

**Minutes of the Old Hurst Annual Parish Meeting
held on Tuesday 16th May 2018 at St. Peter's Church, Old Hurst.**

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Linda Sawyer, Chairman of Old Hurst Parish Council. Minutes taken by Mrs. D. Benham, Parish Clerk.

Present: Parish Councillors – Mr. G. Bull, Mrs. C. Bussetil, Mrs. J. Mackenzie & Mrs. L. Sawyer. Parish Clerk - Mrs. D. Benham & 7 parishioners.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr. E. Taylor (personal) and District Cllr. J. Tavener (attending another meeting).
2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th May 2017: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. Annual report from Councillor Sawyer, Chairman of the Parish Council: See appendix 1.
4. Annual report from District Councillor Graham Bull: Cllr. Bull gave a report on the activities of the District Council for the year.
5. Annual report from County & District Councillor Criswell: Not available.
6. Report from the Village Hall: See appendix 2.
7. Report from the Village Coffee Mornings: See appendix 3.
8. Report from the Craft Group: See appendix 4.
9. Report from the Church: See appendix 5.
10. To consider resolutions received: No resolutions had been received by the Clerk.

Signed.....*D. Benham*.....

Date.....*30 MAY 19*.....

Chairman's report, Parish Annual Meeting 2018

The usual 6 scheduled meetings of the Parish Council were held in the year to May 2018, plus three extraordinary meetings to discuss planning applications. Once again the topics which were most often discussed were speeding traffic through the village, and parking issues in Church Street. I am happy to report that for both of these issues, progress towards solutions has been made. After technical problems, communications issues with the relevant police department, and ill health amongst the volunteer team, I am pleased to say that Speedwatch is now back in action, and has some new volunteers, which will enable speed checks to be undertaken at varying times of the day. As far as the parking issues are concerned, and application to the Local Highways Improvement Initiative made by our Clerk was successful and in due course, double yellow lines will be painted around the bend. In addition to this, a discussion between the Clerk, Mr. Murphy of Highways and Andrew Johnson resulted in better signage for the car park, a large sign requesting customers not to park on the bend, and the reopening of the additional entry to the car park off Ramsey Road, all of which have improved the obstructive parking by a small minority of Farm Shop customers.

The employment of Mr. Abbs to cut the verges within the village has proved a great success, making the village look much tidier. There has also been an increase in the amount of voluntary work carried out by parishioners, in particular Paul Prior has done a really good job with the verges opposite to the Grove Park, which are now kept mown, with bedding plants in recycled containers. Nic Thomas continues to cut grass in Church Street, and teams of volunteers have carried out litter picking, siding the footpath in The Lane, and relocating snowdrops and planting new daffodil bulbs, which provided a cheerful sight this year in particular.

The new bus shelter has been installed, and the phone box repainted and new shelves made and installed by Tony Haward. Footpath repairs were carried out in Lancaster Close, and dropped kerbs for pedestrians installed. Reports to UK Power Networks resulted in the trees/hedges in Ramsey Road and St. Ives Road being inspected, sadly they are not yet close enough to the power lines to warrant contractors being sent.

Possible damage to two oak trees which may have been affected by a vehicle fire outside Oaktrees care home, is being monitored by Councillors. The Trees, in common with all the oaks from the Dacre Close entrance down to The Grove layby are all subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

The possible loss of bus services between Ramsey and Huntingdon which serve Old Hurst caused a great deal of concern. Services are being subsidised at the moment and a watch is being kept on future issues.

After much discussion and consultation, the vacancy on the Parish Council caused by the resignation of Matthew Fox was not filled, due to the closeness of Parish Council Elections, which have now taken place.

The Clerk and I attended a presentation on the planning application for RAF Wyton at St. Ives Town Council, and a meeting on the General Data Protection Regulations. The Clerk, Councillor Bussetil and Councillor McKenzie attended a Planning Update.

St. Peter's Church

Regular services continue to be held at St. Peter's, with a pattern which tries to ensure that there is something in each month which appeals to all ages. A new initiative called Sing & Praise is proving very popular, and the Voices of Old Hurst inclusive singing group continues to thrive. The PCC is very pleased to have been able to commission repairs to the East Window and while this work was being carried out, to have some restoration done which has brought the colours of the stained glass back to what it would have been originally. The PCC is grateful to Terry Garner for his help and advice with this project. We are also grateful to Carol Lapwood for her sterling work keeping the grass cut. The Church is now unlocked for most of each day, mainly thanks to Nicola and John and Terry Welham, and this has proved a popular move with many nice comments in the visitors book. An Auction of Promises held earlier this year proved an entertaining evening, and raised much needed funds to keep St. Peter's functioning. There will be a Voices concert this Saturday, and a barbecue in July.

Coffee Morning

The monthly village coffee morning continues to be very popular with a good attendance of both residents and friends from further afield. Val, Lynda, Margaret and Janet look after us all well supplying us with coffee or tea and delicious cakes. From the donations made, the flower boxes at either end of Church Street have been replanted by Val and Lynda, and donations have also been made to the Church and the Voices group.

Craft Group

A small but loyal band meets monthly to work together and share ideas on craft projects over a cuppa. Tapestry, crochet, rug making, patchwork, embroidery and dress making are just some of the crafts carried out. New members are always welcome.

REPORT ON OLD HURST VILLAGE HALL.
2018

MAY

The Old Hurst Village Hall Committee have spent time this year visiting other village halls and speaking to their committee members about how they have financed the building of their halls.

We have also asked questions about how they manage the day to day running of their halls, what works well, and what if anything they would do differently.

This has been an interesting experience and we have found people extremely welcoming and willing to help.

The committee is working hard researching various ways of funding our rebuild, some very interesting but not necessarily viable. This research is still continuing.

We have had advice from architects and planners regarding the cost of drawing up a set of plans for our own hall replacement and will now have to begin to think how we can finance this.

As we move into the summer months we are aware that the grounds will need to be kept tidy. The weather and time availability has made this difficult recently but we are hoping to get on top of it shortly.