**MINUTES OF THE ODDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

**HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**ON 25  MAY 2017 AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr A Betts, Chairman, District Councillor Beale, the Clerk, and 14 members of the public.

 The Chairman welcomed people to the Village meeting.

 **Reports**

**Oddington Parish Council**

The Chairman started his report by paying tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Cllr Sue Watkin, who was also resigining as a Councillor. During her time on the Council Sue had been involved in the installation of the new playground, the exhibition to mark the centenary of WW1, the establishment of the excellent summer fete and many other small but important improvements around the village. She was thanked for all her hard work. Any interested in standing for the Council was asked to speak to the Clerk.

During the year the Parish Council has been pleased to be able to give financial support to two important local causes, the Villager bus and the restoration of the magnificent Doom painting at St Nicholas Church. Margaret Lewis was thanked for her work in securing the money need to repair the damage to both the Doom and the fabric of the Church itself.

The Chairman reported that the Council carried out a Housing Needs Survey which demonstrated that although six families were looking to move only one of these was looking for Low Cost Home Ownership in the village. On the basis of these figures it would be very difficult for the Parish Council to make a case for the development of affordable housing on a rural exception site. The Council will instead be working with CDC to encourage Bromford Housing Association not to sell tenanted houses as they fall vacant.

The Parish Council organised the usual Spring Clean before Easter and the Chairman thanked those who had participated. There are still problems with grass verges getting damaged in the wet weather. Much of the damage is caused by delivery lorries. There are also parts of the village where inconsiderate parking is causing problems. The Council needs to try to find a solution to these problems but it is not easy. On a more positive note, the Council has now started a regular programme of cutting back the vegetation on the bank through Upper Oddington which has tidied up that stretch of road.

During the year we have commented on some 20 planning applications. Some of the Council’s comments are taken on board, but many aren’t. However, Councillors continue to do their best to ensure that new developments and extensions are in keeping with the village and its conservation area status.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Julian Beale for his support and also his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their work.

**The Village Hall Committee**

Ted Miles reported on the Village Hall. Mr Miles said that the committee had had another busy year. He reported that there had been a number of fund raising events including a very successful fete. The Coffee morning and Flix in the Stix continued to be well supported. Casters promoting both events had been given to villagers. Sadly, the fundraising Race Night had had to be cancelled due to a lack of support. Mr Miles thanked Anne Miles for her work as booking clerk, his Committee for their fund raising efforts and the villagers for their continuing support. The Chairman thanked Mr Miles for all his work in the village.

**Oddington and Adlestrop Charities**

Alan Cox, a Trustee for the Oddington and Adlestrop United Charity gave a brief report on the work of the Charity and urged residents to let him know of any cases in need of short term financial assistance. He reported that two grants with a total value of £750 had been given during 2016. It was confirmed that there is a little over £32,000 in the fund.

**The Village Agent**

Steve Whincup, Village and Community Agents reported that after 10 successful years the service was to be put out to tender. The new service was likely to be called ‘Community Connectors’ and be a combination of Village Agents and Social Prescribers. The service would take clients from the age 18+ as opposed to 50 + as at present. The results of the tender exercise would be announced in mid-June with the change coming into being in October.

The Chairman expressed his regret at the closure of the Village Agent service and thanked Steve for all the help he had given to residents over the years.

**Gloucestershire Police**

The Police were not present at the meeting but had sent a report which was tabled. The advice to residents continued to be to securely lock houses, sheds and garages. High performance cars had also been targeted as had valuable items from cars. Speeding continued to be an issue and the police had carried out speed checks.

**Report from CDC Cllr Beale.**

Cllr Beale gave a report on District Council issues. These included:

* The re-election of Cllr Moor to the County Council
* The fact that there had been a modest increase in CDC rates and larger increases in GCC and police rates
* A retired Police Officer was available to help residents with security advice
* Modest grants were available for youth work and to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.
* Some additional money was being made available to improve broadband and there were modest funds available for environmental projects and youth activities.
* The new Stow Surgery on the Tal Trees site was stalling due to financial issues.
* It was recognised that Bromford Housing were not easy to contact. Cllr Beale was pressing for improvements.
* Thames Water had a small budget for improvements but were ‘disaster driven’.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Beale for his comprehensive report.

**Question and Answer**

A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for its work on behalf of the village. It was noted that the Thames Water issues concerned rain water getting into the drainage system. It was noted that defibrillator training had been arranged for 13 June at 2.30 pm in the Village Hall

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

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