



PURTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
held on Monday 9th April 2018, at the Village Hall, Station Road, Purton at 7.30pm

Members Present : Councillors Ray Thomas (Chairman of Council)
Councillors Helen Hicks, Neil Hooper, Paul Grigg, Vicky McKerrow, Sue Matthews, Sue Relfe

Officers Present : Deborah Lawrence, Clerk to the Council
Lesley Miles, Administrative Assistant

By Invitation : Sue Giles, Alzheimer's Society

Unitary Councillor : Jacqui Lay

Attendees : 14 residents

The Chairman opened the meeting by reading the convening notice, welcoming those present.

01/18 **To accept and agree Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Scott Harflett, Kevin Law, Elizabeth Wilson, Jamie Hurwood and Julie Ann Hurwood gave apologies which were accepted and noted.

02/18 **Minutes of previous Annual Parish Assembly**

It was proposed by Councillor Neil Hooper and seconded by Councillor Sue Matthews with all those in favour to sign and agree the minutes of the previous meeting dated Monday 3rd April 2017 ratified at full Council in May 2017.

03/16 **Chairmans Report**

Councillor Ray Thomas read the following report:

Welcome to the Annual Parish Report for 2017-2018. Last year we reported new Councillors and we have been fortunate to attract new members again : Jamie Hurwood, Julie-ann Hurwood, Paul Grigg and Sue Relfe all bring different outlooks and experience to Council and in years to come I am sure this will be invaluable with the challenges ahead. I am pleased to say the new and existing Councillors are contributing to enjoyable debate and their differing views allow us to look at things in a much broader way.

We currently have one space on Council and would particularly like a member for Purton Stoke, Mouldon View and Ridgeway Farm, these areas are part of the Parish and it is important they are included in all discussion relating decisions which may affect them, if you think this could be of interest please contact the Parish Clerk who will be pleased to advise and assist with any applications.

I seem to repeat some comments year after year and it can appear than things never change, we still suffer with the usual issues of inconsiderate parking, high volumes of traffic, dog mess and a



more recent problem of people allowing dogs off lead in paddocks, leaving them to stray off footpaths, threatening wild life and livestock, I say this as a dog owner and have seen the damage that can be done by dogs when harassing livestock. Whilst commenting about dogs there is still the perennial problem of dogs mess not being picked up, this causes health hazards to people, especially children who can fall and get it on clothes and hands, please, if you have a dog make sure you clear up after it. I said last year that there are some things we are powerless to control and have to rely on Wiltshire Unitary Council to resolve but, like most Councils, they too are feeling the need to work to tighter budgets, this sometimes means we are asked to step in, a recent case has been grit bins requested for new estates, Wiltshire are no longer supplying new bins, or refilling them, we have no means of carrying one tonne bags of grit so it remains a challenge. We will try to resolve issues raised but please bear in mind we are in the hands of Central Government funding issues and some things are beyond our remit.

When Ridgeway Farm was approved part of the planning approval was to provide a set amount of money for a Cemetery Extension, we are pleased to say that an opportunity arose to purchase a piece of land known as Long Ground, Church End, near to the Pear Tree. We negotiated with the Land Owner and the land is now ours, we are going ahead with testing to make sure the land is suitable for burials and hope the results are positive, but if not, the land will be a valuable asset for the community and could lend itself to many different uses, subject to planning approval of course.

Deborah Lawrence, our Parish Clerk has been in post for three years now and she has proved to be a valuable asset bringing in new procedures and policies to make sure we are fully compliant, she has also recently passed her CILCA examination which is a feather in her cap and she must be congratulated on this achievement. We decided that staff training was a must to ensure all staff are up to date with Health and Safety training, new policies and new legislation when it occurs. All staff have undertaken training during the last year and all have passed their relevant course. We feel this investment in staff is repaid by knowledge, loyalty and expertise, we will continue along this path. There have been some difficulties this year which have been stressful but the staff and Councillors have been working together and we are still striving to achieve all targets for the Council going forward.

It may be known that the old Youth Club was handed back by Wiltshire Council and we are still investigating uses of this site, we have found some legal issues that we are still trying to resolve but have had support from Green Square in this matter and are in regular touch with Wiltshire Council, it is hoped this can be resolved in the near future, but it does depend on outside issues. Last year we employed a Deputy Clerk, Stefanie Halpin. She has settled in very well and has worked tirelessly throughout the year primarily ensuring we are compliant with Health and Safety issues. Having said that I must thank all staff, old and new, for their help and support this year, as previously said there have been difficulties but no more support could have been given by anyone. Our Grounds man, Paul Baker, left at the end of 2017 for personal reasons and we have employed Declan who joined us in the New Year, he is just getting used to the Parish so I am sure you will see him about working with David, you will also see we have had livery put on the Council vehicle which makes it a little more conspicuous.



You will hear this evening from the Chairs of the various committees on what has been achieved during the last year and possible future projects that we are looking at in the next, if there are any other areas that you think we may be able to consider please let Debbie know and we will look at the feasibility of any project. We cannot cover a whole year in a few sentences or brief discussion, if you have a particular interest please contact Debbie and we can supply more details of any project.

I hope you enjoy this evening and if there are any questions please feel free to ask, if we do not have the answers, we will find out and reply at a later date.

04/18 **A Neighbourhood Plan Update**

We have gone through what is known as reg. 16, the next step is for Wiltshire to appoint a Planning Inspector who will look through the document ask questions if necessary and it will then go for referendum and final vote probably in the Autumn, before being adopted into local Planning Policy, please vote when it is available, it is done for the Parish and it's future, it is important we get an honest view.

My sincere thanks go to the Steering Group, Mike Bell, John Crawford and Richard Pagett, also Carolyn Gibson from Wiltshire Council who has been our contact throughout. The work and hours put in by the team has been unbelievable and their diligence can never be repaid.

05/18 **Annual Reports**

CLERKS REPORT

Welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting. What a busy year this has been seeing many changes to not only staffing but projects within the Council.

I am delighted to announce two new staff appointments to the Council in the form of Deputy Clerk , Stefanie Halpin (joined us in April 2017 working part time) whose primary role is to support the Health and Safety aspect of the Council and its responsibilities and a new Groundsman/Handyman, Declan Coker (joined us in January 2018 full time), who will work not only on the external grounds maintenance but also the maintenance of the internal structures of our buildings.

Health and Safety is a hot topic in all areas of business regardless of whether local authority or private sector and as much as the term “the worlds gone mad over health and safety” is banded around we have an obligation and duty to protect not only those we employee but those who utilise our services and work for the Council either paid or unpaid.

April will see the retirement of a member of our cleaning team after nearly 35 years service to the Council and Charities. We wish Geraldine Waldron all the very best in her retirement.

The Council will be focusing on Data Protection with changes coming into force on 26th May 2018. New policies will be introduced to further safe guard personal data that the Council may hold.



New land purchases, sale of land and constant maintenance and consideration to upgrading equipment at play parks will keep the staff busy in the coming 2018-19 year.

A major project that I have taken great pride in championing this year has been “Making Purton a Dementia Friendly Community”. This awareness campaign is being targeted at all aspects of the community, from residents, businesses and children. Purton has the highest number of over 65 residents in the County and statistics show that this age group is the most vulnerable when it comes to Dementia. We have currently 60 Dementia Friends registered. A huge debt of gratitude needs to be given to Sue Giles, a local resident, who is our Dementia Champion and gives her time freely to run these sessions.

We hold regular Dementia Friends training sessions, one of which you will all be involved in tonight. For more information please check out our website on <http://www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/Dementia-Friendly-Community.aspx>

My door is always open to residents. Please do not hesitate to come into our offices, email or call with queries or concerns.

Here’s to another successful year and a year full of health and well being.

Deborah Lawrence, Clerk



FINANCE

The Purton Parish Council budget is prepared by the Finance Committee using information that each Committee submits. Suggested items are reviewed during a series of budget preparation meetings, and those that meet with approval and are able to be funded are included in the agreed budget, before being presented to Council for approval.

Actual/budgeted expenditure includes: -

2017/18

Purchase of additional land for burials;
New safety gate and replacement bins at the Village Centre Play Area;
Further funding for Highway projects;
New CCTV system for community safety/deter crime;
Noticeboard for the Cemetery;
Production of draft Neighbourhood Plan for consultation;
Replacement of groundsman's ride-on mower

2018/19

- Significant tree work at the Churchyard
- Project to improve banking to side of Church Street ;
- Provision of IT equipment for Councillors
- Improvements to Parish Council website & data storage
- Christmas lights
-

Actual/budgeted income includes:-

2017/18

Precept from Wiltshire Council - see below;
Burial fees;
Funding from Reserves;

Precept
£225,290

Equivalent Band D properties
2,058.01

Precept per Band D property pa
£109.47

2018/19

Precept from Wiltshire Council - see below;
Burial fees;
Funding from Reserves;

Precept
£255,328

Equivalent Band D properties
2,286.66

Precept per Band D property pa
£111.66

The increase in Precept per Band D property in 2018/19 is 2.0%.

The Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017 received a clean bill of health from the external auditors Grant Thornton, as did internal audits carried out by Auditing Solutions Ltd.

The Parish Council publishes details of individual items of expenditure exceeding £500 on its website on a quarterly basis. Electors and other interested persons may inspect the Parish Council's accounting statements and records during advertised times, following completion of the annual accounts.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

The last twelve months has seen the standard applications for extensions, garages etc which have been dealt with in the normal manner. It must be remembered we do not make the final decision on planning applications; we are a Consultee and offer our opinion with regard to appearance, traffic, appropriate development and local issues that perhaps are not appreciated in Chippenham.

With the Neighbourhood Plan approaching completion it is hoped the future shape of the Parish is assured with no inappropriate development, concentrating on affordable housing and housing types to suit village need rather than developer assumption, or commercial gain. There is an undetermined application for housing on Restrop Road for over 30 houses, this has been designated as an area of search for future development but the house mix did not meet the requirements of the village, therefore Council objected, and as yet, the decision has not been made.

There was an application received for development in Pavenhill, this was also rejected by Parish and likewise Wiltshire, the developer subsequently appealed, due to unforeseen circumstances the original appeal had to be reheard, this was last Friday and we still await the decision which should be made in a few weeks. The situation with any planning application can depend on many factors but the point of this appeal was originally down to the inability of Wiltshire to prove a five year land supply, this they can now do with latest figures showing a 6.25 year land supply so it is hoped the appeal is dismissed.

One site where planning was approved was Willis Way, this is for 11 dwellings and whilst work has started there has been little progress other than demolition, we look forward to this site being completed and providing housing in the village.

Planning and Highway issues are discussed at The Community Transport Group (CAT-G) which is where discussions take place concerning action points and possible funding assistance from Wiltshire Council. There are several issues that have been raised including the new footpath at Manor Hill which was recently completed with help from grant funding, this gives a safer route to the footpath and, although not known at the time, will assist with access to, hopefully, the Cemetery extension when needed.

There are still situations that need resolution, a possible enhanced pedestrian crossing by the Village Centre to assist where parents park at the centre and walk their children to school; The Lower Triangle to sort out possible delivery bays for the shop to accommodate large vehicles for the proposed co-op store and of course the perennial Cross Lanes Junction which has proved problematic for many years.

The possible large scheme being discussed is traffic calming at Widham and High Street; this is in its infancy stages and has been the subject of discussions between Wiltshire Council, Parish Council, and Parishioners when more detail is available concerning viability, cost, and



possible implication to local residents in the area a consultation will take place to try and ensure maximum effect with minimum inconvenience to people living in the immediate area. We now have an active Community Speed Watch operating in the Village and continue with Metro Count requests when necessary to try and slow the ever increasing traffic volumes through the Village, especially at peak times. Purton has seen an exponential increase in traffic due to developments outside our area, often there appears to be little regard as to how these developments affect roads that become rat runs on rural highways.

We continue to try and control development and any infrastructure issues that occur from external forces beyond our control but we are sometimes limited on what we can achieve when the Government stance is more housing which is occasionally not sustainable, especially in rural locations.

In previous years the list of on-going items from the Parish Plan have been published at this meeting we have decided to stop this now and assure that all items that are viable are being pursued and will be completed if at all possible.

Some of you may be aware that the old Youth Club at Reids Piece has long since closed and we are considering various options for the land, in conjunction with Greensquare, one of which may be housing, but this will be the subject of a Planning Application in the normal way when comment will be welcome.

This has been a difficult year for many reasons and the staff must be commended for the way they have handled the situations that arose, Lesley has worked hard to ensure the Planning process has been handled efficiently and consultations have been returned on time with the correct comments allocated accordingly.

Ray Thomas, Chairman of Council

RIGHTS OF WAY AND OPEN SPACES

We currently manage all matters relating to Rights of Way and Open Space at our full Council meetings therefore giving a full Council response to items discussed.

We have had another successful year supporting our dedicated Footpath Teams who have been replacing stiles with kissing gates aiding some of the walks in our Parish with accessibility. Several kissing gate installations have been made possible by local residents sponsoring the gates in memory of their loved ones. If you would like to consider this option please speak to the offices.

The Footpath Teams have spent an astounding amount of hours during the past year clearing footpaths, mending fences and repairing. The footpath responsibility is not that of the Parish Council, but Wiltshire Council, however we work alongside the volunteers to provide a small budget and extensive support to keep our footpaths accessible for all to enjoy.

As a Parish Council we are grateful for their continued support of this Wiltshire Council responsibility and without this our footpaths would not be in the excellent conditions they are.



We are pleased to have the landowner's permission for the second year running to allow the viewing of the Orchids when they are in bloom at Brockhurst Meadow from 16th until 25th June. The meadow is accessible via a track on the left of Lower Pavenhill.

For information, Purton Historical Society are in the process of collating information to be included on an information board which will be installed at Ringsbury Camp in the near future.



We have managed to secure 50% funding towards the upgrading of footpath 84, the new short cut to school from Play Close.

The 2017/18 budget has been utilized for the purchase of two metal kissing gates along with materials used to carry out the work on existing footpaths. We have also provided and a first aid training course where inclusion of footpath volunteers was encouraged. Thank you Councillor Matt Rogers for running this course.

There are now 4 "Walks in Purton" leaflets available to be purchased via The Council Office at a cost of 50p each plus the larger map options.

Administration Officer, Lesley Miles

BURIALS COMMITTEE

Remit of Committee

Chairman of Committee – Councillor Neil Hooper

5 committee members meet twice a year

The Burial Committee is responsible for the maintenance and operation of both the Churchyard and the Cemetery.

Last year saw the introduction of a computerised cemetery management system that allows better management and record keeping of interments and burial plot ownership. Older records are still being added to the system and this will take some time to complete.

Churchyard

The Council continues to maintain the churchyard in respect of grass cutting, pathways, boundary wall and what is known as the Lychgate. It does not have a duty to maintain graves but does have a duty to ensure that such items as headstones/grave spaces are safe.



As within previous years the cutting of the grass has been carried out by offenders as part of their Community Service under the Community Payback Scheme as a form of penance in respect to the misdemeanours that they have committed. There is a charge for this service and Council will have to pay in the region of £500.00 for the visits from the group throughout the year which still represents a good value for money service.

Money is still being set aside to accrue each year to allow sufficient funds to resurface the pathway leading from the southern entrance of the Church to the Lychgate on a like for like basis in 2019. It is agreed by all though that just putting chippings down would only rectify the issue for a short period.

This year the Burial Committee members are due to formalise a series of meetings with the local representatives from the Parochial Church Council to ensure issues in the churchyard are kept on top of.

Cemetery

Health and Safety checks on headstones continue to be carried out by Council staff as does the general maintenance of the Cemetery as a whole including the removal of wilted flowers and wreaths after a specified period of time.

Of the memorials tested 36 notices have been affixed to headstones advising that there is work required as they are loose and not secure. There are 30 further that we will need to monitor and where possible we have contacted relatives to advise of the condition. There are several relatives that we are unable to trace so if you are able to help by contacting the office it will be appreciated. As communicated last year there were several pieces of work planned for this year. There have been further works to the main entrance and the installation of a notice board that is all now complete.

Work has been finished in the older cremated remains section with trees being removed and new hedging and fencing installed around the borders of the cemetery.

Last year there was concern over the amount of available burial space left within the Cemetery and progress has been made to secure land that is currently being tested for its suitability. As this progresses we will keep you informed however it is a long process.

Some slight changes to the Cemetery regulations have been made and are available to view at the council office, via post if requested or on the website. As a gentle reminder can the rule about glass items on graves be noted – this has been put in place for the safety of our staff and visitors.

Projects 2018 – 19

Obviously the large piece of work ahead of us is the preparation of the new area and until the outcome is known some of the smaller projects concerning the taps and placement of bins in the cemetery are on hold.



