported the Village Groups and will continue to do so, with Grants which need to be put forward in writing and directed to the Clerk, stating the need and amount requested.

Defibrillator: This is ongoing - to date the Village telephone kiosk has been purchased, as one option to house one defibrillator.

I could go on even further but I think this is a reasonable summary of the events of the last year. Finally, there is a vacancy on the Parish Council and if anyone is interested, we would like to hear from you.

#### **5. The Ward Councillor Update:**

Councillor Ian Arnold maintained that RCC was doing a good job as despite Government cuts, there is still funds to build 3,000 new houses on the St Georges Barracks land, although it will be several years to completion.

Ian delivered his update via slides covering the following:

1. Update from Rutland County Police
2. Rutland County Council Budget v Central Government
3. Rutland County Council Local Plan
4. St. Georges Barracks
5. Oakham One-Way
6. Oakham Enterprise Park
7. Highways/Footpaths
8. Doctors Surgery

## **6. Whissendine Website:**

The village website was overhauled in December 2017, with changes to the front-end design as well as the platform it operates on. There are currently 100 pages of content, 365 news posts (approx 10 news items posted a month) and 1,400 calendar entries (about 40 events per month appearing on the village calendar). In the last 12 months, the website recorded 10,800 sessions with about 27,500 page views, a similar number to the previous year.

- The village Twitter account currently has 306 followers and is growing at the rate of 10 followers a month.
- The website and Twitter accounts share the same email address and it is worth considering sharing access with the Grapevine email to make it easier for village groups and individuals to email news and notifications to one address instead of two. Shared email access would also make it easier for the editors of the Grapevine, website and Twitter feed to disseminate the correct information to residents.

## **7. Community Action: The Village Hall**

Mike Dickinson gave an update on the improvements to the village hall. The second phase of the alterations to the kitchen will take place during the Easter holidays.

## **8. Community Action: The Sports Club:**

Ann Maddison, representing the Sports Club sent her apologies and sent a short note confirming she has now contacted a solicitor to ascertain the process and cost involved in transferring the Club to a charity status.

## **9. Whissendine Environment Group:**

The group has met regularly throughout the year. We were sad to lose the active participation of Pat Lake on her retirement but are glad to welcome Cynthia Moss to the group. This will enable WEG to maintain our good communications with the Parish Council.

Sadly we have to report the death of Alex MacKenzie who had been a member of the group since coming to the village.

Chapel Walk: We have had several working parties on site and hope to continue and to maintain improve the area. There is now a sign in place recording the support of the Cory Trust and Whissendine Parish Council in the improvement of the area.

Whissendine Windmill: The area around the path to the Windmill has been cleared and replanted with considerable improvement to the appearance of the approach to this village landmark. We were assisted in this project by the Rainbows who planted some wild flowers.

Cutting of Verges: WEG has continued to cooperate with the Parish Council in their attempts to formulate a policy on verge cutting that will both preserve flowering plants until they have seeded whilst complying with road safety requirements.

WEG plan to continue these and other activities to try to maintain and improve the village environment. They would welcome both new ideas on how to achieve these aims and the support of any new members who would be interested in helping.

## **10. Rainbows:**

1st Whissendine Rainbows is a part of Girl-guiding UK and currently has 5 girls aged from 5 – 7 years, potentially increasing to 12 after Easter. For some inexplicable reason, we don't seem to attract the

girls despite having a strong and dedicated leadership team and providing an exciting programme. We have an invaluable local benefactor who enabled us to take the girls to the Sea Life Centre in Hunstanton, by providing the funds for us to hire the Voluntary Action Rutland minibus to take us there and back. We take part enthusiastically in many GGUK activities and events and all we need is more.

11. Long Clawson Charity:

The Clerk delivered a report on the 2017 vouchers: This year, 23 people benefited from vouchers of £90, to spend in the village shop.

The balance in the account: £5,531.56, (same time last year, 5594.39).

12. Questions on any topic from the floor: None received.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm