

CRICK PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 11th.May 2011 at 7.30pm at the Old School, Church Street, Crick.

Present – J. Richards (Chairman) D. Tolfts (Vice Chairman) Mrs G. Nisbet, Mrs M. Gibbins, W. Simms, W. Fursman, Miss A. Ward, R. Atterbury.

6 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies.**

R. Lowe, J. Goodger, P. Dunkley and the Clerk.

2. **Declaration of Interests.**

Members did not declare any interests.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4th.May 2010.**

The minutes had been circulated after the last Annual Parish Meeting. Mrs G. Nisbet proposed that the minutes were a true and correct record of the meeting. The proposal was seconded by Mrs M. Gibbins and agreed by those present.

4. **Police Community Safety Team.**

PCSO Lorraine Humfress had submitted a report showing the crime figures in Crick village itself from 1st.April 2010 to 31st.March 2011. The figures in brackets are for the same period, the previous year;

Burglary dwellings – 3 (10)

Non dwelling burglary and theft – 8 (10)

Theft from motor vehicles – 3 (10)

Theft of motor vehicles – 2 (4)

Criminal damage – 9 (15)

5. **Report of Mrs Catherine Boardman – Northamptonshire County Councillor.**

The Chairman welcomed the County Councillor to the meeting. She informed the meeting that 2011 was the last year of her term of office. She has continued with her work with fellow Councillors, Cabinet Members and Officers of NCC and she has been able to direct local problems in Parishes to the right quarter in the County Council. Transportation is again being reorganised in the County, she urged people to attend a number of meetings, the nearest being in Daventry, to discuss the new proposals.

Throughout the year she has funded a number of projects from the Governance Fund including the purchase of equipment for the Payback Team working in Crick on Mondays. She briefly outlined the effect on rural areas of the cuts in the budget of the County Council and the reorganisation of the DDC Waste Collection service.

The Chairman thanked her for her attendance and input and also the work she has done behind the scenes that people are unaware of.

6. David Holmes – Crick Charity Accounts.

Crick Education Foundation – is a village charity, established in 1622, which provides support to students from within the village, who are planning to go on to university education or a village group who feel that their aims have an educational base.

The Trustees meet in September to award their grants based on applications received by the Clerk, as requested in a poster which appears in Crick News. In 2010 the Trustees awarded a total of £1,700 in grants, which were shared between the Rector's Children Fund and a total of 13 eligible students, four students more than last year but who in turn received a similar grant than to those awarded in the previous year. A grant was made to Crick Primary School subsequent to the Trustee's meeting earlier this year.

Total income to the Charity during the year from its various investment sources amounted to £2003.14, very slightly down on the previous year. The Charity investment value shows a further increase over the year but is still considerably down to its value in 2007.

Crick Parochial Charities – is an amalgamation of several Crick Charities whose Trustees award Christmas vouchers. Applications, together with nominations are considered at the November meeting of the Trustees, following a notice which is placed in Crick News.

In 2010 the Trustees awarded a total of £755.40 in vouchers and gifts which were redeemable at the Post Office or the Coop Store. These were shared between 5 recipients under the Robinson Beef Charity and 14 under the B. Kerr Charity and the other charities, together with ten first time widows/widowers.

Total income, to the Charity during the year from its various investment sources amounted to £927.60, which was again slightly down on the previous year. The Charity's investment value showed a further small increase in value on the previous year, but is still down on its value in 2007.

The Chairman thanked David for his input.

7. Chairman's Report.

J. Richards reported that the Parish Council continued to serve the community on ever challenging issues in the last year. Eleven full Parish Council meetings were held plus two planning meetings and five extraordinary meetings. Members of the public are encouraged to attend all meetings. Last year at the AGM, the eleven Councillors maintained their positions on various Committees. In 2011 the eleven Councillors were re-elected unopposed at the elections held on 5th.May.

The Parish Council has responsibility for the burial ground, street lighting and green areas that need to be maintained. The Parish Council is responsible for Special

Projects and has a power of spending under S137 provisions. Members consider the plans and budget in October/November for the next financial year starting in April. Last year the Parish Council raised a precept to DDC of a modest increase in the Community Charge of 3.8%.

From the five year Parish Plan carried out in 2009, the residents identified certain priorities. Parking including verge enhancements, village improvements that included the provision of a footbridge on the A428 over the canal, canal footpath, village entrances, new sports field including facilities for teenagers and parish walks. One off donations to voluntary parish organisations through applications has been made. These include the Crick Millennium Wood, the Old School, the Village Hall, the playing field, the First Transponders and the Crick Charities.

The Parish Council has built up a rapport with DDC with a revised Village Design Statement. The Parish Council is indebted to Colin Mynott for his work in this direction. Being aware of the pressures of the locality both from industrial and residential developers the Parish Council has an input into any proposals.

In March 2011 the Parish Council joined the celebration of the first year of the PCSO's. Members feel that they have made a considerable contribution to the well being and the environment. Speeding traffic in the village has been monitored. Residents have been encouraged to take an interest in their surroundings, this has taken the form of litter picking, resolving dog fouling issues and hanging basket and garden competitions. The village was entered into the Northamptonshire Village of the Year Competition and received a commendation.

Community life will be reflected in the reports that follow. In closing the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support during the year. The Localism Bill will give residents a greater say in their destiny and this will be welcomed.

8. Report of Richard Atterbury – Daventry District Council.

DDC started off the year with one Labour, two Liberal Democrats and five Conservative Councillors. These have been taken on board and the Council is working well. DDC started the year with the Cabinet Committee system and have retained the strategy/portfolio system. He is the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Committee try to determine only 10% of planning applications because of the tight time frame DDC has to determine applications. The system appears to be working well. The main topic in planning is wind farms. DDC has dealt with four applications which have all been refused. Two applications went to appeal and one application was successful

Village Design Statements have been submitted by a number of villages and the Planning Committee is trying to keep up to-date with them. The Committee is not carrying out site visits because of health and safety issues.

Daventry Town – the eco friendly scout H.Q. has been moved to a new location as has the Daventry Brass Band and this will allow the town centre to be redeveloped. The iCon Centre has been completed, using a lot of technology from the Eden Project

in Cornwall. The auditorium will hold 300 people and this will be the focus of the grand opening. The Middlemoor development is on-going. 1000 homes are being developed on the Monksmoor development on the Welton Road. DDC still facilitate the 'Housing Waiting List' the Government has introduced a 're-let' scheme that DDC had adapted to increase house building. All villages will undergo a 'Housing Needs Survey' within the next three years

The Local Government Boundary Commission has carried out a review of electoral arrangements in Daventry and has proposed certain ward changes to which DDC is opposed. In May 2011 elections were held and one extra Labour candidate won one seat at the expense of the Conservatives. The Government has cut the Rate Support Grant which has made the budget for DDC to be quite difficult. Changes have been made to DDC management, one Director having retired. A lot of staff are not being replaced, if replacements are needed these are engaged on short-term contracts.

DDC has a financially difficult time ahead but it is hoped that they come through this. The Chairman raised his concerns over staff cuts to the DDC Planning Officers. That concluded the report from DDC.

PCSO Les Conopo arrived at the meeting and gave a brief update on crime matters in the village. Les confirmed that the current PCSO scheme for Crick, Kilsby and DIRFT will operate until 2013. Concerns were expressed of the increase of motor cyclists using the canal towpath.

9. Reports from village groups and organisation.

The Chairman reported on the financial position of the Parish Council – receipts totalled £ 91,503 and payments totalled £78,173, leaving a surplus of £13,330. The financial records and documents are available via the Clerk. The report was submitted to the Chairman by J. Goodger, the Council's Financial Controller.

Reports were received from the following clubs, groups and organisation:

Crick History Society – J. Goodger.

Crick Village Hall Management Trustees – D. Barbet.

Crick Allotment Association – W. Fursman.

Crick Playing Field Association – W. Simms.

Crick Athletic Football Club – W. Simms.

Yelvertoft and District Relief in Sickness Fund – the annual accounts were distributed by one of the Trustees – Anne Drewett.

Friends of St Margaret's Church – David Sweeney.

Crick United Reformed Church – Tom Nisbet.

Crick Darby & Joan Club – Mrs Gwyneth Nisbet.

Crick Tennis Association - Dennis Kirk.

Crick Millennium Wood – Gordon Salt.

Crack Hill – Keith Liggins.

Crick Sports Field Association – Paul Lane.

Crick Bowls Club – Mrs Gwyneth Nisbet.

St. Margaret's Church – Mrs Sue Milne.

Crick Scouts, Beavers and Cubs – Paul Crocker.

At the conclusion the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Late reports were received from Crick Old School Trustees (Phil Dunkley) and Crick First Responders (Jackie Dunkley) both were away on the date of the meeting.

Signed.

Chairman.