

**Minutes of Frilsham Annual Parish Meeting**  
**held in the Clubroom on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at 7.30pm.**

In attendance at the meeting were approximately 25 parishioners together with members of the Parish Council, the Clerk and District Cllr. Culver.

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Georgie Woods and Dorcas Ward.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2018.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 having been circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. The People, The Places and The Practicalities of Life – Dick Greenaway.

Three large steel boxes, containing approximately 350 documents, spanning history from Henry VIII to Queen Victoria, were deposited with Dick Greenaway from Lord Iliffe for cataloguing and transferring to the Berkshire Records Office. In 1984, Tim Culley had found additional documents in the roof of the old Estate Office behind the water tanks; these too were included in the project.

The documents were catalogued onto index cards and sorted by parish and date. Places and family names were not consistently spelt until the 1900s making searches difficult. Prior to the Land Registration Act of 1925, proof of ownership was required. Many of the documents were the result of the first Lord Iliffe acquiring and purchasing lands for the Estate. The documents make references to field names, the numbers of sheep and cattle, house leases, wills, marriage settlements, legal disputes, and timber surveys. Most of the writing can be read, some quite easily and some is beautifully neat.

From the documents, some people can be clearly identified including their name, rank and profession and in some cases, you can follow peoples' careers. On the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1527, a John Clerk of Frilsham, a husbandman sold land to John Norreye for £9.00. During the time of Elizabeth I, Thomas Greenaway was fined 6 shillings for an ale license for which he did not have a license.

From the mid-1800s, there are quite accurate maps which show field names and acreages. The first tythe maps show tenants and owners. Included in the documents is the history of Hawkridge Wood from 1705 to 1876; it was a common wood. Details of pub names can be found, the Royal Oak was so called in 1806, but in 1785 it was the Red Lion.

Wills, loans, mortgages, leases, and marriage settlements all required documentation created by lawyers and land agents. A number of documents contain links with places much further afield including India. The documents are now freely available for anyone to look at in the Berkshire Records Office. The Yattendon documents are a treasure trove of local history.

4. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council: Marcus Allum.

Cllr. Allum reported that the parish council has met regularly 6 times over the year with a few additional meetings to discuss planning matters between a usual meeting. Topics this year have included changes to the ward boundaries within West Berkshire. The result of these changes are that Frilsham is now in the Ridgeway ward, with Yattendon, Hampstead Norreys, Compton and East Ilsley, and with a new District Councillor Carlyne Culver, of the Green Party. Frilsham very much looks forward to working with Carlyne.

The work of the outgoing District Councillors Quentin Webb and Graham Pask, over the last few years, was acknowledged and both were wished well for the future.

Frilsham Parish council has seen change too, with the retirement of long-standing councillors Dorcas Ward and John Goodenough. John had been a Parish Councillor since the mid-1970s and what Dorcas doesn't know about local History isn't worth knowing, they will both be sorely missed. Bob Lyons and Andrea Arnold make great additions to the team.

We have discussed numerous topics during our council meetings, As well as a number of planning applications. Topics have included the positioning and protection of the Salt bins, the phone box, and the

maintenance of the children's playground to name but a few. The playground is inspected for damage and safety on a weekly basis by each councillor in turn.

Although the annual barbecue and St. Frideswide's supper are not Parish council activities, the council fully supports these community get-togethers, and thanks the hard-working team that spends many hours planning, preparing and clearing up. Along with the Lunch Club, safari suppers, monthly coffee mornings, church services and football there are many social activities for all ages in the village.

The peaceful tranquillity of Frilsham seems to have returned after a local resident was moved on to pastures new. Frilsham owes a lot to a few people who spent many hours seeking a solution to this tricky and sensitive matter.

Parishioners were invited to stay after the meeting for drinks and nibbles, organised by councillors and their partners giving those present the opportunity to talk to parish and district councillors.

Cllr. Allum thanked his fellow parish councillors and the Clerk for their support and hard work over the past year.

#### 5. Report from the Frilsham Future Implementation Group and the Clubroom Committee: Bob Lyon.

Village events have continued successfully; the annual barbecue, St. Frideswide's supper, monthly lunch-club and Christmas lunch. The hall continues to get regular and one-off bookings. Some of these have come via our village website.

The hall now has a broadband connection and Wi-Fi. This and other improvements and maintenance have been largely carried out by volunteers, rather than paid professionals, resulting in a healthy increase in our Clubroom extension fund.

A chartered architectural technologist was engaged to produce drawings, with options, which were shared with the whole community at a drop-in coffee morning in November. The turnout and feedback were excellent. Support for the main plan was overwhelmingly in favour at 94%. Support and choices for the many suggestions and options were varied, some clear-cut, others not so. Many additional comments and thoughts were offered, which was most encouraging.

One such comment was "Have you considered a complete re-build?" This had briefly been considered and had been discounted; it was thought to be out of reach financially. However, this comment was voiced in nearly 20% of responses and could not be just brushed aside.

If the funds could be raised, it would mean a hall that was exactly to our requirements, well insulated and environmentally sound, easier and cheaper to run, and would look much better than the current building. A complete rebuild is now being explored.

Frilsham Future is registered for 'easy fundraising'; anything you purchase on-line will result in a contribution to Frilsham Future at no extra cost to you. To date over £900 has been raised using easy fundraising, so parishioners were encouraged to register.

A big thank you was extended to all those who volunteer, have helped and continue to help.

#### 6. Report from the Allotment Trust: Ian Coxhead.

Thanks were extended to the committee who run the Allotment trust. There are currently 2 free plots on the Pot Kiln Lane site and ½ a plot on the School Lane site. Income for the last year was £540 and expenditure £260 which included membership of NSALG, insurance and new compost bins.

Some of the existing compost bins need to be refurbished and some of the fencing needs some work. Anyone interested in manure was asked to make themselves known.

#### 7. Report from Yattendon Estates: David Slack.

A planning application to improve the parking situation at the Tap Room has been submitted to WBC. This will give 140 parking spaces in the old silage clamp. A path will be built from the parking to the Tap Room where rails will be installed to stop parking on the grass. There will also be twelve picnic benches put into the garden.

Building work at the Royal Oak is virtually complete. There have been issues with SSE and a large generator is still in use. Business is trading very well.

It is hoped that the work at the Pot Kiln will be complete in mid-October. Rooms above the restaurant and in the Apple Store Cottage are at first fix stage. The roof is complete on the kitchen and extension. It has

been realised that more power is required to run the proposed kitchen equipment which will require a new transformer in the field. It is very much hoped that the drinkers can be encouraged back.

A generational woodland plan is now in place which involves replanting areas and opening up tracks. Over 40,000 new trees have been planted in the last 4 years, it is planned to continue planting at this rate for the next 5 to 6 years. Unfortunately, there is a lot of ash dieback. Work has been done to look for tree species more suited to our climate.

It is hoped that the Yattendon and Frilsham Fete to be held on Monday will raise approximately £21,000. Open Farm Sunday will take place on the 9<sup>th</sup> June at Haw Farm and will include vintage tractors, tractor rides, the history of the airfield, a hog roast and a Christmas tree display.

The Classic Vehicle Day will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. This will be a free event with proceeds going towards the Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

Concern was raised about the parking and tents for wedding receptions being advertised at the Pot Kiln. Mr. Slack commented that wedding plans are an operational issue and for the Pot Kiln management to resolve. Apprehension was raised about the increased risk of a fire in the woods with the increasingly dry summers, there was a request that the Estate carry out a fire risk.

More educational sessions are being run to show children where their food comes from.

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

##### **8.1 Haywards Educational Donation: Robert Woods.**

At the end of May 2018, the capital value of the trust stood at £1,329.21 which was an increase from £1,223.16 at the end of May 2017. A dividend of £46.22 was paid and the current account stood at £130.48. A payment of £100 was made to the Literacy department of Yattendon school in March 2018.

##### **8.2 Parochial Charities: Shirley Lyon.**

The Parochial Charities have existed for at least the last 400 years and were for the poorest people of the best behaviour to receive shirts and smocks which were to be given on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Today, the aim is to deliver donations (cheques) personally to the recipients in Frilsham, Yattendon and Burnt Hill, giving them the opportunity to chat if they want to. To this end, in December 2018 approximately £2,000 was distributed to twenty-six adults and one child.

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

Over the last few years, the main concern has been the increasing incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village. It is now a different story.

The local policing team recognised the source of the problems, and with the help of Sovereign Housing Association, the source of most of the problems over the last few years has left the village.

There is still some anti-social behaviour, and this is being dealt with through the appropriate agencies.

Crime statistics for the village are expected to return to a lower figure. However, one consequence of the last few years is that people are more ready to report anti-social behaviour than previously, so it may take a while for statistics to return to their previous levels.

#### 10. Report from the Beechfield Lane Residents Association: Mike Helm.

Mike moved to Beechfield Lane in February and is already secretary of the Beechfield Lane Residents Association. The role of the Association is to maintain and repair Beechfield Lane.

Members pay £120 a year to the Association; there are only 5 properties which do not belong to the Association.

Quotes have been obtained for repairs and it is hoped that the work will take place in June.

It is hoped that the Association can work with WBC to resolve the situation with water from the junction at the top of Beechfield Lane; a ramp is the current proposal.

#### 11. Report from the West Berkshire Councillors: District Cllr. Culver.

District Cllr. Culver thanked Frilsham for inviting her to speak and for being so welcoming.

She congratulated District Cllr. Pask on being appointed Chairman of WBC for the coming year. District Cllr. Culver thanked all those who had supported her in the recent elections; the Ridgeway Ward had the highest turnout across West Berkshire. The induction to being a councillor began two days after the count

was announced. District Cllr. Culver sits on the Western Area Planning committee which includes the Ridgeway Ward and Frilsham.

District Cllr. Culver is concerned about the netting of hedges, which she is keen to see banned.

Green Fest in Hampstead Norreys will coincide with the music festival at the White Hart.

Questions were asked about whether there would be any increase in the number of plastics which could be recycled; many more plastics can be recycled in Reading and by using Terracycle. People were encouraged to try and reduce their plastic use as well as recycle more plastic.

There was criticism of the £25 charge for green bins from March. People have protested about the charge and the increase in pollution this will result due to people making trips to the tip with their green waste.

#### 12. Presentation to Dorcas Ward.

A token of appreciation for Dorcas Ward for all her work on the Parish Council and in the Parish will be delivered to her.

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