

Pattingham & Patshull Parish Council
Annual Parish meeting held at Pattingham Village Hall
Wednesday 23rd March 2010 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present

Cllr K Whalley Chairman

Cllr S Ponder Vice Chairman

Cllr Mrs C Roberts

Cllr Mrs J Burton

Cllr D Morgans

Cllr J Tomlinson

Cllr A Baugh

Also present, Mrs B Hodgetts (derk), Chelsey Wesson, Paige Ireland, James Cook, Mrs A Mazzone, Mr C Ringrose, Mr R Lines, Mr M Finch

1 Apologies

Cllr Baldwin sent his late apologies

2 Minutes

Minutes of annual meeting held on 7th April 2010, previously distributed were reviewed.

3 Matters Arising

No matters arising

4 Chairman's report

What has the parish achieved this year?

- The installation of the MUGA and Youth Shelter, well done to the Youth Forum for successfully obtaining the necessary funding.
- The small hall of the village hall has been refurbished and using the Fabric Fund to fund this.
- A vehicle recognition camera was installed on trial, but at this point not sure if we will go ahead with a permanent one.
- The Affordable housing survey will see if there is a demand for more homes in the parish. The survey will be delivered to all homes at the beginning of May.
- The legal matters for the footpaths in Bumhill Green are very nearly complete. It has taken a lot of chasing over the last few years. There is to be a small opening ceremony in June.

5 Parish Reports

Pattingham Youth Forum – report presented by Chelsey Wesson and Paige Ireland

Pattingham Youth Forum is a committee group consisting of 12 young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years supported by Becky Hodgetts and Viv Marsh representing Pattingham Playing Fields Committee. The purpose of the youth forum is to improve leisure facilities for all residents of Pattingham but with a focus on young people.

Key Achievements and Activities 2010/11

- Stocks stall at Pattingham Church Fete
- Installation of Multi Use Games Area
- Village Family Fun Day
- Splat the Rat stall at Christmas Lights Fair
- Installation of Youth Shelter
- Coffee and Mince pies Christmas Intergenerational event

- Fund raising Muck Lug

Plans for 2011/12

- Fundraising to improve skate park and re instate bike track
- Family Picnic in the Park May 14th 2011
- Fun Day September 2011

The parish council congratulated the youth forum on its success to date and to confirm that it has the council's full support.

Old Peoples Welfare Committee – presented by Mrs J Burton

A big thank you to the Parish Council for the £3,000 grant this year. A raffle was also held raising £259.58, and £50 grant from Staffordshire District Council

139 meals were provided, Unfortunately only 111 were well enough to attend on the day but as usual it was an excellent day.

Bank account balances currently stand at £4841 which is enough for one more year.

Pattingham Village Hall – Presented by Mr C Ringrose

1. The Hall is run on a balanced budget making either a small loss or a small profit each year. It is our objective to keep the cost of hiring the hall's facilities as economic as possible for the good of local societies, family parties and community social functions.
2. This year we redecorated the small hall, renewed the lighting and put up new curtains. Bob Taylor completely re-built the side table in the Small Hall and it looks very good now as well as being a very solid piece of furniture. Lol Burgess and he also repaired the plaster on the Small Hall walls before they were re-decorated. We owe them a big vote of thanks for the help and support.
3. Last year to 31st March 2011 we have had the resources available to cover the cost of the Hall's upkeep. We dipped into the Halls capital reserve to pay for the work in the Small Hall as we felt it was overdue and well worth bringing up to date. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Bob Taylor and Margaret for their unfailing support during this refurbishment.
4. We have installed a public address system with a loop for those with hearing aids. We have been given a grant of £1250 towards its cost by the Staffordshire Community Foundation.
5. Our costs have been controlled well, we have managed to reduce our waste disposal costs slightly. On the other hand our oil and electricity costs have doubled. This is partly due to the timing of oil deliveries and the higher cost of fuel. We have replaced the fuel tank and built a bundy wall around it to meet legal requirements.
6. The Committee decided at its last meeting to slightly increase its charges by an amount similar to the rate of inflation. We feel our prices are still competitive for the facilities that we offer.
7. 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. The Bowlers bought another mat, the bowlers themselves contributing to over 2/3rds of the cost. There are regular short mat bowling matches against local villages such as Worfield, Shareshill and Claverley. These are held on Monday nights, the freeist evening from a Hall booking point of view. We are unbeaten at home and occasionally win our away matches too.
8. "Flicks in the Sticks" have been well attended again. We are intending to go it alone if the district

