

# **CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**at**

**Loudwater British Legion**

In the Chair - Prof. P Wheeler, Chairman of the Council

The following Council Members were present:

Mrs E Tebbutt (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Amenity Land Committee), I Forbes (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee), Mrs B Hunt (Chairman of the Leisure Facilities Committee), M Smith (Chairman of the Works, Services and Planning Committee), M Wilkes, R Smith, J Herschel, C James, A Mellins, J Savage, B Turnock and C Jordan

### **1. WELCOME**

The Chairman of the Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his appreciation at the high volume of public attendance.

In addition to some 35 Members of the Public, representatives of Thames Valley Police and other Associations and bodies involved in Parish life were represented.

The Chairman introduced I Forbes, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, who was sitting with him at the top table and would report on the Council's finances. He also introduced H Jones, the Clerk of the Council.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from S Prickett, D Grieve MP, P Goodman MP, Cllr Mrs Julia Langley, M C Williams (BCC Chief Executive), Mrs K Satterford (WDC Chief Executive), D Onslow (Flackwell Heath Residents' Association Chairman), PC R Page (Thames Valley Police) and Ms S Morrison (BCC Area Technician).

### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MIUNTES**

There were none.

## 5. ANNUAL REPORT

### Community Policing and Graffiti

The Chairman reported that Parish Councillors and representatives from the Residents' Associations, Societies and Action Groups continued to work together in order to lobby for a well resourced and effective community policing service.

J Savage indicated that it would be a useful deterrent, if it was legally possible to do so, to publish the details of those apprehended and convicted of committing criminal damage by way of graffiti. He felt that more should be done to tackle the increasing problem of graffiti and that the perpetrators should make amends for the cost of the damage that they caused. J Herschel echoed these views and stated that it was important for the wider community to see that a penalty had been issued following a crime and that where damage had occurred to Council property, there should be a means of recouping the cost of repair.

Sgt. D Beard outlined the care that was required and legal restrictions in dealing with Young Offenders. However, he acknowledged the local frustration in dealing with the problem. M Smith concurred with this assessment and stated that Graffiti was an illegal, anti-social activity that created a negative impression of the area and contributed to people's fear of crime.

Mrs P Mannering suggested that one idea to solve the problem might be to build a 'Graffiti Art Wall' to dissuade young people from drawing on Council and Public property.

The Chairman outlined the Council's policy on assistance with Graffiti removal: namely, that any Residents' Association, Society or Action Group (including groups of interested Members of the Public) should contact the Council with details of the proposed scheme and such grant applications would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee for funding. In addition, the Council operated a Litter Scheme collection activity whereby local residents could be awarded money to a Charity of their choice for collecting litter. Details of these activities were available from the Council Offices.

The Chairman also reported that Police patrolling of Tylers Green had helped to reduce the problem of unauthorised motorbike driving in Kingswood, Tylers Green.

### M40 Chiltern Environmental Group

The Chairman acknowledged the efforts of the local action group, the M40 Chiltern Environmental Group, represented at the meeting by Dr K Edwards.

It was recognised that there was much evidence to support the claim that the M40 structure crossing the Parish was obsolete by modern design standards and that a significant number of residents were adversely affected by the high volume of noise emanating from the heavy vehicle usage of the motorway. It was estimated that a heavy vehicle went past a particular point every eight seconds.

The M40 Chiltern Environmental Group envisaged two principal solutions to the problem; namely, reduced traffic speed together with the installation of speed sound barriers.

The group hoped to lobby the Minister for Transport with these proposals and it sought to gain greater backing for a technical investigation for predicting the impact of noise pollution in the area.

## Future Works

Building on the extension works at Cock Lane Cemetery, the Chairman reported that it was the Council's intention to improve the road surface at the following Council owned sites:

- Cock Lane Recycling Centre, Tylers Green; and
- Straight Bit Recreation Ground Car Park, Flackwell Heath.

The Chairman also stated that greater Community input was required at Derehams Lane Sports Ground in Loudwater to allow the site to live up to its potential in providing high quality sporting facilities.

The Chairman thanked the work of B Turnock, who had masterminded the preparation of a long term management plan for Tylers Green Common. Following a period of public consultation, it was anticipated that the plan would begin to roll out in 2008. In the meantime, ongoing maintenance issues, including the replanting of grassed areas, would continue.

## 2007 Parish Elections

It was noted that the following current Council Members would not be standing for re-election:

B Turnock  
Mrs L Tebbutt  
Mrs B Hunt  
S Prickett  
P Wheeler

The Chairman thanked his colleagues for the support that they had shown to him personally during his period of Chairmanship and for all their work on behalf of local residents.

The Chairman encouraged all those attending to vote in the forthcoming elections.

He stated that the Parish Council was an effective way to get involved in community life, dealing with local people and local matters on a day to day basis. One way to get involved was to stand for election to the Council.

## **6. FINANCE**

I Forbes, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, outlined the Council's yearly financial position and noted that the Council Precept had been set at 3.6% increase in line with RPI.

The Council was satisfied that all recommendations made by the Council's Auditors had been implemented and that the level of Council reserves were sufficient.

It was noted that the following grants had been made to date within the Council Year:

- Flackwell Heath Sports Club (£800);
- the M40 Chiltern Environmental Group (£200);
- Flackwell Heath Bowls Club (£800);
- Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust (£250) ; and
- Loudwater Sports Club (£370.13)

## 7. QUESTIONS

Following a question from a Member of the Public, it was agreed that:

- The date, time and location of the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting would be publicised in *The Bucks Free Press*; and

It was noted that the 2008 Annual Parish meeting would be held in the Council Offices, Cock Lane, Tylers Green.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed, thanked everyone for attending and invited those present to have a tea or coffee with Members of the Council.

As it was his last Annual Meeting as the Chairman of Council, a vote of thanks was made to Prof. P Wheeler for his work on behalf of the community since 1999. It was agreed that his academic and business background guided Council meetings and decisions and he championed the Council as a spokesman for the interests of parishioners at numerous meetings and external events. The Chairman wished the Council best wishes and continued success following the May 2007 elections.

It was noted that the Annual Parish meeting provided residents with an opportunity to meet Parish Councillors and to ask them questions on matters that interested or concerned them about Parish life.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

[H R O Jones – Clerk of the Council 27/04/07]