

PARISH OF HILLESLEY AND TRESHAM
MINUTES OF 25th ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Meeting held at Hopkins Hall, Hillesley on
Wednesday 1st April 2015

Present: Cllr D Darlow (chair), Cllr G Finn, Cllr R Graham, Cllr J Knowles, L Spratling (Parish Clerk) , Cllr J Cordwell (County), Cllr P Hemming (Stroud) and 5 other members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr A Doughty & Cllr A Clark - Accepted
2. **Minutes of the 24th Annual Parish Assembly:**
The minutes of the meeting on 9th April 2014 were approved and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes**
None.
4. **Report of the Parish Council Parish Council from the Chairman – Councillor D Darlow** (full Report held in PC filing). The Chairman gave an update on the following subjects:
 - Routine Business and notification of a vacancy on the Parish Council
 - Governance and budgets
 - Planning Issues through the year
 - Interventions including highways issues and SDC Ward Boundary feedback
 - Progress on Affordable Housing
 - Thanks were expressed to the Parish Clerk, All Councillors, Cllr J Cordwell & Cllr P Hemming, John Dansie (Cotswold Warden) and the JFMC for continued use of the hall & R Goodenough for occasional use of his Barn for meetings.
5. **Progress Report on Parish Plan – Councillor D Darlow** (full Report held in PC filing)
 - See above as many of these items were included in the Annual Report above.
 - The Oil Buying Group still operates well.
6. **Reports from Local Organisations**

Hillesley Tennis Club - (Mary Anne Darlow)

- Tennis club membership has remained stable for this year with a core group of active members who play regularly on a Thursday morning and Sunday morning. The court is free for members to use outside of club times and non members may use it for a small fee. For the membership year April 2014-April 2015 we had 20 adult members, 8 family members, 3 students and 4 juniors.
- The court was also made available for use by the school and a 6 week block of coaching was organized as part of the curriculum. This has been offered to the school again this year.
- Last Summer there were a few friendly matches with Hawkesbury Upton and one with Wotton-under-Edge tennis club.
- The club is open to members of all standards and the most important thing is we play for the enjoyment and variety.
- Tennis club AGM will be held on 15th April 2015 at 7.45 in Hopkins Hall, everyone is welcome.

Hillesley Baptist Burial Ground Trust – (Caroline Webber)

- It has proved necessary to pay for help with grass cutting at the burial ground.
- Members still attend graves and cut hedges when they can.
- There is still plenty of space available at the graveyard for future burials.
- We are especially grateful for the grant made available by the PCC. as it assists us in the payment of insurance for the site and now the increased costs of grass cutting.

Hillesley Primary School - (Margaret Plummer – Governor) (full Report held in PC filing)

- Jayne Pedley has been appointed as Head Teacher
- Changes in the Governing Body and a vacancy for a Foundation Governor
- Successful inspections and excellent SATS results
- Links with KLB, the Tyndale Cluster & Kingswood School are on-going
- Successful Christmas production of 'It takes a village'
- The Friends continue to raise substantial funds for the school.
- Volunteers of time or financial donations are always welcomed by the school

St Giles Church – (Martin Crossley Church Warden)

- I wish to convey our thanks for the Council's grant towards the costs of maintaining the churchyard. Following my explanation last year regarding the un-mown area in the churchyard, we have continued the practice without receiving any further comment. This year, with the help of the grant, we plan a pilot cultivation of parts of that area, seeded properly with a suitable wild flower mix.
- A survey of the electrical system last year condemned most of the wiring and fittings so complete re-wiring is urgent. We are also planning to install electric heaters and eco-friendly lighting. The former means an upgrade to the supply incomer and South West Power propose to bring in a new underground cable direct from the sub-station in the corner of the playing field. We hope that when this work takes place there will be minimum disruption to residents and field users. The project will be funded by a combination of grant aid and drawing on our limited reserves.
- Although a few services draw large congregations, regular numbers and regular income remain modest leading to a shortfall in our annual budget. While this situation cannot continue indefinitely, I would like to quash any rumours that the church is in imminent danger of closure. However, we do need to increase our regular income and the means of achieving this will be exercising the PCC over the coming year.
- For your calendar: the Summer Fete is now planned for the 20th June

Jubilee Field Management Committee (Jim Mason)

- The JFMC thanks the Parish Council for the grant received in 2014/15
- Events such as the annual clean-up and concerts have proved successful. The Fun Day will include an enhanced vegetable produce section this year
- There are now showers in the pavilion for the away teams, new windows in Hopkins Hall and a new roof on the Pavilion

- The installation of a fire door in Hopkins Hall and work to the slabbed area are planned
- Phase 1 of the project to improve the children's play area has been completed by the installation of the new swing.
- The Cricket & Football clubs continue to maintain the pitches and have replaced the roller.

Tresham Church - (Richard Goodenough)

- The Annual Report for Tresham Church for the year ended 31 December 2014 was received. In 2014 a summer Evensong was held preceded by a tea and quiz, which we it is planned to repeat this year in June.

Hillesley Happenings – (Carol Dawson)

- The publication has been able to continue through advertising income but this needs to be kept under continual review. Financial assistance from the Parish Council would be welcomed.

Assley & Harely Commons – (John Tewkesbury)

- The South Glos Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme generally maintains the commons although Ellie Phillips is also helping the Commons Committee to improve the maintenance which is currently undertaken
- Topping & spraying of rushes has been undertaken
- Wild flowers have been planted on Assley Common, but it is anticipated that these may take up to 2 years to flourish
- Vehicles have been seen driving over the common and the Badminton Estate are taking measures to stop this
- The plan to install a cattle trough has been delayed because they must now be badger-proof

Cotswold Wardens (John Dansie)

- The Wardens have attended to some trees which have fallen in the high winds
- Information on broken stiles etc would be useful.

Allotment Association (John Knowles)

- Thanks were due to the Parish Council for their Grant
- Most plots have been taken and last year was a good growing year
- Rents have been increased to £5 per ¼ plot for the coming year

6. Report from County Councillor - (John Cordwell - full Report held in PC filing)

- An Independent member of the council died a few months ago and the by-election was won by a Conservative. At approaching 34 years I am now the longest-serving county councillor in the history of the present GCC.
- I am now also the lead member of a Highways Contract Advisory Group to have “oversight and input into setting the outcomes of the LED street lighting contract procurement.” The contract will be awarded on 6th April.
- On 18th February the council agreed a budget for 2015/16 of £420.03M, a decrease in cash terms of £8.075M. For the fifth year running, council tax has

been frozen at £1090.50 at Band D.

- Liberal Democrats asked for the County Council to carry out a study to identify routes that cyclists found problematic, and used the results to successfully propose that £100k was put in the budget to do the advanced design work needed to allow cycling schemes identified by the study to be delivered in the future.
- Around £100k is to be invested to provide free Wi-Fi in every county and community library.
- With concern over the state of trees near highways, each councillor is to be allocated £2500 next year that can be used on tree maintenance or tree planting. This is on top of the £20k annual "Highways Local" allocation to each councillor and a further £100k – worth of proposals.
- Living wage increase for staff at £36k has been implemented and a useful £100k invested in maintaining rural bus services.
- I have recommended grants to six projects from the Active Together Funf to fully spend my £40k allocation.
- Nine projects have been agreed in whole or in part to fund healthy projects and healthy living campaigns in disadvantaged communities.
- In addition an annual Children's Activity Fund of £5k per councillor was set up. I submitted three projects. The final £318 was used in a bid to replace and improving play equipment on Hillesley's Jubilee Field.
- Javelin Park - will now go ahead despite numerous objections and questions asked about due process. Secretary of State announced he had decided to allow the appeal.
- Amey were awarded the new Highways contract, which started in April 2014. There have since been considerable concerns raised by county councillors and the public over work not being done when promised and over its quality. weeks. A former county council officer has been brought out of retirement to help sort things out. A motion has been tabled calling for the continued close monitoring of the contract performance and for financial penalties to be imposed if performance targets are not consistently met in 2015/16.
- A 'Drive for Life' full day event included talks and practical demonstrations for Y12 and Y13 students at KLB School The event was well received by the students, a number of whom have already passed their driving test. All the emergency services attended together with the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership. I hope that other schools and colleges in the county will have the same opportunity. A number of organisations helped to fund the event including Wotton Town Council and Hillesley & Tresham Parish Council.

7. Report from District Councillor – (Paul Hemming - full Report held in PC filing)

- Following the move to the new committee system in May 2013 there have been a number of changes to committees, the constitution and member training during the past year.
- The final draft submission to the Boundary Commission for proposed Boundary changes is complete and sent. We now await their final deliberations which will be available later in the year.
- New Social Housing provision is under way and refurbishment and improvement of existing properties continues.
- There is also a working group looking at further additional provision of

housing, by the council, which has as yet to define the scale, type and method.

- The examination in Public of the New Local Plan will restart on 12th May.
- Having received updated population prediction figures which suggest that there will be more people in a position to buy property, the base figure before any addition for economic growth rises from 10,400 to 11,000 during the plan period. However the grand total remains at 11,200.
- The new waste and recycling contract will begin in June 2016 and to this end the council is in the process of securing the site for the depot and a full Council meeting will be requested to add just under £5.8m to the capital budget for the coming year for the purchase of vehicles.
- The final cost is likely to be less than this as it is not proposed to purchase all new vehicles as that would be likely to mean that they all reach end of life at the same time. It is therefore recommended to purchase a number of good second hand items thus reducing the overall outlay.
- The hearing for the District Council's challenge over Javelin Park is due to take place on 25th June. This is primarily over the fact that the site was initially allocated for the treatment of waste and not for an incinerator.
- The canal project continues at quite a pace and In June there will be a financial update which is likely to show quite a large overspend prediction. Not everything has gone entirely to plan and some engineering works have involved additional spend in order to proceed.
- Finally my thanks to the council for its continuing hospitality and I look forward once again to the coming year.

8. AOB - none

I certify that the above minutes are a correct record of the above meeting

Signed:

Date: