

**COATES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MONDAY 23 APRIL 2019**  
 7.30PM COATES VILLAGE HALL

**Present:**

<b>Councillors and Officials:</b>	
Harrison, Richard (RH/Chair)	Chairman
Austin, Keith (KA)	Councillor
Dobson, John (JD)	Councillor
Hobson, Andrew (AH)	Councillor
Griffiths, Phil (PG)	Councillor
Harrison, Libby (LH)	Councillor
Torry-Harris, Gilly (GTH)	Councillor
Ellen Kenny (EK)	Clerk & RFO

<b>Members of the Public:</b>	
Chair	Chair, Watershed Riding for the Disabled Group
Peter Clegg	CEO, Bathurst Estate Office
Stephen Hirst	Gloucestershire County Councillor
Rob Hardwicke	Chair, Village Club
Howard Burr	Chair, Village Hall
+ 32 members of the public	

**1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Councillors, guest speakers and members of the public were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. The guest speakers were briefly introduced.

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 23 APRIL 2018**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by the chairman. There were no actions to provide an update on.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Richard Harrison delivered his report on the work of the parish council. A copy of this is attached as Appendix A.

**4. STATEMENT ON THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019**

The Chairman provided information on the financial position of the parish council. A copy of this is attached as Appendix B.

**5. PRESENTATION ABOUT THE SPORTS INITIATIVE**

Cllr. Libby Harrison said a grant provided by St. James Place had funded the purchase of rounders equipment. She went on to explain that other grants were not available as the use of the field was on an informal basis but that talks were underway to try to arrange to lease the land which would open up more grant opportunities.

Rounders took place July – Sept with mixed teams of women, men and children and the season ended with a competition on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Rounders will be arranged this year but access to the field will depend on decisions taken with regard to the demolition of the pavilion which may make access to the site difficult for a time.

All are welcome and as are volunteers.

The Chair of the Village Club gave an update on the refurbishment of the Village Hall Club room and invited everyone to come along and make use of the facility.

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He said that volunteers may be needed to build a shed to house equipment after the old cricket pavilion is demolished. He welcomed and asked that people to get in touch with any ideas for other sports initiatives that may be of interest.

**6. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE WATERSHED RIDING FOR THE DISABLED GROUP**

The Chair of the group thanked the parish council for its support in arranging for the installation of 'Beware of Horses' road signs from the Highways Dept.

She went on to say the group was going from strength to strength and hosted a great open day which was very well attended by Coates residents.

They had secured a long-term lease on land from the Church and a lease for land with Bathurst Estate was close to completion. Work had been done to provide better facilities at the stables.

900 rides were undertaken during term time last year and it was hoped they would achieve even more this year as they were receiving lots of enquiries.

A big tidy-up of the site had been done by the removal of trees and ivy, keeping the site in good repair.

She asked if anyone had ½ hour once a fortnight as they were looking for volunteers as there were a variety of tasks they could help with.

She sadly informed people that fencing and a battery had been stolen from a local horse paddock valued at around £200.00 (a lot for a charity to suffer) and asked if people could be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police.

She said it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RDA and that the Watershed group had been selected to take part in filming by Country Life Magazine and that the film crew would be on site 30 April 2019.

She ended by saying that everyone was welcome to use the facilities and that parking was available for people to use for functions, and to visit the website for information and for details of the open day planned for September where all would be welcome.

**7. PRESENTATION ON THE WORK AND PLANS OF THE BATHURST ESTATE**

Peter Clegg, CEO Bathurst Estate, said funding had been budgeted to improve the access road to the Tunnel Inn and confirmed speed bumps would be included to reduce traffic speeds.

He said traffic diversions would be in place on the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July for the Cotswold Show and apologised for any inconvenience this might cause.

When asked what the intentions were for the field behind the Village Hall as no animals had been seen grazing for some time, he confirmed it was to be used for grazing but the field is rested at various times.

He said he would be happy to answer any questions at the Q & A session at the end of the meeting.

**8. PRESENTATION ON THE VILLAGE HALL KITCHEN**

The Chair of the Village Hall trustees said many of the works highlighted by residents in the consultation had been done – windows, external doors had been painted and the main hall and annexe had been refurbished as a result of a grant from St. James Place.

The bar area had been totally refurbished and he asked that residents come along and make use of the facilities.

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He confirmed that grants had been gained from Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council with additional financial support that may be needed from the parish council in order to gut and refit the kitchen to a high standard making it possible to attract hire bookings for various functions.

He said the work would commence in July and would cause some disruption but hoped the works would be completed by the end of the summer.

Enquiries were being made to assess if Wi-Fi could be connected aimed at attracting young people but it would also allow for the streaming of video/film.

## **9. COMMUNITY AWARD PRESENTATION**

The Chair, Richard Harrison announced he had an award to make to a special person – Andy the Postman – all applauded.

He said he wasn't the only person who thought Andy was special because everyone in the village had fantastic things to say about Andy, these thoughts were captured and entered in to a book that the Chair presented to Andy together with an engraved tankard and flowers for his wife.

Andy said he had been the postman for 17 years and that he was speechless for being recognised in this way. He viewed all residents in the village as his friends and said it was a pleasure being a postman in Coates.

## **10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Speeding traffic – many present agreed that speeding vehicles were of great concern.

The Chair said when speed traps had been used in the past vehicles automatically slowed down so it was difficult to get any evidence.

A discussion highlighted that the section of road between School Row and Trewsbury Road was a problem area as was the concealed bend entering the village from Tetbury Road. The main problem times were typical rush hour times.

**ACTION:** The Chair said the parish council would be organise another speed trap session but that volunteers would be needed as it took 3 people per session and following further assessment, the speed trap could be sited at School Row.

A resident said there had been a serious accident at the cross roads (Trewsbury Road/Tetbury Road) in icy weather, a treacherous location but no grit bin was sited here. He went on to say that the speed limit should be reduced on the Tetbury to Cirencester road.

It was noted from previous discussions with Gloucestershire County Council Highways this cross road was not classed as an accident blackspot by GCC. Other roads in the area were viewed as more dangerous and viewed these other sites as a priority for accident prevention measures.

Cllr. Hurst, GCC agreed with residents that it should not take another tragic accident for the matter to be addressed.

**ACTION:** The Chair to write to GCC Highways and copy Cllr. Hurst to raise concerns about the safety of the cross roads and to ask for an investigation to be carried out to identify actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of accidents.

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- Cllr. Hobson asked Peter Clegg if he could clarify the meaning of the notices stating Rights of Access were being withdrawn at various footpaths which would remove peoples' rights to continue to walk along the footpaths.

Peter Clegg believed it was simply Re-registration of Permissive Rights a procedure necessary to ensure control/ownership of the land continues to remain with the landowner. He said he would check and inform the parish council.

- A resident enquired about progress on the tidying up the garages site.

The Chairman explained it was difficult as the land was in private ownership and that contact had been made with Bromford but no recent response had been received.

**ACTION:** Chair to follow up.

- Cllr. Austin asked Peter Clegg if any consideration had been given to the impact traffic would have on the village following completion of the Chesterton development where 2350 homes would inevitably increase traffic and mean the village would be used as a 'rat-run'. He asked if any mitigating factors had been built-in to the plan.

Peter Clegg said he had no knowledge of any measures being considered to address this and believed the focus had been on junction points around the development and Cirencester but he confirmed he would check and report back to the parish council.

- A resident enquired whether there were plans to build/develop at the Sheep Dip Barn, near Quaker Row.

Peter Clegg advised a lease to a resident was currently being discussed and he would report back to the parish council on any plans for the building. The resident concerned (lessee) advised that some works had taken place but these were to make safe the sheep dip so animals/people didn't fall in the hole.

- Cllr. Libby Harrison said two first aid courses had been arranged for 6 June 2019 and invited interested people to book and to let her know if other days/times would be more suitable – the courses are open to residents aged 19 years and over.
- As many children from the village use the school, a representative of Sapperton School thought they may be interested to know that, after 23 years of service, the Head was soon to retire.

The meeting formally closed at 8.55pm with an invitation extended to all to join members of the parish council for drinks and nibbles.