

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF COOMBE BISSETT AND HOMINGTON HELD
IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017 AT 6.30 pm (unconfirmed).**

Present: Councillors: D Rattue, D Hobson, C Chelu, P Crosthwaite, S Gledhill, A Bird and G Bundy. Mrs D James (Clerk). Wiltshire Councillor R Clewer. Mr and Mrs M McGovern, Dr A Lack, Mrs J White, Mrs T Chelu, Mr and Mrs M Wardroper and Mr S James.

Apologies for absence: Mr and Mrs J Speirs, Mr and Mrs M Garlick and Mrs D Woolnough.

D Rattue welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Richard Clewer who has recently been elected as Wiltshire councillor for Downton and Ebbles Valley area.

Minutes of the last meeting: G Bundy proposed, C Chelu seconded and it was carried unanimously that the circulated minutes be confirmed and signed.

There were no matters arising from those minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Cllr. D Rattue:

As is the practice of Council at The Annual General Meeting we shall each report on our area of responsibility. During the year we have held 6 Council Meeting and 2 Special meetings and your representatives dealt with 38 planning applications. After lengthy discussions with BSR the Bake Farm Developer a Community Benefit of £20000 was negotiated which was considerably less than was first offered prior to it being completely withdrawn. This money is to be used for the benefit of the community and to date we have received initial applications from various groups for funding. Your Council is at present reviewing the applications and a sum of £4000 has been allocated towards the cost of improving the sound quality in the Village Hall and this will be of great benefit to all those who use the hall.

The Wiltshire Housing Allocation Development Plan recommendations are still awaited and these will be available for discussion during June 2017. These recommendations will play an important role for the future of our villages

The Parish Council has over the last 12 months carried several improvement schemes in the villages and with help from the CHAVS kept this expenditure to affordable levels. Our financial position has also been maintained at a satisfactory level and this has allowed us to keep the precept at the 2016 level.

During the past year we have been fortunate to receive a grant from Scottish & Southern Energy to the sum of £3700, which has enabled the Parish Council to purchase pumps for use in flooding situations. Special thanks to David Parson for all his help in organising the project

The 20m.p.h speed limit through Coombe Bissett has been implemented and the recent traffic survey indicate vehicles travelling west of Shutts Lane recorded an average of 21.3 mph (no further action) whilst those travelling east of Pennings Drove recorded an average of 31.3 mph which makes it eligible for community speed watch. David Germain continues to organise our local speed watch group and we greatly appreciate the team giving their time to make the villages safer.

The Neighbourhood Plan group have carried out valuable preliminary work and the Parish Council have agreed to provide £1000 towards the cost of funding a consultant to advise and assist in the preparation of the necessary documentation. Des Hobson will be the Parish Council representative on this group.

After many delays the Wiltshire Council Housing project for 4 dwellings on the Old Chalk Pit site will commence in May 2017 now that a contractor has been appointed.

Julian Johnson retires this year as our representative on Wiltshire Council and on behalf of our community I would thank him for the support he has given us over many years and we welcome his successor Richard Clewer as the representative for Downton and Ebbles Valley

In conclusion may I record my appreciation to all the Parish Councillors for the hard work and dedication they have shown over the past four years which has made my role as your Chairman an easy one to fulfill. A special thank you also to our Parish Clerk Debbie whose enthusiasm and work ethic is admired by us all.

POLICE REPORT Cllr. D. Rattue:

Over the past 12 months Wiltshire Police have introduced a new Community Policing Team model for our area following successful trials in other areas of the county. CPT combines Neighbourhood Policing, Response Teams and Local Crime Investigators so there is a “one team” approach to community policing. It means there is a bigger team of officers and police staff available to attend incidents and improves communication between teams and departments. It gives the public a better service because issues can potentially be resolved at first point of contact (101 and 999 call takers) and provides them with a named officer/police staff member whom they will be able to keep in touch with during the investigation. It also encourages officers and staff to take more “ownership” of cases.

Following the Government's decision to reduce the funding by £800,000 for Policing in Wiltshire it has been necessary to increase the policing part of the council tax by 1.9% which works out at £3.17(per week) for an average band D property. This will mean that the rate for the police and crime element of council tax for an average band D property will be £170.27, up from £167.10 for the year 2016/2017. This increase will go some way to protecting community policing and was supported by the public consultation exercise carried out by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Custody Suite at Melksham continues to serve the Salisbury Area with detainees being taken by the transport team to this location for processing. It was hoped that a Custody Suite would again be located at Salisbury but the indications are that for financial reasons this will not be possible.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) recently published their report on the performance of Police Forces in England and Wales and Wiltshire Police were graded as Good. (There are four standards) Outstanding, Good, Requires improvement and inadequate).

(Wiltshire Police is good in respect of its effectiveness at keeping people safe and reducing crime. The overall judgment is the same as last year, when it also judged the force to be good. The force is good at preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour. It protects vulnerable people from harm and has effective processes in place to investigate crimes. It is good at tackling serious and organised crime and has the necessary arrangements in place to respond to national threats.)

The HMIC Report also raised a warning flag as forces strive to cope with increased demand. It found that forces overall were not as well equipped to stop crime happening in the first place as it had been in the past and gave recommendations for action which will be revived from the Autumn 2017.

Wiltshire continues to be one of the safest places to live and the following Police-recorded crime rates for England & Wales confirm this.

RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION	WILTSHIRE POLICE	ENGLAND & WALES
Recorded crime excluding fraud	54.3	68.2
Victim based crime	47.5	60.4

Sexual offences	1.9	1.9
Assault with injury	6.9	7.0
Burglary in a dwelling *	4.5	8.1

*The rate of burglary in a dwelling is the rate per 1,000 households

However recorded crime in Wiltshire has risen by 11 % over the past year which is in line with National Trends and the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner has indicated that the apparent rise is partly due to more accurate recording procedures being put in place. Getting these statistics right is extremely important as the needs of the community are based on these for the deployment of resources and to provide the best possible service for everyone.

CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION FIELD REPORT Cllr. A Bird:

The play park continues to be well used and is in a good state of repair.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. Dog fouling signs are in place and the Council has considered the option of CCTV to identify offenders.

The field is maintained to an extremely high standard by the Cricket Club. New bulbs have been planted and the whole area is a fabulous community space.

The new Tesco 'token' scheme, similar to the established one run by Waitrose, has chosen the Parish Council as a beneficiary during May and June, and the Parish Council hopes to purchase some outdoor exercise equipment, depending on how much money is allocated.

The gates leading from the Village Hall car park to the field are in a very poor state of repair. The Parish Council is currently obtaining quotes for replacement posts and gates. It is hoped that new gates will be installed before the end of the summer.

COOMBE BISSETT C E PRIMARY SCHOOL Cllr. C Chelu:

There is much information about school activities available bi-monthly in the Express and on the school website, where details of Ofsted inspections can be accessed.

The class numbers are now as follows:

Oak class (Reception & Y1) = 18 pupils (12 boys & 6 girls)

Elm class (Y1 & Y2) = 27 pupils (10 boys & 17 girls)

Fir class (Y3 & Y4) = 30 pupils (13 boys & 17 girls)

Ash class (Y5 & Y6) = 25 pupils (13 boys & 12 girls)

Of the 100 children on roll, 22 live within the catchment area which still results in a large number of vehicles coming into Coombe Bissett twice a day, many of which park up at the village hall. This causes considerable congestion, and inconsiderate drivers are driving up and parking on grassy banks in their Chelsea tractors, damaging the grass and eroding the tarmac. This issue has yet to be resolved.

VILLAGE HALL Cllr. C Chelu:

During the past year the hall has been redecorated and the floor resurfaced which has made a considerable dent in hall reserves. The Parish Council have given the hall a grant from the Solar Farm monies, and the hall committee are now able to go ahead with plans to fit acoustic panels to reduce the reverberation time. This, in particular, will improve the sound quality at the popular Film Nights and for dramatic productions.

The Village Hall continues to be used by a variety of village organisations. Revenue from weddings remains a useful source of income but not as much as last year. The running of the hall depends upon a number of volunteers on the management committee without whom the hall would likely close.

HIGHWAYS AND STREET SCENE REPORT Cllr. C Chelu:

During this year Wiltshire Council have been working with new Highways and Street Scene contractors. Pot hole filling has been the main issue over the winter and now the first cut of highway verges is about to start. The clearing of weeds and detritus on pavements and gutters especially along the A354 has been requested, but recent work has only been partially successful. Parts of the C12 have been resurfaced but the promised white line on Stratford Tony Road bend has yet to materialise. New grips at last have recently been cut in Pennings Drove and it is hoped this will reduce the amount of water going down Stockbridge Lane. However it should be noted that money is still short and that some issues still will not be addressed. All issues can be reported by the general public via the My Wiltshire App on the web.

SNOW WARDEN Cllr. C Chelu:

There being no particular falls of persistent snow last winter, there is little to report. The Parish has plentiful supplies of salt for next winter and volunteers are organised ready to clear snow and salt walkways.

COOMBE BISSETT PLANNING REPORT Cllr. P Crosthwaite:

30 planning applications have been considered during the year, covering housing and farm building alterations and extensions, tree work and new build. One application, and part of another, was withdrawn, and approval was granted in all cases we have received decisions for to date.

Following delays in the tendering process for the 4 council houses at the Old Chalk Pit site, a contractor was appointed earlier this year. Wiltshire council handed the site over to the contractors last week, and are due to officially start on site this week.

The long-awaited community benefit, resulting from the development of the solar park at Bake Farm by British Solar Renewables materialised during the year as a one-off goodwill payment of £20,000. The fund will be spent on substantial, innovative projects that will provide long-term benefits to villagers.

There is not much to report on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment process; publication by Wiltshire Council of the pre-submission draft plan has been postponed but is expected in June.

FLOODING REPORT Cllr. P Crosthwaite:

Thankfully, we have had a quiet year on the flooding front, last winter apparently being the driest for 20 years.

Following the compilation of a list of flooding issues in Coombe Bissett and Homington in association with WC Highways and Drainage Engineers in January 2016, the majority have been or are being dealt with, but 2 are subject to further discussion.

The proposed kerb and gully work adjacent to Shergold Cottages in Homington Road was agreed by WC Community Area Traffic Group, but the Parish Council's contribution, having been discussed, is to be reviewed in this financial year.

Communication about possible drain improvement work on the A354 outside Southdene and Eastfield House continues but we still await a decision from WC Highways and Drainage regarding its priority.

Following receipt of a grant from SSE, 3 pumps and related essential equipment have been purchased. A large petrol powered pump for outdoor use, such as draining flooded areas of land and roads that are threatening local

houses, is capable of removing large volumes of water. In addition, there are two smaller electric pumps suitable for pumping out flooded rooms and basements. The pumps are available for the benefit of anyone in the parishes.

A Flood Plan is currently being put together, ready for the next 'flooding' season.

Please continue to report any blocked drains direct to Wiltshire Council.

RIGHTS OF WAY REPORT Cllr. G Bundy:

This last year I have walked all of the rights of way, armed as usual with my secateurs but again they were not needed on the bridleway section of Shutts Lane as Richard Shearing has kept both sides trimmed back.

We have checked the two stiles on the northern section of Footpath 4 leading from Homington Down to the A354 (Salisbury to Blandford Road) after a query raised by a parishioner. They are still in the same state as they were some 7 years ago when I walked that way, with some small repairs having been carried out about 2 years ago. As you will become aware later in the Parish Council meeting, this designated Footpath 4 also goes along Stocksbridge Lane and site meetings have taken place to consider how best to deal with the surface problem there.

Generally all of the Rights of Way, Footpaths, Bridleways and Byways are passable but Shutts Lane and particularly Gypsy Lane have suffered with fly tipping which has made access sometimes a little difficult. At last years Annual Parish Meeting I reported that I hoped because of Council financial cutbacks fly tipping would not become a problem. You can draw your own conclusion when I tell you there has been 9 fly tipping cases in Shutts Lane and Gypsy Lane over the last year, 7 in the last 5 months. Using the My Wiltshire App to report these matters eventually the Wiltshire Council have dealt with the clearing, except in one case when some 30 old worn car tyres were dumped, a parish resident took them as he was able to find a good use for them.

COOMBE BISSETT CEMETERY REPORT Cllr. G Bundy:

In the last year income has totaled £600 made up of burials, plot reservations and headstone fees. On the expenditure side it has been the annual regular costs of bin emptying by Wiltshire Council of £120 and the cutting of the grass by Bawdens, the costs of which are included in a fixed 3 year contract with them to cut other Parish Council owned grass areas. Bawdens were also paid £508 for hedge cutting costs. In my view Bawdens do an excellent job of keeping the cemetery neat and tidy.

You may have noticed that the wall at the front of the cemetery is being repaired, but the contractor is waiting for the daffodils to die down before he can complete the job, so that we will not lose the benefit of the flowers for the future.

A CHAV carried out wood preservation treatment to the bench in the Cemetery.

HOMINGTON REPORT Volunteer Cllrs. D Hobson and S Gledhill:

Flooding

The risk from flooding in the village, particularly from run-off following heavy rain has continued to be monitored. The Parish Council has continued to lobby Wiltshire Council to clear grips and conduct other minor works to improve drainage.

Planning Applications

Eight planning applications (including two variations) have been considered over the last year. These have included, agricultural buildings, house extensions and tree surgery. In addition, one appeal against a planning decision has been commented on.

Village Relationships

Both Councilors have been involved in work to address a number of complaints from villagers concerning alleged problems caused by the actions of other members of the community. In one case this led to the Parish Council writing to a Housing Association.

Traffic

Due to a lack of volunteers the Homington Community Speed-watch continues not to operate. If any villagers are interested in re-opening the scheme they are asked to contact one of the village's Parish Councilors.

During the year Wiltshire Council made the C12 Homington Road between the two villages into a 50mph limit. This involved the erection of several new speed limit signs.

Village Defibrillator

A community Defibrillator is installed in the Homington bus shelter and maintained by the Parish Council. Additional Defibrillators are located at the Village Hall and Coombe Bissett Village Shop.

Homington Triangle Seat

The seat has been refurbished with the help of CHAV volunteers. Materials were paid for by the Parish Council.

Parishioner's Questions:

Dr A Lack reported that the footpath through Great Yews has now been blocked off so there is no public access. This has been done to prevent vandalism and to protect the trees. Although not in the parish of Coombe Bissett and Homington, Great Yews is easily reached from this area. Dr Lack requested that the following question is raised with residents: Does this unique wood need to be preserved or should a public right of way be reinstated? Any comments or opinions can be sent to the Clerk on parishclerkcoombebissett@gmail.com

Dr Lack would also be pleased to hear of any suggestions relating to improvements that could be made at Salisbury District Hospital. He can be contacted via webmaster on the Coombe Bissett and Homington website.

Date of next Annual Parish Meeting: Tuesday 8^h May 2018.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.