**MINUTES OF THE ODDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

**HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**ON 26  MAY 2016AT 7PM**

Present: Cllr S Watkin, Chairman, District Councillor Beale, the Clerk, the Police and 10 members of the public.

 The Chairman welcomed people to the Village meeting.

 **Reports**

**Gloucestershire Police**

PC Richy Webb said that crime in the village had spiked up from 4 to 15. Most of these were burglaries or other theft. The Police believed that these were carried out by a couple from Cheltenham. He urged residents to 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. PC Webb asked residents to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity.

The Chairman thanked PC Webb for his report.

**Oddington Parish Council**

The Chairman reported on the Village Fete and the installation of the defibrillators. The Fete had been a huge success bringing together the Parish Council, the Church, the WI and the Village Hall Committee and had raised £3,230. Special thank were given to Ted Miles, Jeff Munns, Rufus Lewis, Alan Cox, Sue Gorzynski and Mrs Barclay. The money raised has enabled a new audio-visual system to be installed in the Village Hall.

The decision to purchase two defibrillators to be installed in the Village phone boxes was made in the previous year, but this year had seen the actual installation. Thanks were given to Jenny Sawyer and Ann Every for carrying out the weekly checks into the state of the defibrillators.

Highways had improved the signage on the A436 junction with Back Lane in Upper Oddington and the previous work on Norman’s Bank seemed to be holding up well. The work to improve the drainage on the bend at Bank’s Farm had still not been undertaken. The Parish Council arranged the usual Spring Clean and the notice boards have also been cleaned and were in good repair. The damage to grass verges continued, caused mostly by significant building and restoration work which is a permanent feature of the village scene. The Parish Council had requested that house owners restore the verges at the completion of building work but would prefer that it didn’t occur in the first place.

There had been a continuing problem with the sewage pumping station in Upper Oddington, resulting in flooding of the Old Stone House on three occasions since Christmas as well as pollution of the stream. The Chairman said she had written to the MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown who had promised to contact Thames Water on our behalf. She thanked Andrew Gorzynsky for the tireless work he had undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council and the entire village in this matter.

Over the year the Council had commented on many planning applications. Some of the Council’s comments were taken on board, but many were not.

The Chairman ended by thanking Julian Beale, our District Councillor, for his work over the year and also her fellow councillors and the Parish Clerk.

**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. The new sound system had been a welcome improvement. Mr Miles paid tribute to Chris Sedgeley, a long standing committee member who had died. He 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. It was confirmed that there is a little over £33,000 in the fund.

**The Village Agent**

The Clerk read out a report from Steve Whincup, Village and Community Agents support older people in Gloucestershire. The aim was to provide a one stop shop for the over 50s to enable them to stay in their own homes for longer. The service was free and confidential and village agents were often able to refer clients on to other organisations who would be able to provide specific, targeted assistance.

**Report from CDC Cllr Beale.**

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

* The restricting of the wards introduced 12 months ago which was working well
* The fact that CDC rates had been held, but that there had been small increases in CDC and police rates
* The rubbish collection service was now working well
* CDC was working closely with the Highways authority to improve the roads, particularly the Fosseway and the A40, but funding was very limited
* The draft Local Plan had been agreed and would now go to inspectors. There had been a slight uplift in overall numbers with 8,400 to be built by 2031. Most of these would be in the south at Cirencester, but up to 1000 might be provided in Moreton. There was no news about a new supermarket at Moreton.
* There was no requirement to build new affordable homes in Oddington or neighbouring villages, but the Community could put forward proposals if it was felt such homes were needed for younger people.
* 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 making some progress, albeit slow.
* CDC continue to be concerned about the ambulance service in the area and are lobbying for improvements
* Highways were reintroducing the lengthsman service.

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. Another member of the public reported that he hoped to move into the village shortly and would like to discuss plans for an extension with the Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

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