

Motcombe Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Pavilion, Motcombe Memorial Hall, Motcombe on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr Leask, Cllr Rogers, Cllr Phillipson, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Coffey, Cllr Worlock, Cllr Stacey and Cllr Hood

In attendance: Mrs N Phillips (Parish Clerk)

There were six members of the public present

1. To take any apologies for absence

Cllr P Mouncey sent his apologies.

2. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council for 2018/19

The Chairman, Cllr Leask gave the following report:

Another year has passed...how time flies...and we meet in the Memorial Hall for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Our work over the past year has concentrated on the upkeep and improvement of the many amenities of our Village, the safety of our citizens, in particular the children, and protecting and enhancing the environment of the Village itself.

The changing Seasons bring their own problems. The drainage of some of the surrounding fields of the Village has been improved, some stiles have been repaired, the Meadows are regularly tended keeping them from growing into a wilderness, the flora and fauna and the butterflies thrive and in order that others may find this lovely Village of Motcombe, replacement of all the Fingers Posts has now been completed and the somewhat ancient milestone refurbished and put back in place. Replacing the street lighting is a work in progress.

The Parish Council has taken over responsibility for the playground and quotes are being received to upgrade and improve its facilities. It has also taken on the responsibility of regular maintenance of the defibrillator on the wall of The Village Shop.

The safety of the children attending the school, particularly when transferring from their transport onto and off the school site, continues to cause concerns.

However, thanks to the hard work and good will of many volunteers and the support of the school itself, improvements have been made and safe systems of monitoring children in transit are proving successful. The Church is looking into the possibility of having disabled parking available near its entrance.

The Group charged with producing our Neighbourhood Plan has been busy throughout the year holding consultation meetings with Villagers, keeping us all informed of important issues, thus giving us an opportunity to discuss these in an effort to meet everybody's needs and requirements culminating in our Motcombe Neighbourhood Plan.

Inevitably the population of Motcombe will expand and so it was with great excitement that the application for a grant to build a Pavilion near to the existing Memorial Hall was successful and I encourage you to go and look at its building progress. No longer will the scouts compete with the W.I for meeting time, nor the Gardening Club meetings have to wrestle with the scheduling of the Motcombe Hall Entertainment Programme beamed into the Village Hall! All needs will be catered for!

The Council received funding applications and made Grants in the sum of £2,700. Details of these Grants are available on the Council Website.

The Council considered 26 Planning Applications. Of these, 20 were approved, 4 were objected to, and 2 Enforcement Orders were made.

So, the work of your Parish Council carries on with more problems to solve and more initiatives to cope with, but as Chairman, I am so lucky to have a dedicated and knowledgeable clerk in Nicola Phillips, and such excellent and hardworking Councillors. My thanks to all of them and to District Councillors Cattaway and Williams for their support throughout the year and to the Residents of Motcombe whose support and enthusiasm make all our hard work, undertaken entirely as volunteers, worthwhile.

It has been a pleasure and a great privilege to serve as you Chairman for the last 9 years, but the time has come for me to stand down and make way for somebody with a fresh approach and new vision to guide Motcombe as it moves towards the 2020s. THANK YOU.

3. Officers annual reports from 2018/19

Cllr Worlock reported the following: Has been and will continue to work with the Neighbourhood Development Plan team, in producing a Plan for the Village. Has been working on communication growth and development. Had input in discussions regarding siting the Silent Soldier for the first World War Commemoration.

Cllr Stacey reported the following: The finger post project is nearly complete, with just one at Sedhehill to finish. Will continue to work on the maintenance of the Milestones in the Village and try to establish the whereabouts of two more that were in the parish in the past.

Cllr Taylor reported the following: Website: The Council Website is the primary reference source for the residents of the parish and is updated regularly. During the 12 months to the end of April the site has been visited by 1200 users viewing 5956 pages with a monthly viewing of 345 pages. Not surprisingly the most visited pages have been those detailing the Neighbourhood plan (3501 hits annually) followed by the Meeting dates page which contains minutes of the meetings which cover the previous 2 years.

One of the difficulties is keeping the site interesting with new facts/articles about the Parish and I welcome any contributions from Councillors or members of the public.

Transport Forum: I have represented the Council on this group which meets approximately every quarter. The group consists of Reps from transport users, County Council Officers Bus operators and aims to improve the public transport links within the area, not an easy task considering the restrictions on local government finances. Attempts to improve the service from South West trains have met with limited success. The cooperation of the Wiltshire county officer responsible for the bus services has been considerable whereas that from Dorset equivalent has been the opposite. The X2M service between Gillingham Motcombe and Shaftesbury continues despite being poorly used and the cost is heavily subsidised. How this will continue with the new Dorset Council remains to be seen but as the reason for the reorganisation was to save money so that services can be maintained we can but hope.

Together with other Councillors I have been active with the Neighbourhood Plan, Planning applications and attended the Memorial Hall committee meetings.

Cllr Coffer reported the following: Has been and will continue to work with the Neighbourhood Development Plan team.

Cllr Hood reported the following: Cllr Hood is a new member and had no annual report to give. He expressed that he hopes that he can contribute to the future of the Village.

Cllr Rogers reported the following: Motcombe Meadows it maintained for the Village Community and a project programme, including the owl boxes, will be produced for the coming year. The Parish Council have managed the 106 funding for the maintenance of the meadows, by ensuring that funds are allocated from the precept every year.

Cllr Phillipson reported the following: A year of maintaining highways, footpaths, keeping drains clear and signs updated. Liaising to provide Disabled parking bay outside St, Mary's Church.

Background work as part of the Neighbourhood Planning Group to enable the Parish Council to make decisions on the proposed plan.

Cllr Mouncey report was read out by Cllr Leask: I've continued to lead the Neighbourhood Plan team and following the required public consultations, was submitting in mid-March to NDDC for examination by an external examiner. The consultation is currently in progress, closing on May 24th. We will subsequently receive a report from the examiner. The final stage will be a Parish referendum, assuming the Plan meets the examiner's requirements, organised by Dorset Council with a secret ballot of residents in Motcombe.

Under Rights of Way, firstly, the sections of the White Hart Link (the long-distance route round N Dorset) through Motcombe linking Gillingham with Shaftsbury were fully signposted with inaugural walks taking place. I am Chair of the WHL committee responsible for the project, with the full route due to be completed later this summer with a ceremony and cream tea in the Goldhill Museum at the end of the final inaugural walk at the end of August. Secondly, I'm also a member of the Gillingham-Motcombe Cycleway Committee. Initial planning, including the rerouting of the existing rights of way at the Gillingham end are in hand, but getting landowners consent takes time. Thirdly, Rights of Way within the Parish have continued to be maintained. A bridge was replaced by the Dorset Rangers with gates replacing stiles on the footpath linking Shorts Green Lane and Corner Lane, and a gate, funded from a legacy, replaced a rotten stile on the path joining Motcombe Road at the bottom of the Hollows. The bridge in The Meadows was repaired and safety rails added. Also, a big hole on the bridleway leading from The Meadows to the field beyond was filled to eliminate a very muddy area. The drainage off Turk's Field was improved, together with a new gate leading down to The Street. Finally, other stiles have also been repaired during the year. Many thanks to the Dorset Rangers for all their work in the Parish. In addition to Chairing the WHL Link committee, I'm part retired, continuing to edit an academic journal, and be a member of the professional standards committee, both for the UK Market Research Society. I'm also a member of the Muddlers country dancing group in the village.

At this point Cllr Leask welcomed and congratulated Dorset Councillor Belinda Ridout on her post.

Cllr Ridout reported that she has been a Councillor at Gillingham Town Council for eight years, which included one year as Mayor. Her main focus points are, Planning, Transport and Mineral Waste. The first Dorset Council Councillors meeting will be taking place on Thursday the 16th May 2019.

4. To receive reports from local organisations

Motcombe CE VA Primary School PTA - Christine Pedersen – So far this year we have raised just over £8000.00 through a number of activities including: Film nights, clothes recycling collections and non-uniform days at school, participation in all Shaftesbury Carnival events as beneficiaries for the Carnival quiz night, The Great Motcombe Santa Run, private/charity donations and business sponsors and the Barn Dance. Using funds raised last year and this, the PTA has been able to donate, £10,900 towards the refurbishment of the school playground and £1682 for school resources including PA system, Sk1 resources, library revamps and books. We have earmarked existing funds for the following: the re-siting of the spiritual garden, new playground markings and revamping the school library and purchasing additional books. The main item we are currently fundraising for is £10,500 for a new IT suite (30 ipads with keyboards and charging trolley) in times of reducing education funding, the limited school IT budget will not stretch to cover the investment and increasingly PTA's are being asked to fund these significant costs. The school was recently awarded a small well-being grant and used the money to pay for a track around the perimeter of the school field, which is now known as the Motcombe Mile Track (1/6 of a mile). The school will be celebrating the completion of the track and will be joined by special guest, Olivia Bolesworth, member of the record-breaking Atlantic Rowing Team www.rowlikeagirl.uk who rowed over 3,000 miles. Pupils, staff and parents are collectively going to try and compete 3,000 laps of the Motcombe Mile track. We are looking forward to being involved in the Motcombe Fete once again this year and after the success and positive feedback we received following the Santa Run, we will be holding the 2nd Motcombe Santa Run on either the 1st or 2nd Sunday in December – the date will be confirmed shortly. We are extremely grateful for any donations we might receive to boost our fund-raising.

Motcombe Village Hall – Mr Paul Alan has been so very kind to donate and make a new Iron rail for the main stage in the main hall. The new hall is nearly complete, and it is proposed that the Hall will be officially opened on the Village Fete day. A large clock has been ordered for the outside of the building and the name has not yet been confirmed. If anyone has any ideas of how the inside should be furnished, please let John Maynard know. Also If you wish to book the new hall, please contact, Carol Saumarez, Booking Secretary on 01747 853253 or email bookings@motcombehall.org.

Motcombe Beavers – Janet Odell had sent the following report in. Motcombe Beavers are the youngest section of the Scouting Movement, open to both girls and boys. Presently we have 14 members and 2 volunteer adult leaders. The beavers work towards badges, go on outings and hopefully have fun. Scouting promotes teamwork, the outdoors and respect for each other and our

environment. We are self-funding so are grateful for the grant from the Parish Council

5. Open Discussion on Issues of Concern

There were none

The Chairman close the meeting at 7.05pm

DRAFT