Council feels unable to support this in future. 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. We now have the 2011/2012 menu of acts to choose from for this autumn and next spring. We have to decide by early May what we want.

9. The new store room on the side of the Hall is working well. The Drama Group cushions are stored above the Psycho storage cage and this means they can be more easily brought down for other events like Flicks in the Sticks and Live and Local. We may in time want to consider purchasing some new cushions but for the moment they are in adequate order and are very fit for the purpose.
10. Bob Taylor has again resealed the Main Hall floor this year for which we are very grateful. Sadly it has been marked quite badly recently and we will have to check the footwear of some of the children.
11. The Village Hall is hugely grateful to the Parish 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 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 arrange such as Bingo, Bowling, Flicks in the Sticks, Live and Local Shows, The Carols and Turkey evening. Please support these and any other village organisations such as the Flower Club, the Chad Singers concerts, the Drama Group who are all regular users of the Hall and arrange substantial events that bring in much needed revenue. The utilisation of the Hall is increasing and the Hall looks well set to survive the current national financial difficulties. We have no borrowings.

We owe a debt of thanks to Derek Baldwin for the Skittles nights he has organised over the last 21 years. He has decided to call it a day after a very good innings and we are extremely grateful to him for these good fun nights which have made a valuable contribution to our funds.

The council asked if any village organisations get a discount on room hire. They were informed that a 5% discount is given if the organisation represents themselves on the village hall management committee.

Pattingham Village Pre-school – Report presented by Mrs A Mazzone

Pattingham Village Pre-school is run by a voluntary committee of parents who are responsible for the employees, ensuring Ofsted requirements are met and all accounting and administrative functions. Pre-School has existed in Pattingham for many years and is now an integral part of the village. It has close ties with St Chad's Primary School which is where most of the children move on to.

We employ two qualified members of staff and other occasional helpers as the need arises. All staff, volunteers and committee members are CRB and OFSTED checked.

We currently have 28 children. We run 5 morning sessions and 3 afternoon sessions.

Pre-school are always actively fundraising, in the next coming months we are organising a sponsored Easter Egg Hunt, a Sponsored Toddle, a Kids Disco, a Race Night and a family quiz.

We are always raising our profile within the village, next month we are holding an open day where

anyone from the village can come and see what we do.

Pre-school provide an excellent range of activities it is a happy and vibrant place to be! Activities include arts and craft work. The children enjoy playing outside; they have also enjoyed trips to the church to join with St. Chad's early years to celebrate Easter, harvest, Christmas and most recently the Pancake children service.

Pre-school is very grateful to the parish council for the funding that you give us which pays for 60% of our rent. We are also very grateful to our staff, committee and all who support us. We hope the pre-school will continue to be a great success and an asset to the community.

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

Admissions for the next 3 years are looking very good as more parents are choosing the village school. Unfortunately the next financial year the governors have had to set a deficit budget, this will be for the first time ever.

There will be a new head teacher from September. Mrs Nicklin has decided to take early retirement. Mrs Yeomans has now been appointed the new head teacher following a lengthy interview process.

As always the staff continues to work hard both in and out of the classroom to provide opportunities for the children. The pupils have participated in several services at St Chad's Church and Yr4 are currently at Shugborough Hall for 2 nights.

Pattingham Playing Fields –Report read by Mrs B Hodgetts, prepared by Mr K Turner

I will present a brief report on the activities of the Playing Fields Committee over the last 12 months.

We can all see tangible evidence of progress on the playing field following the erection of the Multi Use Games Area and the new shelter. But it would be unfair of the Playing Fields Committee to take the credit for these; the funding was secured by the considerable efforts of the Youth Forum, a group of village teenagers with a positive and helpful attitude who have channelled their energies in a useful direction. The Playing Fields Committee has spent many hours in its meetings in the past seeking ways to combat unruly youths who cause damage to the field and its facilities, so it has been so refreshing to see the wonderful achievement of this group of young people.

The Playing Fields Committee is fully behind the Youth Forum and will support it in any way possible.

The field has seen considerable activity in the last year. The Bells Run and Church Fete were, as usual, well supported, and the Youth Forum held a fun Day in September to celebrate the opening of the MUGA.

It is also pleasing that the usage of the football pitch has increased, and a new pitch created on the top field for junior football teams. I would like to thank the Parish Council for part funding the new junior goalposts and thank Old Wulfrunians Football Club for paying the other half.

I would also like to congratulate Mike Finch for his recent efforts. Mike has been a very enthusiastic addition to the committee, and has just obtained funding for a variety of sports equipment in the village. This could lead to the development of all kinds of activities including netball, volleyball, cricket and rounders. This will be highlighted at the Sports Marathon to be held on the field this coming Saturday.

On a sad note, my dear friend and committee member Derek Godson passed away in January. Derek was a lively and active contributor to the Playing Fields and played a massive role in the building of the changing rooms in 2004. I will always look on those Changing Rooms as Derek's legacy.

To end on a positive, my main hope for next year is that the Committee puts its efforts into improving or replacing some of the children's play equipment. There is no happier sight than seeing the park full of happy faces playing in the sunshine.

Pattingham Pumas – Report presented by Mr R Lines

A thank you again to the parish council for subsidising the pitch fees. Currently they are 2nd in their league looking to be the winners at the end of the season.

Pattingham Pumas continue to fly the flag for Pattingham and there is always a lot of press coverage in the Express & Starr and Chronicle. The boys are also happy to have their names in the papers. The dub website is www.dubwebsite.co.uk/pattinghampumasfc

They are not sure at the moment whether the team will continue next season. It is getting harder to keep the players focused.

No one has given up hope that a new team could come under the Pattingham Pumas banner.

Pattingham Education Foundation Trust – Report by Mr D Morgans

A brief report was given by Cllr Morgans.

The Trust fund 7 hours a week for a teaching assistant at St. Chad's school. This has been increased again by an hour.

The presentation of bibles at the end of the academic year continues to all year 4 children.

County Council Report – comments given by Clerk

- The county council have finally done some cosmetic work on the footpaths in Clive Road. Council agreed they have done a great job.

District Council Report – Report given by Cllr Burton

- There were no free bulbs this year.
- There are 47 employees at Codsall who are either leaving or have left.
- Councillors have had 10% taken off their allowances
- Planning is getting more contentious.

6 Discussion

Mike Finch addressed the council.

He is trying to engage the youth of the village but would like to make it inter generational, nothing will help short or long term if bridges are not built.

The group of young people he inherited could be up to 24 between the ages of 14 and 21. It has been shown that some of the better young lads are now moving away from the trouble which is very pleasing.

Funding has been obtained for some intergenerational events. Searching for grants is ongoing and certain schemes can draw in match funding.

There is a sports marathon being held on Saturday 26th March which is being financed from grants already received. This event has unfortunately been arranged at short notice due to the time constraints given with the funding. There is a small short fall of £300 for equipment purchased and was not sure at this point who would be covering this, he may have to pay it himself.

The sports equipment will be available for the village organisations to use in the future.

Mike was wondering if or how the Parish Council can get on board to continue his efforts. It is envisaged that funding up to £3,000 would be needed to sustain the initiatives. Vandalism and abuse is taking place by younger and younger people and we need to protect the more vulnerable.

There is some pressure for Mike to form a football team, but he is not sure if it is right at the moment as there have been clashes in the past.

Everyone wished Mike well for Saturday.

Meeting closed 8.15pm

Signed:

Dated: