

Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council
Meeting held at Pattingham Village Hall
Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present

Cllr J Burton (Chairman)

Cllr C Roberts

Cllr D Morgans

Cllr D Baldwin

Cllr K Whalley

S Brinkman

Cllr J Tomlinson

Also present, Mrs B Hodgetts (clerk), 3 members of public

1 Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. J Morgans, A Baugh, S Evans and County Cllr R Marshall

2 Signing of minutes

Minutes of annual meeting held on 21st March 2007 previously distributed were signed a true and correct record.

3 Matters Arising

No matters arising

4 Chairman's report

Thank you to all the retiring members over the last 12 months for all their hard work whilst on the council and welcome to all the new members. Mrs S Evans was able to join the council again due to the resignation of D Poole.

There have been 2 major problems this year. The dog situation on the Playing fields and the parking in Westbeech Road. The council has been in constant contact with the relevant authorities.

Work on the new development in Burnhill Green is due to begin. There will be a meeting arranged with Crown Estates, District councillors and parishioners in June.

This year St. Chad's Church held their first ever 'Festival of trees'. It was very well supported and the decorated trees were fantastic. The Parish Council tree included bus tokens, dog signs and a fibre optic light to represent the Christmas lights. The tree was stood on a ballot box. Thank you to all who helped with the decorating.

A thank you to Mr M O'Byrne as chairman of the civic society who has been very helpful to the council, especially planning issues.

The newsletters have been excellent and lots of positive comments have been received, they have all been sponsored by local businesses. A special thank you to the editors, distributors and Carl for his skill putting it all together.

In May I shall be standing down as chairman so wish my predecessor the best of luck.

5 **Parish Reports**

Old Peoples Welfare Committee – presented by Mrs J Burton

There was once again an increase in numbers applying for the Christmas dinner. There was some brilliant entertainment, as usual St. Chad's singing was superb. Also

for the first time Codsall High School entertained the diners for 2 hours with their singing.

The funds for the committee are currently very low. £5,000 was given to the fund many years ago and it could only be spent on Christmas lunches for the elderly. Each year the costs are rising and the annual cost is now approximately £2,500. As the funds stand there will only be enough for 1 or 2 more years.

Thank you to the Parish Council for its continued support

Pattingham Education Foundation Trust – Report forwarded by Mr D Sampson

Pattingham Village Hall – Presented by Mr C Ringrose

1. The Hall is running on a balanced budget. We have resources available to meet current commitments and any emergencies that may arise as far as the building is concerned.
2. We are getting a few more bookings than last year but not quite up to record levels of 2004.
3. Our costs increased by 7% last year.
4. The Committee decided at its last meeting to increase its charges by about the same amount. We feel our prices are still competitive for the facilities that we offer.
5. Regular activities like bowling and bingo are enjoyed by parishioners and a few neighbouring community's members who appreciate the facilities we have to offer. Both activities pay their way.
6. "Flicks in the Sticks" was successfully tested, we had over 100 people attending each time. The evenings were very social and enjoyed by everyone. The Parish Council met the cost of the Hall and kitchen hire for the evening, committee members served the interval drinks and set up the Hall and tidied up afterwards.
7. Live and Local whilst not attracting such large audiences brought live performances into the village generating more than enough revenue to cover the cost of the Hall and Kitchen for the evening. The Drama Group to be thanked for providing a much appreciated bar.
8. Over the year we have renewed the fascia on the front of the building and replaced the outside doors to the Committee Room. The Oil Tank bundy wall (in case of a catastrophic leak) was rebuilt, it was in poor condition, in anticipation of the tank being replaced with a new plastic one next year. We need to have such a bundy wall by law.
9. The Planning Application has been renewed for an extension to the Hall on that side of the Hall but nearer the front and with a level access into the Hall replacing the windows beside the stage. This will allow us to store the tables and chairs outside the main Hall as well as some other items we need to store away between bookings.

10. Bob Taylor has made numerous shelving additions to help store the Pre-school group and mothers' and toddlers' equipment and looked after the fabric of the Hall for which we are very grateful. Especially the two treatments of the Hall floor that have left it looking like new.
11. The Village Hall is very grateful to the Council for the precept of £5000 last year. We understand we are being given £3500 this year which is much appreciated but obviously we must watch carefully our unavoidable expenditures so we can maintain a balanced budget. Energy and waste disposal costs seem to be rising at double the rate of inflation. We carry out a number of fund raising events and may have to do some new ones. We have dropped the Jumbo Jumble Sale as it was not making much money and was becoming more of a waste disposal problem for the Committee afterwards. If anyone wants to run an Antiques' Road show type event in aid of Hall funds, that would be much more the type of thing we feel would go well in the Hall and would be good fun to do. Another approach will be to make more revenue on the activities we do already such as the like Bingo, Live and Local Shows, The Carols and Turkey evening and the Chad Singers concerts. Please support these and any other village organisation such as the Drama Group that run regular events in the Hall. Each booking we get helps cover our unavoidable fixed costs.

Thank you. Colin Ringrose, Chairman

The village hall will keep the CCTV recorder in the office when required.

Burnhill Green Residents Committee – Brief comments forwarded by Mrs J Ray

Nothing much other than the installation of the new play ground has happened this year.

Shepherds Building - Presented by Mr C Ringrose

We had bookings over 21 weekends last year. This is 7 less than the year before. We need over 25 bookings to break even. The buildings are in reasonable order and we have two additional activities available for children who come and stay, a new table tennis table (donated) and equipment (bought in George's closing down sale) and a two indoor mazes.

A rota of six volunteers keeps the grass mown. The Diocese has been made aware of the falling demand. Efforts have been made to stimulate demand. It seems to be falling on deaf ears, this appears to stem from new legislation that makes it even more difficult for people to want to volunteer to take groups of youngsters away for a couple of days. The preference is now for staffed centres which provide leaders for the children's activities who are professionally accredited and CRB checked. Also having to do one's own cooking is not as popular as it used to be despite our upgrading the equipment. We now have two electric cookers and 2 microwaves.

Later this month we have a visit from the Chairman of the Christian Residential Centres Network and we look forward to his views on what we do and ways in which we can improve our offering to make it more attractive to potential and existing customers. We are self funding and find it difficult to compete with government /charity subsidised alternatives. To this end we very much appreciate the £300 precept offered for 2008/2009 by the Council, thank you.

On the first of April we were visited by the Crown Estate agents as they are aware that our lease is due to expire in 2010. Having lost the Pub as a meeting room in the Burnhill Green Village, the need for Shepherd Buildings as a local community resource is stronger than ever. As it is we store the village barbeque, its tables and chairs and crockery for village events. The 'Quid pro quo' is that we can use them which we do for all the items except the crockery.

Our largest expenses are the rent, the waste disposal costs and electricity. The building itself is beginning to show its age and will need quite a lot spending on it to make it more up market if it is felt that is what is needed to make it more desirable to use. It is unlikely that the Diocese will be in a position to fund any major improvements.

Colin Ringrose Chairman of the Management Committee

St. Chad's School Governor – Presented by Mrs B Hodgetts

There were some staffing changes made this year. Due to the sad loss of the school Business Manager in April, a new Business Manager has been appointed, also following resignation a new office administrator had to be appointed.

There are currently 101 full time and 22 part time children attending St. Chad's. This is 12 pupils less than last year, however admissions for the next 2 years are looking favourable as the nursery continues to grow in numbers.

A Walking bus schemes is now fully operational and is currently walking -3 mornings a week from the Pigot Arms car park for approximately 8 children. The school is trying to encourage more walkers. A photograph of the walking bus appeared in the local paper during 'walk to school' week.

Once again in all areas of teaching St. Chad's is above the national average in its SATs results.

As always the staff continue to work hard both in and out of the classroom to provide more opportunities for our pupils, and to involve them in the wider community. They once again participated in the best-kept village poster competition, lead several church services, and year 4 went on their extended visit to York for 3 days. The school participated in the Festival of Christmas Tree at St Chads Church with their tree being voted as the winner. The children enjoyed sharing the tin of sweets they won!!

It has been a very eventful year at the school, and a thank you goes to all who put so much time into the education of our children.

Comments received from members of the council were very positive towards the happiness, well being and excellent behaviour of the children in school.

Pattingham Playing Fields – Brief report presented by Mrs B Hodgetts

The main issues this year are the drainage and dogs on the football pitch.

Part of the Tennis court fencing has been replaced at considerable cost.

There are currently 4 teams playing on the pitch, 3 adult and 1 junior team.

Thank you to Rob Lines for his help with organisation of the teams.

12 Trees have been planted on the fields with the majority being sponsored.

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Discussion

- A parishioner is concerned with holes being dug and barbeques being lit in Hamley Park. The Crown Estates donated this woodland to the village for walking. Clerk will keep the Crown informed. PC Lampitt is aware of the problems.
- Could the following act be used? ‘Wildlife and Countryside Act 1984 statutory protection for wild animals and plants’ Offence under section 13(1)(b), for any unauthorised person to intentionally uproot any wild plant, protected or otherwise.
- A2Z buses are on their final warning. They have been informed that if the service does not improve they will lose the contract.
- There are still complaints regarding the parking issues on Westbeeche Road, police have been informed.
- The Village Hall committee are intending to start a youth club in September. Initially it will be open for middle school children. They are looking for volunteers to help out on a rota basis.

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Planning

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| 08/00357/FUL | Mill House, Warstone Hill Road Replacement Conservatory - Subject to 30% |
| 08/00329/FUL | 55 High Street, Pattingham New front porch with garden wall/railings, alterations to existing right hand side garage. Additional windows No objections |
| 08/00281/CAC | 6 – 8 High Street, Pattingham Alterations to no. 8 to create single dwelling and demolition of side extension No Objections |

Signed:

Dated: