

# Cowley (& Birdlip) Parish Council

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Clerk: Mrs. H Jones | 07706616278 | cowleypc@hotmail.co.uk

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Deer Park Guide HQ, Cowley at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs. Julian Lavington (Chair), Diana Ballinger, Stuart Bradley, Liz Workman. 2 residents of the Parish and District Councillor Nicholas Parsons.

### Chairman Report

- The past year has been relatively quiet with only a handful of planning applications mostly minor in nature.
- The Birdlip defibrillator has now been moved to the former telephone kiosk which was adopted by the Parish Council. Thanks were expressed to Dr Reed and Liz Workman for the weekly checks.
- Speeding and high traffic volume continues to be a problem in Birdlip with traffic using the village as a short cut to avoid standing traffic on the A417 Air Balloon roundabout.
- Barrow Wake Viewpoint – littering is a significant problem at present along with some continuing anti-social behaviour. The management of the site is complicated but for the moment Ubico are carrying out regular litter picks.
- Village Signs - the feasibility and design will be worked on during the next year.
- A Neighbourhood Plan has been suggested and investigations are needed to find out whether this is the right approach for such small villages.

### Report by Cotswold District Councillor Nicholas Parsons

- **Finance** - Despite further reductions in Central Government funding, CDC has frozen Council Tax again for 2017-18, mainly because of continued efficiencies made in the operation of Council services and the Council's 2020 Vision Programme. The following are also funded:
  - £100,000 towards flood defence.
  - £500,000 for rural broadband.
  - Car Park and Green Waste charges frozen. "Free after 3" extended.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £34.8 million.

- **Planning** - The preparation of the new Local Plan has advanced to the stage where the final public consultation has now been completed. The Council will shortly send the proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate. A public Examination will then follow and, when approved by the Inspectorate, the new Local Plan should be adopted, hopefully before the end of this year. For **Cowley**, the current

draft version of the new Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local development outside the main towns, provided that it can be accommodated without harm to the countryside and can be shown to be in the best interests of the particular settlement or village.

- **Youth Projects** - The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Such projects tend to be run during school holidays, but any project will be considered. In the past, in the Ermin Ward, the Council has managed to support diverse projects such as cricket coaching, theatre production, and the provision of play equipment. Again, the Council will support most projects which are endorsed by the Ward Councillor.
- **Community Projects** -\_The Council will continue to support local/community projects with the provision of match funding with other organisations, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Within the Cotswolds, this scheme has been particularly useful in the provision of, or repair of, village halls and other community facilities.
- **1st World War** - The Council has allocated a new fund to assist communities to commemorate the ending of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Please let me know if you may need support for a project.
- **Defibrillators** -\_The Council has allocated a new fund to assist Parishes which wish to install Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward there will be £500 available covering the procurement of 4 units. Please let me know if you plan to take this up.

The meeting closed at 19.55pm

Signed..... Date.....