

Cowley (& Birdlip) Parish Council

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2016

Present: Parish Councillors Bradley, Lavington & Dr. Reed District Councillor Nicholas Parsons, County Councillor Nigel Adams, David Metcalf Head Teacher at Birdlip Primary School & 3 members of the public.

Chairman's annual report

- **Defibrillators** – 2 defibrillators are now located in the villages. There had been a few teething problems with the siting of the defibrillator at the Royal George in Birdlip, and as a result the Parish Council has purchased the former BT kiosk. This is being refurbished and will be the new location of the defibrillator.
- **Superfast broadband** – Fastershire has arrived and the village of Cowley now has good internet speeds. Birdlip will shortly have work carried out to allow similar speeds.
- **Thanks** – all the Parish Councillors and Clerk were thanked for their service to the Parish Council over the year.
- **Planning applications** – PC has made comments on several applications in the Parish.
- **The precept has remained at the same level for several years.**
- **Paris Council** – there is a vacancy on the Council which will be filled by co-option.

David Metcalf – new Head Teacher at Birdlip Primary School

Mr. Metcalf gave an interesting overview of his career so far. He then went on to explain that Birdlip Primary School is judged to be 'Outstanding' and is very popular and heavily oversubscribed. An all-weather surface has recently been completed by the teaching block. This has made a huge improvement to the school with far fewer playground slips, trips and falls. The school is at the heart of the community but more could be done with the possibility of an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Parking continues to be an issue around the school. However, a clarification from Mr. Partridge of the Parochial Church Council that parents are encouraged to use the church car park nearby was warmly received.

Report from Cotswold District Councillor N Parsons

Cotswold District Council (CDC)

Finance

- Council tax has been frozen mainly due to efficiencies: efficient use of UBICO in waste services and the cost of provision of car parking and planning has been reduced.
- £500,000 to support the provision of rural broadband
- CDC remains debt free with net assets of over £34.8 million

Planning - The Local Plan is now at an advanced stage and should be adopted by 2017. The plan now includes a policy to enable small scale development outside main towns provided it does not harm the countryside and is shown to be in the best interests of the settlement.

Environmental schemes - A small amount of money is available to each Councillor for environmental schemes in their ward.

Youth Projects - The Council is able to support youth projects for those aged 11-17.

Community Projects - The Council will support local projects with the provision of match funding. This has been useful in several cases in provision/maintenance of village halls and other facilities.

Gloucestershire County Councillor Nigel Robbins

The County Council element of the Council Tax has increased and includes a 2% increase for adult social care. It is hoped that this extra funding will ease pressure on hospitals. In addition, GCC is currently recruiting for more social workers for children.

A 'Legthsmen' Scheme has been introduced throughout the summer months. This is a 2-man team carrying out smaller projects such as footpath clearance. Any ideas should be passed to Cllr Adams.

Gloucestershire Police

The local police constable gave an overview of crime statistics and traffic and parking issues. There is regular monitoring of traffic speeds through the village.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm

Signed.....

Date.....