

Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council  
Annual meeting held at Pattingham Village Hall  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present

Cllr S Ponder (Vice Chairman)	Cllr Mrs S Brinkman
Cllr Mrs J Burton	Cllr Mrs J Morgans
Cllr Mrs C Roberts	Cllr Mrs S Evans
Cllr D Morgans	
Cllr D Baldwin	

Cllr Ponder chaired the meeting

Also present, Mrs B Hodgetts (clerk), 4 members of public

- 1 Apologies  
Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs A Baugh, J Tomlinson, K Whalley and County Cllr R Marshall
- 2 Minutes  
Minutes of annual meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 previously distributed were reviewed.
- 3 Matters Arising  
Transport for rural villages is being look at by the District Council especially looking at transporting youths to local clubs.
- 4 Chairman's report  
I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their help in my first year as Chairman. Also my thanks to a great clerk who has made my first year very satisfactory.  
Well what have we achieved this year:  
We had a very successful switch on of the Christmas lights both in Pattingham and Burnhill Green, this seems to be getting bigger each year.  
The allotments, although the lease isn't finalised, the Church Estate Trustees have been very accommodating and allowed people to start work on then land. I drove past the site a couple of weeks ago and it was mice to see 10 – 15 people working on the land.  
We have also installed CCTV around the village hall, there is at present 5 cameras with the possibility of adding more in the future.  
We have been in constant contact with the County Council regarding parking in Westbeech Road and have finally got them to agree to extend the yellow line and increase the parking restrictions at school drop off and pick up times.  
We must congratulate David, Joan and Christine for all their hard work in producing the newsletters.  
Bt Have at last moved the telephone pole at the junction of County Lane and the Shifnal Road.  
The County Council have now agreed to grit Westbeech Road as part of their normal service.

## Parish Reports

### Old Peoples Welfare Committee – presented by Mrs J Burton

This was the 30<sup>th</sup> dinner that Councillor Burton had helped organise. It was again a very successful year socially but a disaster financially. The last 2 years have attracted 130+ villagers which costs approximately £2,500. This year it made a loss of £1,007.

The recent interest rate cuts have affected the balance considerably.

The welfare committee will meet to discuss the way forward.

### Pattingham Education Foundation Trust – Report by Mr D Sampson

The trustees of the Pattingham Education Foundation Trust consists of 5 people at the present time; 2 who represent Pattingham Parish Council, these being David Morgans and Adrian Baugh, 1 person who represents Staffordshire County Council, this being David Burton, and the 2 current Churchwardens who are ex-officio, these being David Challinor and myself.

The Trustees have decided that they wish to allocate their income from their investments to St. Chad's primary School and to the funding of a teaching assistant in particular. Head Teacher Jane Nicklin has identified this as a very worthwhile use of our resources, so the school can continue to achieve the above average results it has maintained over recent years.

In 2008 the trustees awarded a grant of £3639.00 to the school for this purpose which paid for 6 hours per week for a teaching assistant. In addition all pupils in their final year at the school work from a 'Rainbow' Bible during the terms and the Bible is then presented to them to keep when they move to another school at the end of the school year. These Bibles are purchased for the school by this Trust and in 2008 the stock of them was replenished at a cost of £654.10.

