

PARISH OF CHISELBOROUGH
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th of May 2013

Eleven people were present and the meeting followed the published Agenda.

Mrs H Doodson Good evening everyone. As the Chairman is away on holiday it falls to me to convene this meeting. This meeting will be held under the terms of Schedule 12 of Local Government Act 1972. The business to be transacted is set out on the agenda.

1. **Apologies:** Mr R O'Neill, Mr J Macartney.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None
3. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th of May 2012.** It was agreed these were a correct record and were signed and dated by the Chairman.
4. **To receive Reports on Activities in the Village during past year:**
A précis of these reports follows. Full copies are filed with these minutes.

Parish Council – H Doodson read on behalf of Chairman Mr R O'Neill:

It has been a good year for the village with highlights including the Jubilee Lunch on the Common, the Village Fair and Christmas Crackers, all of which went off very well and were very well supported. We welcomed Mervyn Langdon onto the Parish Council last Autumn after Pete Wheeler resigned as he was leaving the village. Pete's work on the council was much appreciated.

The village continues to thrive and I am sure that everyone is looking forward to the Cat Head re-opening next week and I am also sure that you would all like to join me in wishing them all the very best for a successful business.

On the financial side at the start of the year we had £2794 in the bank. This has increased to £3600 at the end of the year. This gives us a buffer as the new Lengthsman scheme is introduced. Given the ongoing national financial situation, we have once again decided not to raise the precept this year.

Lengthsman – H Doodson read on behalf of Mr Macartney:

The Lengthsman, Richard Thorne, has continued his work clearing drains and removing fly-tipped material, clearing the paths in the village and the verges on the turning onto the A356 and Cat Head Cross. He has also repaired styles, repaired and repainted the road signs around the Parish, sprayed the nettles on the Common and on Balham Hill. Richard's activities made an appreciable difference to the look of the village.

Unfortunately, as we have reported previously, funding for the Lengthsman scheme has been withdrawn by both Somerset County Council and South Somerset District. SSDC Street Scene Manager Chris Cooper has now come up with an alternative solution using his department's manpower and facilities.

The cost of the SSDC Scheme will be £17 / hour which is slightly more than the £15 / hour that were paying our Lengthsman, Richard Thorne. However, with the Lengthsman Scheme we were paying for tools and training meaning that costs will be very close to equivalent. With the SSDC Scheme we will have much better reliability i.e. not dependent on health and wellbeing of 1 man or his vehicle. We will have more tools and machinery available and the facility to use plant and larger teams when necessary.

Consequently, the Lengthsman Scheme has closed and Richard has retired. The funds left in the Lengthsman Scheme accounts are being divided up pro-rata between the Parish Councils involved in the Scheme. We now await the paperwork from SSDC to enable the formalization of the new Scheme.

We will still be running the list of jobs so if you see something around the Parish that needs attention please contact Jim Macartney on 881476 and it will be placed on the list of jobs to be done.

Parish Land - Mr Hodge: The Parish Land is a huge asset to the Village and continues to be much loved and enjoyed by so many. The last year has seen some challenging weather and, as a result of persistent rain, the lower section of the common was not able to be cut. This should not happen this

year as we have a group willing to cut the grass by hand and use it for animal feed. The upper area of the common is currently being grazed by sheep and is in reasonable condition. However, a working party will need to be organised in the Autumn to remove invasive weeds and cut back the bracken. The Phoenix Path will also require attention at the same time as part of the path needs the edge repairing.

Unfortunately, the bench on the common was damaged during an attempted theft. The bench has now been repaired and relocated to a higher position on the common. Grass seed will shortly be sown underneath the bench.

Balham Hill and the lower field have been grazed throughout the year by sheep and cattle and are in good condition. It has been decided by the Parish Council that a red oak tree donated by Waitrose to the village is to be planted on Balham Hill.

I would like to thank the Holloway family for their help, advice and continued support with the grazing on the common, to Mr and Mrs Chick for allowing their cattle to graze on Balham Hill and other villagers who have helped by pulling weeds up on the common, clearing up after their dogs and all of the other jobs which have been done over the course of the last year.

Highways – Mr M Langdon:

The overall condition of the highways seems to be in good repair. The Council has been around and marked some new potholes to be repaired. Last winter gave us a problem but salt and grit stocks were good.

Overall any problems were soon taken care of by the Council, but a few on going problems should be in hand:

- 1: Drain blocked by Balham Hill stables (owing to spring water)
- 2: Norton Road poor repairs
- 3: East Street poor repairs

Thanks to all for their help in reporting problems.

