

## PARISH OF HUCCLECOTE

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 15th MAY 2017 IN THE PINEHOLT BOWLS CLUB AT 6.30PM

**Present** Councillor Mrs Dillon (In the Chair)  
Councillor Pugh  
Councillor Stevens  
Councillor Mrs Bentley  
Councillor Bentley  
Councillor Mrs Blackwell  
Councillor Mrs Hutchinson-Holford

6 parishioners

**Apologies** Councillor Mountjoy  
Councillor Leach  
County Councillor Robert Vines

#### 1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 2. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2016/17

The past year has been extremely busy for the council and staff; hall bookings have remained steady and will hopefully continue with the new facilities later in the year. Apart from the precept, money received from the Council tax paid to Tewkesbury Borough Council, revenue from the hall bookings are a valuable part of the income stream which is needed for hall maintenance etc.

Parking issues continue to be a problem to some residents on Cranham Gate and is now also affecting Coopers Edge. Since the previous Parish Assembly a meeting took place between the council and Gloucestershire Highways, the council were hoping to 'tweak' some of the yellow lines, but were advised that for this to happen the council had to go through the complete process again including consultations with residents, full notifications and there would be a similar cost in the region of £10k, the council decided to not pursue at this moment in time.

There was some good news regarding the M5 noise situation, we were not expecting a new road surface until 2018, but a meeting took place at the Houses of Commons arranged by Richard Graham the Gloucester MP, between Gloucester City Council, Upton St Leonards parish council, Highways England and the Secretary of State for Transport. At this meeting Highways England were told to bring the date forward for the resurfacing and to review the noise barriers; in fact the resurfacing was completed in March 2017. The council is still lobbying for more substantial noise barriers to be installed within the Parish.

The Coopers Edge development continues, parcels 1 and 3 are currently being developed and these properties will be for sale shortly, increasing the Parish numbers.

The building work on the Village Hall has started and the builders are making good progress, this project is being funded from the money the Parish council have been putting aside for several years and various grants for which the council have been successful in obtaining from various organisations. Thanks to everyone involved especially Cllr Ted Stevens for all his hard work. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by the end of the summer and the hall will reopen for the office to return also the regular and new hirers to our new and improved facility.

The parish web site has been improved and is far more user friendly, our newsletter continues to be produced quarterly , unless any residents requests a home delivery, the newsletter will only be available on the web site and the notice boards situated throughout the Parish. The new Facebook page is also very popular.

I would like to thank Sarah the Clerk to the Council, Ann the administration assistant and Ray the handyman for their continued efforts and support throughout the year. My thanks also go to all council members for their commitment and time they give to improve the developments within the parish. There are three new members of the council, Mr Oliver Mountjoy, Mr Barry Leach and Mrs Cheryl Hutchinson-Holford and I would like to welcome them.

I commend this report to the Parish.

Maggie Dillon -May 2017

### **3. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Miss Sarah Moore, confirmed that the 2015/16 accounts had been signed off by the Council's external auditors and that the Council had received its report; there were no actions required.

The 2016/17 accounts had been inspected by Mr Iain Selkirk, the Council's Internal Auditor on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and he was satisfied with the procedures and internal controls in place. Members received a copy of his report together with the Income and Expenditure accounts. A full list of receipts and payments were also available.

During the year Councillor Mrs Bentley undertook regular audit inspections and reported her findings back to full Council.

Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were:

Current account (1)	152.95
Business Investment account (2)	61602.57
Reserve account (3)	48206.68
Petty cash	67.21
Total balances	110026.41

The Clerk reported that the annual income came in slightly under budget due to less hall hiring's, however grants of £11600 were secured towards the village hall extension works. The budgeted expenditure also came in under budget due to lower maintenance and rental costs and a refund of £500 was received from the gas and electric supplier. There was little expenditure on training.

The actual income received, excluding the grants, was £57963 and the expenditure was £41702, therefore a surplus of £16262 was achieved for the year. This was earmarked for the village hall building work (14k) and future replacement costs of the play area equipment (2k).

Total earmarked reserves were:

The future extensions to the village hall - £58k

Future replacement costs of play equipment - £6k

#### **4. POLICE REPORT**

The Police are no longer in a position to attend parish council meetings, and due to reduced staffing levels, a decision was made to withdraw from producing monthly crime figure reports in the future.

PC Emma Jones provided the annual crime figures the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017:

Violent crimes	24
Burglary	13
Theft	13
Fraud	7
Criminal damage	17
Drugs	2
Other	1

#### **5. QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS**

Q. What is the latest information on the new doctor's surgery?

A. The local surgeries were discussing a suitable site for the new super surgery; Councillor Stevens will obtain an update from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and post the information on the councils website.

Q. Has any progress been made on the improving internet speeds, particularly on Coopers Edge?

A. The Council understands the issues on Coopers Edge; Councillor Stevens will obtain an update from Fastershire and post the information on the councils website and Facebook page.

Q. Is it possible to remove the herras fencing from around the Gloucester Business Park, to help improve access to the park facilities for the elderly and disabled?

A. The fencing was erected by the park management therefore it was not within the councils remit to ask for it to be removed. The Chairman will raise the concern at the next business park meeting.

Contact will also me made with the consortium regarding the proposed link from Coopers Edge to the Business Park, as detailed on the Masterplan.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19:15.