

MARSTON ST LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Scott, Cllr Gale, Cllr Skermer, Cllr Carletti, Cllr Timms, District Councillor Rosie Herring, PCSO Colin Brookes and eleven villagers

1. Apologies

Cllr Goodwin, S Jakeman

2. PCSO Colin Brookes of the Brackley Safer Community Team

PCSO Brookes reported that between the months of April 2014 and February 2015, 125 crimes were reported in the ward and nine in this village. There has been an increase in violent domestic offences and the theft of fuel.

Q - How often do you come through the village? A - PCSO Brookes replied they come through as often as they can. There have been lots of changes within the team. One PCSO has left and two more are leaving this month. There will be two PCSOs working from Brackley but they will be dedicated to the town and be very stretched in the villages.

Q - The Chair asked if the police station will remain at Brackley? A - The lady in the front office has been made redundant and the office will say it is closed. There will be a buzzer on the door. It is hoped there will be a seminar at the end of March in Towcester/Banbury and things may change.

Q - What sort of co-operation is there with North Oxfordshire and other local stations in Banbury? A - Brackley has good ties with the staff at Banbury and they have cross border meetings. The area that has to be covered is the whole of Brackley and 36 villages. After 10pm, cover is provided by the Towcester office. Calls are graded by control room and it has always been handled this way.

Q - The Chair asked if adhoc visits were going to be less as he felt there was good value in a drive through the village? A - The town officers are busier than the rural ones and will have to go where the work is. The visits will be less frequent as their area has doubled.

The Safer Community Team works with Police Constables and Police Community Support Officers. The Police Constables are problem solvers and the Police Community Support Officers are community based.

Thanks was given to PCSO Brookes and he left the room.

3. To approve the minutes of the last APM held on 11th March 2014

The minutes were agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising

Marston Inn - To be raised under Open Forum.

Item 7 of previous minutes. The Chair forgot to bring Thomas Pymfrey MDCLXXXIC (1684) but the item will be on the agenda next year. He reported that he is safe and well.

5. Finances

An overview for the year was circulated to members.

Total income for the year was £3000.20.

Total payments for the year were £2229.03.

Final unaudited bank balances are approximately:-

Current account - £4315.56

Business Saver - £406.49

6. Reports from:-

Village Hall (read by Cllr C Skermer)

This year the hire charges were revised to cover increased outgoings. The hall is still used on a regular basis by: Dance Classes, Billiards, Table Tennis, and Dolly Mixtures. There was a good take up for family parties and social occasions, and this year the Farmhouse Breakfast was held here. The Film nights have been held in the darker evenings, some films more popular than others but the Village Hall Committee have broken even and the Children's Christmas matinee was a great success. Thanks to Richard, Belinda and Siobhan.

A new cleaner has been employed as it was getting difficult to find volunteers for the rota. It is hoped to have a new Secretary in place at the AGM as Claire resigned due to health problems and Chris has been filling the gap.

Improvements

Sweep fans have been installed which help to stop the heat continuing to rise once the Hall has warmed up. The stage lighting has been repaired and improved. Vinyl flooring has been laid in the toilets, which makes them much easier to clean. General maintenance has been carried out on the exterior. A replacement fridge has been acquired free for the Billiard room thanks to Richard. The Parish Council is paying for the provision of a baby change table to be placed in the Ladies/disabled toilet.

Fund Raising

Regular coffee mornings have been held during the summer which raised approx £200 on average. The next one is on Saturday 28th March at the Atkins.

Richard arranged an excellent Quiz and Fish and Chip supper on 27th Feb which raised £600.

Thanks was given to the Village Hall Committee and Cllr Chris Skermer.

Dolly Mixtures (read by Rosemary Goodwin)

The January meeting was cancelled and the AGM was held in February. 12 members attended on a wet and windy evening. The Officers were re-elected on bloc as no-one else was willing to fill these posts.

The Dolly Mixtures have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme. They have had talks about Life in Tudor Times, Sycamore House, an insight into the life of the Home Guard, talks and slides about Stephen and Clare Jakemans holiday in Asia & Indonesia. The group have supported the Star & Garter Home, the Poppy Appeal and Cancer Research as well as donations to various speakers. In February they celebrated Madges 90th birthday with a cake. In September they had a minutes silence in memory of a long standing member Sandra Sands who had died suddenly in August. In October at the Harvest Supper they celebrated the Golden wedding anniversary of Noreen and Phil Coffey and the diamond wedding anniversary of Frances and Bob Spencer-Hughes. Membership remains stable and everyone has contributed towards organising speakers, providing refreshments and raffle prizes. A big thank you was given to Anne (Treasurer), Nicole & Christine (Job Share Secretaries) and to Rosemary who has taken over as Chair a few times whilst Joyce goes travelling. The group are looking forward to another interesting and fun year in Dolly Mixtures in 2015.

Cricket Club (read by A Garrett)

The village have the best league in the ground and thanks was given to Mr Scott and his helpers. There are three senior and three junior teams. There are two senior teams who play on a Saturday. There is a mid week league playing on a Wednesday. The 1st team are in the Premier league which is very competitive.

The 2nd team are in Division 2. There is strict membership only allowing people from Greatworth and Marston St Lawrence and surrounding villages. This has been challenged in the past and the club are now starting to allow others to join. However places are limited. The club welcome new members, players and supporters. The league begins on the first Saturday in May and will finish at the end of August. All fixtures are in The Glimpse and they have their own website. Mr Garrett is also a member of Greatworth Golf Society and they are looking for new members.

Marston Billiards Club I(read by M Skermer)

The club continues meeting on Mondays and Tuesdays and has had a modicum of success. In the Croughton league last season, the A team won the Ron Jackson cup and won the League competition. This year, based on last years win they have retained the League Championship. The A team are in the semi final of the Terry Annable Cup and the B Team are in the semi final of the Ron Jackson cup. Though the B Team is less successful in the league, they have won more matches this season than for several years and are a very friendly bunch. In the Eydon league, two members are in the semi final of the individual competition. It is a different sport but fun and enjoyable. The club are always open for others to join or try it out.

Table Tennis

Table Tennis is played for fun on a Thursday evening for 1.5 hours meeting at 8.45pm. There are 6-12 regular players of mixed age and ability. The group could do with more people as there is less attendance in the winter months. The cost is £1 per session but this may increase. A note was put in the Glimpse.

Church (read by Cllr M Scott)

The village are lucky to have the church. It has fairly good attendance and a new Incumbent is starting after Easter. Bell ringing is on a Monday night. Work is ongoing to reconstruct the war memorial gates. The piers are being rebuilt and the gates restored. There is a major maintenance and care programme in place. The PCC are looking to install toilet and kitchen facilities which is a large ongoing project.

7. Open Forum

Mr Tyler spoke about clay pigeon shooting which has been running for 7 years. They meet once a month on a league basis. There is good membership with social events and social shooting. The club is open to everyone. There will be the last league shoot on Sunday 16th March. This will be put on the agenda next year.

District Councillor Rosie Herring was at the meeting. She is a member of the South Northants Council (SNC) Cabinet and responsible for Community Wellbeing and Community Safety. Domestic violence crime figures have shot up and it is being taken more seriously on a national level. Past incidents are taken into account when the police report figures. She reported that SNC have saved a lot of money by jointly working with Cherwell District Council. They are using their resources to the best effect. They are enhancing the environment with conservation reviews, recycling is in the top 10 areas nationwide, they pay benefits to claimants, collect council tax, they have worked to regenerate the areas of the district, SNC are moving into the centre of Towcester, they have increased funding to charities, allocated £1.5M to local parishes through housing growth, the area has the lowest unemployment, is one of the best free places to live and a debt free council. Cllr Herring spoke about HS2 which will affect the ability to move around when work starts. She is the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Forum with local GPs. They are bringing everyone together to join up the service. She is involved in regenerating Brackley and the swimming pool. SNC set up the Citizenship Awards for Year 6 pupils. Over 600 children attended events held at Silverstone and they were well received. From the floor Maurice Skermer spoke about road repairs and potholes which are awful. Signage that has been put up is wrong and roads were closed in Brackley without notice. Cllr Herring said she could take up this matter with SNC planners. Northants County Council are responsible for highways and are in a lot of financial difficulty. SNC are preparing to take on the duties.

HS2 will damage the local roads but the contractors will be responsible for reinstating the roads. The Chair spoke about the increase in development in North Oxfordshire but the infrastructure has not kept up. Cllr Herring is aware of this and has asked for a report.

It was noted by the Chair that there will be Parish Council elections in May and there is currently a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

Judith Johnson spoke about the large amount of reserves that the Parish Council is holding. She asked if the Parish Council could consider any loss that is incurred after the village hall film night. Cllr Gale advised that the film nights are breaking even. The Chair replied that the Parish Council are aware they are holding funds. If there is an election in May, the cost to the parish will be £800.00. The Parish Council have also got to set up their own website this year. The set up costs are £500.00 and yearly maintenance costs are £300.00. The Parish Council did cover the recent cost of the baby changing unit for the village hall and they will continue to support the village hall. This matter will be taken to the next meeting.

Mr Tyler spoke about the use of land behind the village hall which could be used as a safe play area. The Village Hall Committee are pursuing this as there are more young children in the village. The Chair replied that the land ownership comes under the Village Hall Committee but he saw no objection in helping to support the project. There is a small amount of money for a play area. There may be a contact and offer of support through the Building Control Department at SNC.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and this concluded the meeting.

Meeting finished at 8.25pm