Rights of Way – H Doodson read on behalf of Mr R O'Neil

Various work has been undertaken during the year to keep the paths clear and they are generally in good repair. If anyone has any problems with a path please either report it through the County Council web site or let me know and I will report it.

5. Reports from Village Organisations:

Chiselborough Ladies Group

We have had a varied programme this year including an amusing talk about the life of a Somerset Butcher, anecdotes by a Funeral Director, talks about Will's women, Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition and a history of inn signs.

This year we decided that as our meeting fell on 23rd of April and the St Georges Day dinner we would help and support the evening which was very enjoyable.

Our AGM is on the 28th of May. We would like to have a bigger committee and more members. Our annual membership fee is £10 and we welcome visitors to any meeting at a charge of £2.

In June we have an open evening with a visit to the Trading Post in Lopen and a talk by Sue.

In July we have the Progressive Supper, the weather was kind to us last year.

Report for Neighbourhood Watch - Co-ordinator: Jim Macartney.

No report was submitted.

Chiselborough Parochial Church Council – H Doodson read this on behalf of Rev P Thomas

There have been some changes in the benefice in the past 12 months.

Peter was appointed as vicar of 4 churches in 2005 (Chiselborough, Norton, West Chinnock, Middle Chinnock) – and became Rural Dean in 2006 (which meant some level of additional responsibilities across an area covering 20+ churches).

In 2012 he also became vicar of Stoke sub hamdon – a parish with a population as great as the previous 4 put together. This month (May 2013) he will cease to be Rural Dean (having served his 6 year term of office).

The church has continued to offer worship on at least 3 Sundays each month – together with special services over the Easter and Christmas periods. Additionally it serves the community as a place for celebrations of weddings and baptisms and remembering residents at funeral services.

Church members serve the village in many other ways – including through the Parish Council, the Village Hall and on the governing body of Norton & West Chinnock schools. Peter is also a governor at Castle School in Stoke.

The church annual meeting recently re-elected Dick O’neill and Louise Holloway as wardens – and received various reports, including that of the treasurer that showed that the church was still solvent! It is hoped that the plan to introduce a toilet into the building may be progressed in the near future with the construction of a lean-to shed on the North side of the vestry (to house the lawnmowers) and then the creation of a WC within the North porch.

Thanks to all those who have supported the church over the past year – including those involved with cutting the grass and creating the floral arrangements for the Flower Festival.

Yours sincerely

Peter Thomas

Tree Warden - Was not present and had not filed a report. The Council deal with the trees now so this report will be taken off the agenda in future.

Village Hall Committee: Mr Perry read on behalf of Mr E Venn (Chairman)

The past year has seen several projects successfully completed. Repairs to stop the roof leaking, new guttering around the flat roof by the disabled entrance, the boundary walls repaired and the main hall floor sanded and sealed.

Four further projects have been proposed and hopefully will be undertaken this year – the redecoration of the committee room, passageway, toilets, kitchen and disabled toilet (quotations have been requested) The purchase of new stage lighting and new portable staging (it is hoped that funding will be obtained to partly pay for these two items) and finally to replace the existing village map and notice board with new. There are always ongoing repairs to be mindful of and fundraising is essential to maintain the building.

The hall is used on a regular basis by the Art Group, Yoga Classes, Community Lunches, Parish Council meetings, band practices, Library Teapot and private functions. As a result letting money provides a steady income.

The hall benefited from the Kathakali week and from part of the proceeds of Christmas Crackers. This bi-annual show has always been put on to raise money for charity, so the hall, being a registered charity kept part of the takings with £250 being given to the Flying Colours Appeal for the Special Care Baby Unit at Yeovil Hospital. The village fair, held in June, once again provided welcome income in spite of the changeable weather. Other fund raising activities were held during the year including: An evening with Bonnie Sartin, St.Georges Day Supper, Walk & Breakfast, Photo Exhibition, Punky Night and the Autumn Market.

I would like to thank Tony Perry for co-ordinating the various events and my thanks to all the members of the hall committee for their hard work and support. Thanks to Mrs Kate Hodge for the secretarial work, to Mrs Hilary Venn for keeping the books and to Mrs Emma Brake for examining the accounts. Thanks also to the Parish Council for their continued support and to all who contributed in any way towards maintaining the hall as an essential asset for our village.

Parish Lunch Committee

The Village Lunch continues to be very well supported. They are held on the 1st Thursday of the month in October through to April. We are still able to charge £5 for a 2 course home cooked meal and a glass of wine. Having lost 4 cooks last year we would very much like to have more volunteers to help with the cooking, but we do appreciate the helpers who put up and lay the tables and help with the washing up.

Any Other Business: A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for what they had done for the village.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed _____

Date _____