

AYNHO PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Chair – Stephen Brook
 Councillors – Anderson, Burge, Dean, James, Leighton, Moroney, and Reynolds
 District Councillor – John Townsend (7:30 – 8:05)
 County Councillor – Rebecca Breeze (8:05 – end)

In Attendance: Chris Wilson (Clerk), Roger Wertheimer (RFO) and at least 40 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Mann, PCSO Jen Harrison.

2. Minutes of Annual Village Meeting 2017

No issues were raised by public.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

4. County and District Councillor Reports

- District Cllr. John Townsend presented his report (in Annual Village Report 2018) highlighting:
 - The financial constraints on Northampton County Council & South Northants Council meaning most likely outcome is new Unitary authority.
 - Government guidelines on house building means ~4000 homes (size of Brackley) needs to be created every 10 years.
 - Brackley has a new leisure centre.
- County Cllr. Rebecca Breeze presented her report highlighting:
 - Northamptonshire CC historically had low rates of council tax, however this has left the council with financial difficulties due to reduced funding from central government.
 - 70% budget is spent on 3% of the population (adult care & children's services). The remaining 30% has been subject to cuts including buses & libraries.
 - Intention for all district councils and county councils to be dissolved and 2/3 unitary authorities to be set up – minimum 300,000 residents required per authority. A plan needs to be set up and implemented in 3 months.
 - The geographical area of Northamptonshire and historic links with adjoining district and county councils creates difficulty in practical unitary areas.
 - Planning boards to be set up to discuss and decide locally.
 - Adult care & Children's Services to be managed across Northamptonshire as a whole and 'up' funded from the unitary authorities.

Q: Cllr. Moroney asked if Northampton could be an unitary area: County Cllr. Breeze explained this would make sense but only 220,000 residents, unlikely to become that big in foreseeable future.

Q: Member of public; how does the MP stand on this? County Cllr. Breeze reported that they had not been helpful.

Q: Cllr. James enquired as what level council tax could be? County Cllr. Breeze suggested a 20% increase.

Q: Cllr. Moroney asked if residents were being consulted. County Cllr. Breeze reported there will be a public meeting and consultation.

County Cllr. Breeze reported that the subsidy for the 499 bus (Brackley to Banbury) has now gone along with removal of subsidies from other services. Unlike other services which can be made commercially viable the 499 is wholly subsidized. Jon Ellerby (NCC) and County Cllr. Breeze are looking to keep some service e.g. 1 out and 1 back in a day and Parish councils would have to contribute.

Q: Member of public; The public need to be consulted on the most appropriate times.

The Chair raised the point that when mowing services were removed a nominal grant was paid back to the Parish council from the County Council would there be anything similar? County Cllr. Breeze reported changes were coming and that SNC had some reserves which could be used and she hoped this could be towards a bus subsidy.

Q: Member of public; Need for appropriate bus sizes, some are empty, others full. The Chair had observed footfall over one day and numbers using can be low.

Q: Cllr. James; Is Brackley library to close? County Cllr. Breeze reported this was still in the air.

5. Streetlight Upgrade and Funding

The Chair and Cllr. Dean presented a report on streetlighting (appendix 1), key points being:

- 37 lights mainly for pedestrian safety and use.
- LED lights would save £1600 per year saving on electric and low maintenance.
- Public works loan best funding option with 2% interest
- Cllr. Dean demonstrated an example of the suggested designed.

Q: Member of public; has the exposure to LED light and risks been assessed. Cllr Dean reported that the 'blue' Led can cause macular degeneration however the warm LED light proposed was safe.

The Chair reported that the new lights could be directed and screened to provide best coverage and prevent light pollution.

Q: Member of public; many lights are of a different style and light intensity, is there a need for 37 lights. Blackpath has no lights and no reported incidents have occurred.

Q: Member of public; lights were introduced onto Portway as this had the extra benefit of imposing a 30 mph zone as well. Although no light on Blackpath there is one directly at the end to guide.

Q: Member of public; what is the opportunity for solar power to play part.

Q: Member of public; is there a discount for bulk and are they controllable light levels. Cllr. Dean reported that buying all units at once more cost effective and light can detect light levels and seasons to turn on/off.

The Chair asked for a show of hands in support of the proposed light change to LED and heritage style lights:

24 members of the public supported the proposals.

The Chair asked for a show of hands for anyone against the proposals.

No one objected.

6. Aynho Active – Facilities Update and Pricing

Cllr. Moroney reported that there was a committee of 3 and more willing to join or help contact her direct. The application for the New Homes Bonus grant had recently been approved and so works could now start on improvement to the Sports Pavillion meeting room. She also reported a new vehicle gate had been bought and fitted. Finally she outlined the low rates to hire use the Sports Pavillion meeting room which are published on the Village Website.

Cllr. Moroney reported they were planning a Car Boot sale for August bank holiday weekend.

Cllr. Moroney reported the regular Park Draw continues with 50:50 split going to cash prize and maintenance.

The Chair explained that as part of an audit all the sportsfield accounts are in the Parish Council accounts (ring fenced) and has the benefit that VAT can now be claimed back.

7. Community Matters Events (Environmental, Health & Well-Being)

Cllr. Anderson introduced the concept of Community Matters including following events:

- Recycling – 28th April including visits from South Northants Council & Police.
- Health – 2nd June including visit from Deddington Health Centre. If successful this initiative might lead to subsequent monthly events/talks with outside contributors.

8. Updates (Parking and Maintenance)

The Chair reported Police figures for crime in the area slightly higher than previously as being: Burglaries 4, Theft 4, Criminal damage 2.

The Chair reported the use of church car park for extra parking in the village was working well. Along with the newly installed bollards in front of Aynho Court. Further bollards are to be installed on the Green to give a consistent look.

The Chair reported Peter Tustain has been contracted 7 hours per week to do general maintenance in the village – the Chair reported general look of village has been neat tidy and improved.

The Chair reported Cllr. Moroney had run 'Keep Aynho Beautiful' to clean up streets and roads around the village – event was well supported with 25 volunteers.

The Chair reported figures (appendix 1, page 17) from the Mobile speed Sign and that a new post had been installed near Butts Close on the Charlton Road to collect extra data.

9. Resolutions from the Village

No questions were raised.

10. Aynho Connected Village

The Chair reported the following ways to stay connected with events and updates in and around Aynho.

- Website www.aynho.org
- Facebook search 'Aynho Community' – closed group for Aynho villagers.
- Twitter www.twitter.com/aynho
- Pinterest www.pinterest.com/aynho

The Chair thanked the villagers and Councillors for their attendance. The Chair announced that he was not looking to put his name forward for Chair as he had served 5 years. A round of applause was received.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm