

**Beverston Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
held in the Village Hall, Beverston, on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Present:** *Councillors* Caroline Lowsley-Williams (Chairman), David Morris (Vice-Chairman), John Crownshaw, Dermot McMeekin, Oliver Preston and the Clerk Fiona Gunn

County Councillor Stephen Hirst, District Councillor Richard Morgan

Sally Armstrong, John Baldwin, Caroline Beardwell, Adelle Cherrison-Cole, John Cole, Gill Fry, James Gouriet, Pauline Lee, Rona Lowsley-Williams, George Lowsley-Williams, Pam McMeekin, Anna & Stephen Montague-Jones, Sue Morris, Lee Pegler, Mark Philpott, Berni Read, Sue Stevens, Sue Taylor, Levent Tounjer, Richard Waldram, Suzanne & David Walsh, Roy Walton

**Apologies:** Anthony Blezard, Simon Carbery, Norma Crownshaw, Joanna Gouriet, David Lowsley-Williams, James Lowsley-Williams, George Monck, Vivien Preston, Nigel Sibley, Sarah Spain

**1 Welcome by the Chairman:** Caroline Lowsley-Williams thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for the work that they have done during the past year. She said how nice it was to drive past Babdown Farm and see it done up and lived in and she welcomed all the new Babdown residents to the Parish community. She said it had been a very sad year with a number of deaths of long time parishioners - Elspeth Preston, Jane Rook and Jack Chivers. They had all lived in Beverston for many decades. Our local District Councillor Jim Parsons had also died during the past year.

Our new District Councillor is Richard Morgan who lives in Tetbury with his young family and he used to run a business in Tetbury and Stephen Hirst is our County Councillor as well as being Mayor of Tetbury. The Parish Council keep in close contact with both of them.

The Parish Council have now set up a website and there is a section on it for the church. Caroline thanked the Village Hall Committee for keeping a variety of events going in the Hall – especially the Quiz night! Councillor Preston has handed out bags of salt to those in Beverston that need it (provided by Cotswold District Council) and Caroline has also delivered some to Chavenage residents. It is hoped that Gigaclear will soon provide fast broadband to the village.

**2 Apologies:** As above

**3 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017:** The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**4 Matters arising not on the agenda:** None

**5 Crime – Police Report:** Area Beat Manager PC Leah Davis was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. There were 10 substantiated crimes in this period, this compared to the same number for the same period a year earlier. These crimes were: 4 incidents of burglary, 2 attempted residential burglary, 3 incidents of theft and 1 incident of criminal damage. A copy of the full Police report is available from the Clerk.

**6 Report from County Councillor Stephen Hirst:** Councillor Hirst handed to everyone at the meeting a summary of Gloucestershire County Council activities during the past year. Copies of this annual report are available from the Clerk. At this meeting he apologised for the state of the road between Beverston and Tetbury and said that it “will be sorted”. He also reminded everyone that the local tip would be closed for a few weeks. He said that he personally has a budget of £20,000 to spend on local highways and also a £30,000 pot of money over 3 years for wider community support.

**7 Report from District Councillor Richard Morgan.** As the new District Councillor for this area Richard firstly thanked his predecessor Jim Parsons, who had recently died, for the hard work he had put in over his years as District Councillor. He said that Cotswold District Council was joining up with Cheltenham and West Oxfordshire Councils to combine some services to save money. He said that over the past few years Council tax had been frozen for three years and reduced for three years – no council tax increases. On planning the target is to build 8,400 houses in the Cotswold District Council area by 2031. There is a big development in Cirencester. He said that there were 816 new houses in Tetbury.

## **8 The work of the Parish Council in the past year:**

**i Babdown:** Woodlodge got planning permission to expand beyond the boundaries of the industrial estate into green fields. The Parish Council vigorously opposed this.

**ii Traffic and Highways:** The Parish Council admits that it has made “zero” progress on its campaign to get a 30mph speed limit in Beverston, despite ongoing communication with the Highways department. It was noted that various villagers have also contacted Highways about this matter and received the same disappointing response. Dermot said that the Parish Council are also trying to get the vax signs moved from the middle of the village. The PC were told some years ago that they would have to contribute 50% of the cost and wait our turn for the matching finance, but in 2017 the criteria changed and we no longer qualify for this! The PC is, understandably, very unhappy that this will not now happen for the foreseeable future.

**iii Planning:** There were no major planning applications during the past year.

**9 Financial Report:** The unaudited accounts for the year 2017/18 were circulated. Caroline Lowsley-Williams said that it was still the Parish Council’s intention to build up a healthy reserve in the bank account in case of future funding requirements.

**10 Report from the Church:** Richard Waldram, one of the two Churchwardens, said lots of work has gone on at the church over the past year – a new loo, a pantry, changes to the side chapel so that it can double up as a meeting room if required and the second phase of rewiring and heating. The fundraising for this work has gone on for a number of years and more recently grants had been obtained from a number of organisations. Richard thanked the PCC for all their work during the past year. He said that there were regular 10am services every Sunday and that the Easter, Christmas and Carol services had been particularly well attended. Caroline Lowsley-Williams thanked Richard and his team for all they have achieved during the past few years.

**11 Report from the Village Hall:** On behalf of the Village Hall Committee Gill Fry said that during the past year the usual events have been run in the village hall – cream teas, coffee mornings, a Halloween celebration and the very successful quiz night. The Village Hall Bar-B-Q was in July and the committee were very pleased to see so many villagers attending. Thanks were given to the team who mow the lawns. Thanks were also extended to Brian Blackah who has decided he can no longer tend the borders in the garden. Bookings have been down but the regular income covers outgoings, insurance, electricity and general maintenance and hospitality. New ideas for events would be gratefully received.

## **Any other business:**

**War memorial – broken stones:** It was noted that yet again damage has been done to the stones in front of the war memorial by a large lorry – an ongoing problem.