### Pattingham Village Hall – Presented by Mr C Ringrose

1. The Hall is running on a balanced budget. We have had the resources available to cover the cost of the Hall's upkeep. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Bob Taylor for his work done on painting and running repairs. Any emergencies such as drain's damaged by heavy vehicles, the cost of repairs has been covered by our insurance.
2. We are getting a wide range of bookings from both local organisations and outsiders.
3. Our costs increased by 3% last year.
4. The Committee decided at its last meeting to increase its charges by 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 more than pay their way. The Bowlers have been given a new mat. There are regular short mat bowling matches against local villages such as Worfield and Claverley. These are held on Monday nights, the freeist evening from a Hall booking point of view.
6. "Flicks in the Sticks" have well attended each time. We look forward to receiving the menu of films available for our next 3 showings. The evenings are 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 built a store room on the side of the Hall. This was funded by a grant from the County's Youth Capital Fund applied for by the Pittingham Social Youth club Option (PSYCO). We have also been given a grant by the Staffordshire Community and Lifelong Learning Partnership for new kitchen equipment. We now have in the kitchen a new cooker, refrigerator, boiling water tap (to make up to 30 cups of tea/coffee) within 10 minutes of turning it on and an extractor fan.
9. Bob Taylor has resealed the Main Hall floor.
10. The Village Hall is very grateful to the Council for the precept of £3500 last year. We appreciate this support and hope it can continue. Obviously we must watch carefully our unavoidable expenditures so we can maintain a balanced budget. Energy and waste disposal costs still seem to be rising at double the rate of inflation. We carry out a number of fund raising events each year. These cushion our finances and are the primary role played by the Management Committee and their spouses to whom we are most grateful. The financial success of the Hall depends on the continued support of the villagers for the activities we already arrange such as Bingo, Flicks in the Sticks, Live and Local Shows, The Carols and Turkey evening, the Skittles night and the Chad Singers concerts. Please support these and any other village organisations such as the Flower Club, the Drama Group who are regular users of the Hall for big events and bring in considerable revenue to us. The utilisation of the Hall is increasing and the Hall looks well set to survive the current national financial difficulties. We have no borrowings.

#### **Pattingham Village Pre-school – Report presented by Mrs J Manga**

Pattingham Village Pre-school is run by a voluntary committee of parents/carers, who are responsible for (amongst other things), the employees, ensuring Ofsted requirements are met, all accounting and administrative functions. This year there has been a new chair and secretary appointed due to resignations at the end of summer term 2008.

We currently employ 4 members of staff, 2 of which are permanent. Our numbers are increasing; we currently have 31 children compared to 21 children in March 2008. We are running 5 full morning sessions (14 children) and 2 afternoon sessions. We will be running a third afternoon session in the summer term. (Although we expect the number of children and sessions to decrease in September as some children move on to nursery).

In the last year, pre-school has been actively fundraising. Our events have included a Barn Dance and body shop night, as well as having stalls at local events like the Christmas lights switch on. Much of this money is being used to fund new equipment and resources. We are currently ordering new equipment to help us to comply with new Ofsted Early Year's regulations, which were effective from September 2008.

The manager and staff of pre-school provide an excellent range of activities and pre-school is a happy and vibrant place to be! Activities include arts and craft work, (I'm sure many of you have seen the displays in the committee room). The children enjoy playing outside, which was especially the case in this year's snow! They have also very much enjoyed trips to the church to join with St. Chad's early years to celebrate harvest, Christmas and most recently pancake day.

Pre-school is very grateful to the committee, staff and all who support us. With their dedication and commitment, we hope the pre-school will continue to be a great success and an asset to the community.

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

There hasn't been anything within the village other than the switch on of the Christmas lights which was very well attended.

## **Shepherds Building – Report presented by Mr C Ringrose**

You will know from last year's report that bookings for this facility have been falling off steadily.

Taking groups of young people away now requires one to wade through a minefield of regulations. One needs to have 2 up to date contact numbers for each child in case of an emergency. A risk assessment has to be provided and a specific health and safety policy provided for each trip. No wonder bookings have fallen away. Groups now want to go to centres which have full time activity organisers who arrange all the paperwork and shoulder the risks.

In September, the Diocesan Board of Education and its property Committee (The Barchester Committee) decided to hand the lease back to the Crown. They stood to lose more by staying open than closing it down, the decision was made and by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, we had closed. We had bookings for each of the weekends in October but we had only one further booking on the books and the prospects were not good. This booking was passed onto the Scouts and Guides' facility on the Estate.

A major effort by the S.B. Committee cleared the rooms and took what could not be sold down to the tip or burnt. A small amount of cash was accumulated but it was nothing like the £3,300 it cost to close it down early. The careful husbandry of the Committee has meant that The Diocese has only lost about half this sum. Sadly it would have cost a lot more to stay open.

All the groups of youngsters who have used the facility over the years have appreciated the support we have been given by the Pattingham and Burnhill Green Parish Councils. We are sorry that you have now lost this resource in the vicinity. The Management Committee would have not kept it going as long as we did without your support. The Diocese wanted to close it in 2000 but we felt it was worth keeping it going. At least we got 8 more years out of the original investment.

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

Admissions for the next 3 years are looking favourable as the nursery continues to grow in numbers, with the help of the wrap around care and before and after school clubs that are provided. For the first time they have been able to offer two sessions in the nursery.

Unfortunately new legislation means that the nursery nurse who is currently employed in the nursery has to be replaced by a qualified teacher. This has been a very difficult decision for the governing body.

St. Chad's is a member of the South Staffordshire PE and School Sport Partnership, some of the principles are to promote good health through education on healthy lifestyles and also to enhance opportunities to take part in a range of activities to promote sport.

St. Chad's is to become a 'satellite children's centre'. This is a new venture by Staffordshire County Council. This means that a room in the school will become a fully operational community room. As a Children's centre the room will be available

as a meeting place for local community groups or agencies such as speech therapist, the school nurse or relate. They are hoping that the completed facility will provide provision for cooking, ICT, a small play area and of course a meeting place.

Another new facility for the children will be raised beds in the school field. After completion, the school garden area will give lessons in planting, growing and learning to care for their own fruit and vegetables.

The staff continue to work hard both in and out of the classroom to provide opportunities for our pupils, and to involve them in the wider community, delivering harvest baskets to the elderly and singing at the Old Peoples Welfare Christmas Lunch. As always the pupils participated in several services at St Chad's Church.

The children between the ages of 6 and 9 completed a questionnaire on their thoughts of the school. 82% feel they find out new things in lessons, and they were interesting and fun. 94% thought they had to work hard, 90% of pupils like being at the school. These results are very pleasing.

### **Pattingham Playing Fields – Brief report presented by Mrs B Hodgetts**

The main issues this year are the drainage and dogs on the football pitch. It was suggested that another article could be put in the newsletter.

It was agreed that further signage would be a good idea.

Vandalism to the skatepark is ongoing. The Grind board has recently been stolen, this has been reported to the police.

There are currently 5 teams playing using the fields, 4 on the lower pitch and 1 junior team on the top area.

### **Pattingham Pumas – Report presented by Mr R Lines**

Currently they are a single team club but hope to change that and create a sustainable club with other age groups.

The club thanks the parish council for subsidising the pitch fees throughout the season, this enable the club to keep the subs low to enable boys from all backgrounds to participate.

In their first full season the team won their division of the Stourbridge and District League. This year they were promoted to Division 1 and are currently 5<sup>th</sup> in the table.

Every week in the Chronicle is a small match report to try and generate the profile of the village. There is a club website [www.clubwebsite.co.uk/pattinghampumasfc](http://www.clubwebsite.co.uk/pattinghampumasfc)

### **County Council Report – Brief report given by Cllr Burton**

There are County elections on 4<sup>th</sup> June which will see Councillor Marshall moving to cover Codsall.

Each County Councillor had £10,000 Local Member Initiative money. £2,000 was given to the Youth Club, £1,000 to Christmas lights and £1,000 towards the installation of CCTV.

We have finally got the gritting for Westbeech Road paid for by the County.

### **District Council Report – Report given by Cllr Burton**

It has been an interesting year. The Chief executive Rolf Levesley is taking early retirement and Mr Steve Winterflood has been appointed.

Pattingham is part of Locality Working area 4

Dog mess is a county problem.

Every school is talking about parking, the new parking warden will be very busy.

Flicks in the Sticks will be held on a Monday in future so it does not impact the Youth Club.

At a recent police meeting the county were told that there have been 70 successful prosecutions for litter.

A new government directive for housing has shown that Pattingham & Patshull should have approximately 20 new homes. 10 of these will be in Burnhill Green. There is a village plan to tighten up the green belt out for consultation at the moment.

**6 Discussion**

A brief update on the Youth Club was given by Cllr Roberts.

The club is open to children between the ages of 9 – 13 every Friday in term time. There are 30 regular children on the register with 15 on the waiting list.

Every parent is now being asked to do at least 2 sessions per year.

The £2, 000 given by Cllr Marshall will be used towards trips when the village hall is not available.

**7 Planning**

09/00194/OUT	Green Meadow Animal Sanctuary Erection of dwelling for sanctuary access - <b>green belt land</b>
09/00075/FUL	6 & 8 High Street 2 storey extension - <b>No objections</b>

**8 Cheques sanctioned**

Cheque No.	Payee	Amount
701489	R Hodgetts	262.36
701490	J Williams	291.20
701491	A Horton	48.00
701492	Tennyson Insurance	642.60
702493	Inland Revenue	138.38

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Signed: .....

Dated: .....