

**Minutes of the Frilsham Annual Parish Meeting**  
**held in the Clubroom on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm.**

In attendance at the meeting were approximately 15 parishioners together with members of the Parish Council, the Clerk, District Cllr. Pask and District Cllr. Webb.

Cllr. Allum, Chairman of Frilsham Parish Council welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Georgina Woods and Cllr. Dorcas Ward.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016, having been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr. Marcus Allum.

Cllr. Allum reported that it had been a busy year for the parish council. Not only had the council met every other month for regular parish meetings but also for extra planning meetings to deal with an unusually high number of planning applications. No fewer than 18 applications (for new houses, extensions and out buildings) in one year is unprecedented for Frilsham. The Parish Council try to study each and every application on the merits they deserve and were appropriate take the views of parishioners into consideration; it's actually quite rare for all of the Parish Councillors to agree on the decision the Council arrives at. It must also be remembered that Frilsham Parish Council does not determine the outcome of planning applications; that is the task of West Berkshire Council. One application which took several site meetings and planning sessions was the extension of the Pot Kiln and the conversion of the old "Hack shed" into overnight accommodation. Whilst many parishioners would like to see the Pot Kiln return to a drinking and light snack pub, in todays day and age, very few village pubs can survive these days on local patronage only.

The highlight of the year has been the arrival of Superfast broadband, now available to all houses in the parish except a few.

During the year Beechfield Residents Association has been formed and Beechfield Lane has now been resurfaced. The Residents Association has also enabled the smooth installation of Superfast Broadband to properties in Beechfield Lane.

The Parish Council would like to recognise the outstanding hard work that parishioners undertake to organise the village activities including the village barbecue, St. Frideswide supper, the friendship club lunches and the Yattendon & Frilsham fete, to name a few. They all help to build our community and make Frilsham such a lovely place to live.

The Clerk and other members of the Council were thanked for all the things they do for the parish.

All those present were invited to stay for light refreshments and a chance to speak to the guest speaker, Tim Wale and other councillors at the end.

4. Report from the Frilsham Futures Implementation Group and the Clubroom Committee – Bob Lyon.

Mr. Lyon reported that the village events (including the annual barbecue, harvest supper and monthly lunch-club) had been successfully held. In addition, the hall was continuing to be used for regular and one-off bookings.

The Clubroom was given a microwave oven, for which appreciation was given.

There had been some vandalism and anti-social behaviour around the Clubroom (cut and stolen padlocks and chains, damage to the safety matting in the playground, damage to the playground fencing and the Clubroom wheelie bin being moved into the road). These were all reported to the police and quickly fixed. Those who reported the incidents were thanked for the information.

Frilsham Future's focus is on implementing actions from the Parish Plan. During the year, progress has been made with an enhanced website (more from Sandra Wilkinson later), improved internet access via Gigaclear and an improved surface to Beechfield Lane (more on this from Jeremy Pack later).

FFIG needs funding to implement the actions from the Parish Plan; an easy way to raise funds is via 'easy fundraising', where when buying on-line money is donated to your chosen cause at no expense to you! Over £830 had been raised in this way.

Mr Lyon thanked all those who have and continue to volunteer for the community.

Cllr. Allum thanked Mr. Lyon for all his hard work.

#### 5. Report from the Allotment Trust – Ian Coxhead.

Mr. Coxhead thanked David Benning for his continued support of the Allotment Trust.

All rents had been collected for the year. It was reported that there were 2 ½ plots available at the School Lane site and 2 full plots at the Pot Kiln Lane site.

The compost bin at the School Lane site was in need of replacing and a quote of £1,500 had been obtained.

#### 6. Report from Yattendon Estate – David Slack.

Mr. Slack reported that the Village Store in Yattendon was going from strength to strength and whilst not quite breaking even, it was hoping to in the near future. The range of products is aimed at everyone and there has been a trial of an increased range of gluten free foods. The Post Office is being well supported and is doing well. Whilst the assistant manager has left, the opening has been filled by someone with approximately 40 years of retail experience. Should there be insufficient parking in the Square, there is more parking to the rear between the Forge and the Pantry.

All the new kit has arrived at the old dairy for West Berkshire Brewery; they hope to start brewing with it during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July. It is hoped that the remainder of the buildings at the old dairy will be used for self-storage and storage of classic cars.

There are plans to extend the Royal Oak with a new orangery to the rear which will help provide an additional 30 to 40 covers, a separate bar area, improved toilets incorporating facilities for the disabled, and a new kitchen.

The Cricket team has been rejuvenated and there is now a Wednesday afternoon/evening league as well as a weekend league.

Superfast Broadband has now reached the area; Gigaclear carried out a good job and were quick, effective and "user-friendly". A number of the businesses on the Estate are dependent upon the Superfast Broadband. More volunteers would still be welcome for the Village Fete; last year it raised £21,000.

#### 8. Report from the local charities:

##### 8.1 Haywayds Educational Donation.

Cllr. Allum reported on behalf of Georgina Woods, the Correspondent Trustee for the Hayward Education Trust for the year ending May 2016. The capital value of the trust stood at £1,110.12, having increase from £1,096.54 in May 2015. A dividend of £42.68 was paid and the current account stood at £130.71. No payment had been made to Yattendon Primary School during the year, but it is planned to make a payment of £100 to the Literacy department in June 2017.