We are looking at making some use of the other areas in the cemetery, namely the wooded area at the entrance, for placement of small memorial stones to maximise the use. There is also work starting to fill the 50+ pot holes and divots in the cemetery that have been noted.

There is an extensive programme of tree maintenance planned for the Churchyard and the committee is liaising with the Parochial Church Council and Wiltshire Council as the area is protected.

Finally again thanks go out to the ground staff for maintaining the Cemetery to a high standard and to the office staff in dealing with the sensitive issues that arise in relation to interments and other aspects associated with the operation of the Cemetery.

Councillor Neil Hooper, Chairman of Burials

PLAY AREA COMMITTEE

Remit of Committee

Chairman Cllr Vicky McKerrow - Meeting 4 times a year

The Play Close

This continues to be well used and all equipment is in good working order.

Village Centre

This play area is also very popular and the children seem to still be enjoying the refurbished play park.

The equipment is holding up well with just the grip handle for the zip wire having to be replaced. Unfortunately however there does appear to be an issue with people vandalising the litter bins and we have had to replace one. Hopefully the newly installed CCTV will alleviate this problem going forward.

Venture Play Area – Dogridge

Dogridge continues to be a well used play area.

As always we would like to extend our thanks to Mr Geoff Simpkins for aiding our staff in doing the inspections for us and keeping an eye on things in general.

As with the Village centre, this play park had also had issues with vandalism and litter bins have had to be replaced.

Regarding all play areas, vandalism continues to be a problem and we would ask residents to be vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour they see by calling the police on 101. This assists them in helping to identify patterns of anti-social behaviour and allows the Council to make the appropriate insurance claims. We would appreciate it if you could also inform the Parish Council who can then swiftly carry out any repair work that needs to be carried out. We would also like to remind residents that dogs are not allowed on any of our play areas.



Future Projects

We will be carrying out the re-turfing of the goal-mouth areas of the football pitch at the Village Centre play park.

In addition to this and looking to the future if funds become available we are looking into the possibility of a complete refurbishment of the Venture Play Area at Dogridge.

As well as thanking Geoff Simpkins we would also like to thank the Parish Council ground staff, Declan and David, for all their hard work in keeping the parks in such a good condition.

Councillor Vicky McKerrow, Chair of Play Areas/Recreation

PURTON WAR MEMORIAL AND VILLAGE CENTRE CHARITY

Tony Price was always keen to remind people that Purton War Memorial and Village Centre Charity is just that, a tribute to the people who lost their lives in World War 2, I agree with those sentiments and it should not be thought of as just a centre for activities.

It is a unique memorial as it is a living one, paid for by the village for the village as a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives so that we would have a better country to live in. Let us never forget.

After a difficult period the Red House Club is under new Stewardship and has new Committee members who are trying to provide innovative new ideas to improve the clubs viability.

The Tennis, Bowls, and Football Club continue to support the centre and we now have Laura's kitchen for snacks and refreshments.

We had issues with vandalism and anti-social behaviour which was causing issues, there is now CCTV installed with record facilities and also ANPR recognition, useful when trying to establish if and when a vehicle was on site. This is proving successful with a reduction in litter, vandalism and drug items found, money well spent we think.

We continue to look at areas where we can improve usage and diversity of use.

PURTON VILLAGE HALL AND INSTITUTE BUILDING CHARITY

The complex covers the Museum, Library, Council Offices and the Village Hall. There has been recent work to replace the ageing flat roof covering and roof lights, it is hoped this will prevent any problems relating to water ingress for many years to come.

If it were not for the Parish Council subsidising the whole complex to the tune of £10,000 a year the Hall would not be viable and with Wiltshire Council cuts, Libraries closing across the County who is to say how long the status quo can be maintained, Wiltshire rent the library and Museum areas from the Charties and it is unknown how far their budget will stretch in the future, these facilities have to be retained if at all possible.

The booking and key collection system has settled now after its introduction last year, we have increases in hire across the board but utilisation is still well below where it needs to be this situation is causing concern and actions are being taken by Trustees to try and realise potential for the buildings. The Hall requires redecoration and updating and the Institute building has issues which need urgent action to prevent damage to the fabric of the building.



THE PLAY CLOSE CHARITY

The Play Close area continues to be well used and supported, especially during the summer months when children can enjoy the equipment whilst playing in a safe environment.

The village is fortunate to have facilities like this and the equipment was replaced a few years ago, there have been some issues with damage but generally in good condition, we ask our staff to report on all play areas during their rounds but if you do see any damage please report it, it is essential to protect from injury due to damage.

There has been some deterioration to the wall, which has now been repaired and our staff maintain the grass to a high standard.

THE FUTURE

When the budgets were looked at the future caused concern for all the Charities, the costs are increasing and utilisation is not what we need. In view of this the decision was taken to completely revamp the business model, over the next twelve months an in depth review of costs, charges, utilisation, diversification, and business plan will be compiled, otherwise the Charities will not exist and, in view of all the work put in over the years by a lot of people we owe it to them to examine every possibility. This may result in some difficult decisions and conversations but if needed they will be made. It must also be remembered we are responsible to the Charity Commission and must adhere to their rules and regulations which is not sometimes individuals do not appreciate.

Thanks go to all staff but I must mention Teresa Hartshorn who has worked tirelessly to maintain a high standard and is fortunately well versed on Charity Law.

Chairman of Charities – Ray Thomas

06/17 Unitary Councillors Report

My role in the parish continues to be busy with always something new or challenging plus the same issues which arise all the time in the community - Planning matters and Traffic.

There are two main planning applications which caused concern – 81 houses out at Elborough Bridge on the old Purton Road near to Moredon Bridge (Mouldon View). This application was called into committee should the officers be inclined to grant permission. The access out onto the new road plus adding more traffic onto the road was one of the concerns plus the layout of the site and closeness of housing to the railway line another – plus a few other issues. The application was refused so did not go to committee. The other application which has been in the system for a while was the development of land behind Pavenhill for another 25 houses. This was refused initially but went to appeal in August 2017. Tragically the Inspector died before writing his report hence a new appeal hearing had to be set – this was eventually held on 6th April 2018 – we now need to wait around 4-6 weeks for the decision from the Inspectorate.

The application for housing off Restrop Road is still being considered.

Traffic has been an issue for many years and for those of us who have been in the village for some years have noticed how much the traffic has increased and seems to do so every month. The



housing out at Swindon is probably likely to be the main reason and drivers have discovered the route through the village using Sat Navigation systems.

I have recently emailed both Kier Pritchard, Chief Police Constable for Wiltshire and Angus Macpherson, Police & Crime Commissioner, to point out that traffic, and general poor driving habits, seem to be a concern to many residents and could this be something they could consider in the future. The response so far is that the Community Policing Team might be able to support us with any issues we have locally.

We have for many years had a Lorry Watch scheme in the village but this has not been actively operated – it is down to the community to have done this – and I am now told that the council will no longer be operating Lorry Watch and breaches of the weight limit will now be down to the police to deal with.

The old shop at the Triangle remains a concern for villagers and both the parish council and myself have followed up on this regularly but in recent months there has been no feedback from the Co-op on what they intend to do.

The temporary post office service that I managed to arrange had a few issues with connectivity to a mobile signal to operate the equipment and also the postmaster then gave up the mobile van service, however this has been taken over by a new postmaster and I note the van seems to be regularly in the village on the allotted time on Tuesdays.

The post box by the shop disappeared a few weeks ago in the last snowfall due to apparently an accident. Royal Mail have said they intend to put back the post box and in the meantime they are collecting from the remaining three boxes in the village a late collection around 4:30 – despite what the plate says on the post box!

I understand that the Royal George pub is actively pursuing a plan to run the Post Office in the village as no one else came forward to bid on the service.

Thames Water are planning mains water replacements and have already carried out one on Upper Pavenhill and are planning Vasterne Close/Jubilee Estate once they have had revised costings on the work. They had started the work on the latter roads but discovered the road was metal reinforced which would create problems with the way they planned to do the work! They have repaired two big leaks in Witts Lane which seem to have solved the long term ‘spring’ issue that has been plaguing the area for many years. Hopefully this has solved this problem.

The development at Mouldon View is within reason finished however a few things are still waiting to be done. The pelican crossing over the Purton Road, the draft plans have now been prepared and hopefully the plans will go out to public consultation soon. There is also a bridge over the river for the ROW still to be constructed. Ridgeway Farm is still under construction and the next phase of affordable and low cost housing should be released in the summer.



My work at Wiltshire Council continues to be varied and I am often at Trowbridge for meetings two to three times a week. I am still the Vice Chair of the Children's Select Committee, I sit on the Environmental Select Committee, the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee plus I am a substitute on the Northern Planning Committee. I regularly sit on this committee due to commitments of the other members.

I have been part of the Electoral Boundary Review group – we were looking at the numbers of the councillors against the electorate they represent to see if the public will be represented properly in the future particularly bearing in mind the increase of population in future years as we have a large number of houses to be built in the county. The review is carried out by the Electoral Commissioners but the council is asked to report to them from this group. Currently the electorate in the Purton Division is about 4,300 and this is due to increase to over 5,000 once all our housing is completed. It seems that in many other LA the average electorate per division is around 3,500. In Wiltshire it would seem if the council continues with the same number of councillors then we will all be representing around 5,000 electorate. Whether the boundaries will be changed to allocate a more even number around the councillors or whether the number of councillors will be increased or decreased we have yet to hear.

Tomorrow, on Tuesday, 10th April, I am attending an Extraordinary meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee as a call-in has been done regarding a decision by cabinet to propose the two outdoor centres at Oxenwood and Braeside to close. Currently these two centres will cost the council around £1.4million over the next 8 years or so to maintain and both appear to be running at a loss. They offer residential and non-residential activities for children but it seems that there is not a huge take up to use the facilities hence they are costing the council tax payers of Wiltshire to operate. I believe the rationale behind the Cabinet's decision was that there are a number of privately operated facilities which schools etc. are using in the county and nearby counties, which potentially are taking away from these two sites the customers, meaning they are not viable. The decision to call in the cabinet decision is based on process of the decision making and not the actual decision as such. There has been a lot of public interest in keeping open these two venues and I suspect the meeting tomorrow will be well attended by the public. I believe it will be web casted if you are interested in following the discussions.

I have had some issues with IT recently and some of this is due to the problems in Salisbury as the police share the councils IT resources hence security is high. I have also had some personal commitments this year, hence perhaps have not been so active and visible as I have in the past. Many of the issues people come to me about, do however have to be also agreed by the parish council hence it may be better to approach the parish council in the first place. I am always happy for people to contact me at any time – and they do.

Councillor Jacqui Lay



07/18 Public Question time

Several residents asked the Chairman where his supporting evidence was to match the accounts published on line in relation to the charities of which the Chairman has advised are in need of serious consideration. Also requested of the Chairman was to advise how long if no action was taken he felt the charities would last. The Chairman replied that he had no concrete evidence in timescales however he would envisage 2 years for the Village Hall and 7 for the Village Centre. The residents queried why the accounts did not reflect this information and the Chairman advised that the accounts published are the bottom line and do not reflect the management accounts and where funding is coming from. Currently the charities are heavily subsidised by the Council in the form of donations. With ever changing pressures from the unitary authority the Council are being requested to provide, produce and manage additional services and this give greater financial burdens. The Charity has to be seen to be used and managed within its own constraints. The Chairman advised this will be a 12-18 month long project of investigation and potential changes and residents would be advised.

A resident wished to thank our ground staff for their hard work and improvements made around the village including the cemetery. He also wished to thank the Parish Council for the purchase of land at Church End. The village needs additional space and if this land is suitable for future burials it will be a huge asset to the village.

The Chairman of Council also advised that Wiltshire Council had contacted him regarding the lease on the library premises. Discussions are due but at this stage no firm information has come forward as to any changes that maybe required.

A resident asked how we could fund the new equipment and project at Venture Play if we have no funds available for the other charities. The Chairman advised that the land and play area projects were separate to the charities, in fact the land is owned by Wiltshire Council and the equipment Purton Parish Council and not the Charity. This information was noted by the resident.

08/18 Presentation

The Chairman introduced Sue Giles as Purton’s Dementia Champion and advised that as part of the campaign to “Make Purton a Dementia Friendly Community” Sue would be carrying out a Dementia Friends session this evening for all those who wished to attend. Sue delivered, as always an amazing informative session with 10 more Dementia Friends trained.

There being no other items on the agenda or questions from the residents attending, the Chairman of Council thanked the residents for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.30pm

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Chairman Signature

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Dated