

Minutes of Frilsham Annual Parish Meeting **held in the Clubroom on Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.30pm.**

In attendance at the meeting were approximately 13 parishioners together with members of the Parish Council and the Clerk.

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

1. Apologies.

Apologies of absence were received from Jeremy Pack and Sandra Wilson.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st April 2021.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 having been circulated, were approved as a correct record of the meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

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

Cllr. Allum gave a report on events in the parish which have been restricted due to COVID.

A number of planning applications have been considered the most significant application has been that for the quarry site at the bottom of Dragon Hill to which the Parish Council objected.

WBC empty the bins around the Clubroom. This have been a disappointing service and WBC is in the process of tendering for a new contractor from January 2023. Hopefully the service will improve.

The Beechfield Lane Residents Association has organised the resurfacing of Beechfield Lane which will benefit a significant number of parishioners. The Parish Council has financially supported this project. There have been a series of power cuts, one of which lasted several days and has had long lasting effects for some parishioners. SSE provided a generator at the Clubroom, a food wagon and compensation. The community pulled together well.

Following on from this, the Parish Council is working on an Emergency Plan, so that should a similar situation arise in the future, the parish is a little more prepared.

It was with sadness that the parish said goodbye to John Goodenough in June 2021, a resident of the parish all his life and a member of the Parish Council, (including chairman for a number of years) up until 2019.

4. Report from the Frilsham Future Implementation Group and the Clubroom Committee - Bob Lyon.

When the proposals for improvements for the Clubroom were shared with the parish, 20% of those who commented asked why there was no proposal for a rebuild.

When asked in general terms about a rebuild, 94% were in favour, however, the question did not ask about how the project would be funded. Frilsham Parish Council has set aside a sum of £21,500 for improvements to the Clubroom, which could include a rebuild. Funding is also available from WBC and the Yattendon and Frilsham Trust. There have been a number of personal donations and initial conversations with Greenham Common Trust. The big grant funders have not been approached to date.

5. Report from the Frilsham Allotment Trust (FAT): Ian Coxhead.

The Allotment Trust has had huge problems with their HSBC bank accounts being blocked, giving no access to their deposit or savings accounts. Having agreed a constitution, efforts were made to move to HSBC internet banking, but there is still no mobile banking. Plans are in place to open a new account and start from scratch.

A community orchard has been planted with an initial sixteen trees. An additional three flowering cherry trees were planted to remember those who have died because of COVID. A pair of gates have been fitted. Several parishioners have agreed to fund or contribute towards more fruit trees, including a quince tree.

There are a couple of plots available at the School Lane site.

There has been some discussion around the cost of plots; in Newbury, plots are significantly more expensive.

6. The Parochial Charities: Robert Morley.

The Parochial Charities have an income of approximately £2,000 per annum. This is used to support around 24 residents in both Yattendon and Frilsham parishes and children at Yattendon School to attend residential trips which they wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. A small contribution is made to the school for books.

7. Report from Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: Tessa Allum.

During the year it has been quite quiet on the crime front. There have been reports of small crimes around the Clubroom. Antisocial behaviour is still taking place in the parish and the Community Policing team are involved.

It was good to see the community pulling together during the recent power cuts.

8. Report from the Beechfield Lane Residents Association: Fiona Miller.

All the residents of Beechfield Lane are thrilled with the new surface. The work was carried out without too much disruption to residents.

The work was only possible as a result of the forming the Residents Association to manage the contract and the funding. The final cost is expected to be £17,300, which has been funded by approximately £4,000 from the Parish Council, Sovereign Housing Association agreeing to pay £2,700, a number of one-off contributions from residents and saved funds.

Now that the surface is improved, the issue is expected to be speed. As a deterrent, three speed bumps have been incorporated in the surface.

Members of the Residents Association will have a one-year contribution holiday, before annual contributions are collected again in order to build funds for future repairs.

9. Report from Yattendon Estates: James Hole.

The situation in Ukraine is having an impact on the Estate.

On the farm, the Countryside Stewardship scheme has helped to fund planting of 200 acres of wildflower and bumblebee mix, 350 acres of legumes and to take 35 acres out of arable use.

Next year it is intended to plant an additional 4.5Km of hedging to the 180Km of hedging already on the estate. Following clear felling, 17,500 trees have been planted. It is hoped to plant a further 18,000 to 20,000 trees next year.

The Christmas tree season was very busy. Despite the economic situation, people still wanted a good Christmas.

Residential lets now have a minimum 2-year term. There have been some changes in the commercial lets; The Wine Man has gone, and a new flower shop has opened in the Old Forge. The Estate has acquired Vicars Game and West Berkshire Brewery, the later from the administrators.

The Classic Car Rally took place and raised £2,000 for the Air ambulance.

Two members of staff have retired: a game keeper of 40 years and a staff member with 35 years service.

10. Guest Speaker: Chris Ward from The Samaritans.

The majority of those involved with The Samaritans, including the National Director are volunteers.

The organisation was founded by Chad Varah, an Anglican rector working in London in the 1950s. The organisation has never been religious despite its connections, but was for anyone considering suicide, which was a criminal offence until 1961. People in emotional distress visited Chad Varah's church. In the waiting room tea and coffee were served and he saw the good in these people. The aim of the organisation was to reduce the number of people dying by suicide.

Up until the 1960s, the number of suicides amongst men and women was roughly 50:50. At that time town gas was replaced with North Sea gas and the number of suicides in women increased.

Today the organisation offers support via telephone, text, email, and instant messaging. The organisation doesn't judge, give advice, or make assumptions, but encourages callers to come up with solutions for themselves. Everyone has the right to make choices, even if that choice is suicide.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.