##### 8.2 Parochial Charities – Robert Morley.

The Parochial Charities are now combined into the Frilsham and Yattendon Parochial charities and cover both parishes. Over the year, 24 Yattendon and 10 Frilsham pensioners have benefited from the provision. Mr. Morley asked that if there is anyone aware of someone who maybe "in need" to let one of the trustees know.

#### 9. Report from Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Tessa Allum.

The number of reported crime and antisocial behaviour incidents in Frilsham have risen in recent years. Most of these incidents emanate from the top of Beechfield Lane. This behaviour has caused great concern

to many in the village, and representations have been made over the past 18 months to Thames Valley Police, Sovereign Housing and West Berks Council Antisocial Behaviour co-ordinator by a number of residents.

A recent meeting of these professionals recognised that a single household was at the root of problems and put in place a number of actions to investigate and resolve some of the behaviour. We await the results of these actions and will continue to liaise with police and the antisocial behaviour co-ordinator.

Parishioners were asked to report any abuse, intimidation or unlawful or antisocial behaviour to police and, where relevant, to Sovereign Housing. They were reminded that it is important not to respond to provocation. The community in Frilsham is strong and will support those affected. Bullies should not be allowed to dictate the agenda.

Cllr. Allum commented that there was a core of three people who had tried to resolve the issues and that the parish owes a great deal to these people.

#### 10. Report on the Frilsham Website – Sandra Wilkinson.

A team of people have been working on the new Frilsham website which should go live in September. It was reported that the structure had been developed, but content needed to be added. In addition to the home page, there are areas for the Clubroom, the Parish Council, Events, Organisations, resources and a calendar. It will be important to keep the content fresh. It was noted that there are currently no plans to connect with social media, but that if someone is interested in pursuing this area, they would be very welcome to join the team.

#### 11. Report from the Beechfield Lane Residents Association – Jeremy Pack.

It was reported that it had taken a long time to set up the Residents Association and the associated bank account. The installation of the Superfast Broadband in Beechfield Lane involved a lot of communication and the surface hadn't been returned to the condition it was in prior to the installation.

Relations between the Residents Association and Sovereign Housing have been difficult; there are several homes owned by Sovereign Housing off Beechfield Lane. Sovereign Housing have requested forecasts for the maintenance of Beechfield Lane before they will contribute anything towards funding for the maintenance over the Winter.

#### 10. Report from the West Berkshire Councillors: Cllr. G. Pask and Cllr. Q. Webb.

WBC submitted new ward arrangements for the area to the Boundary Commission; these would come into effect from the 2019 elections. They would see a reduction in the number of district councillors from 52 to around 42.

Financially, Cllr. Webb reported that the last year had been the most challenging in the history of the council. In 2017/18 the council tax increased by 1.99% with an additional 3% which is ring fenced for the increased costs of adult social care.

Cllr. Pask reported that during the previous week, WBC had adopted the new Local Plan with the result that WBC is now a "plan led" authority. Without an adopted Local Plan, it would be difficult to refuse applications for development on green field sites.

Concern was raised about the Frilsham allotment sites. It was noted that these belong to Frilsham Parish Council and are therefore reasonably safe. A "call for sites" for the next Local Plan has already taken place. A question was asked about road changes in Newbury, particularly around the Robin Hood roundabout. There is to be a new entrance to Faraday Road. There are significant problems with the Sainsburys roundabout, because it is not large enough; as a result, tunnels and flyovers have been considered. A consultation will shortly take place on an alternative which should halve the travel time at peak times between the Robin Hood roundabout and Halfords.

#### Tutts Clump Cider – Tim Wale.

Tutts Clump Cider is based in a small hamlet in Tutts Clump, part of Bradfield. As a small child Tim Wale was taken to Chapel Row Dairy and sampled cider, having been bought up as a strict Methodist this was something new!

In 2006, Tim watched three demonstrations of pressing apples at a Steam Fayre, bought a tiny press and mill, and made about 25l of cider. In 2008, Tim made 3,000l of cider and production was increasing. As a result, he decided to sale the cider, which involved having to have approval of the various bodies. If you produce less than 7,000l, you are exempt from paying duty on the cider. But by 2010 Tim realised he would have to register for duty and made 35,000l of cider that year. Production has increased by around 10,000l a year and last year made 70,000l. The cider is now stocked in 11 Waitrose stores, 75 Co-op stores and National Trust shops.

Tutts Clump cider is 100% apple juice; commercial cider is 70% water. Apples are collected, washed and then pressed. The resulting juice is then left to ferment for varying amounts of time, in August, it takes 3 to 4 weeks. Once fermentation is complete, it is allowed to mellow and mature, before being sent off to be bottled or canned. The apple pulp remaining after pressing is used as animal feed.

The different flavours of cider produced are the result of using different varieties of apple; scrumpy cider is the result of using Somerset scrumpy apples. Today it is cheaper to buy apples from Kent than to pay people to collect them locally.

Tim has tried producing other real fruit ciders, as is the market trend. Mango and Blackberry have been tried; they are very different to those on the commercial market. Tutts Clump cider vinegar is also now being marketed. Cider and wine don't need to have "best before dates" as they will last almost indefinitely.

Cllr. Allum thanked Tim for his interesting talk before parishioners enjoyed sampling the cider and refreshments provided by members of the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:

Date: