

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, SOUTH CERNEY ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY 2012

Present: Parish Councillors Mrs F. Chapman, Mrs E. Chubb, J. Harris, P. Jay, J. Kimberley, Mrs D. Land, M. Stuart, Mrs C. Tunbridge, C. Wearing, R. Webb; Cotswold District Councillors E. Jenkins and Mrs J. Layton; S. Parsons (Gloucestershire County Councillor); Dave Martin (Station Staff Officer 29 Regiment RLC); Matt McCahill (Chair of Governors at Ann Edwards School); Revd David Bowers Vicar All Hallows Church; Revd James Taylor and Reta-May Matthews (United Church).

Twenty one members of the public including two youths from R-Way were also in attendance.

Cllr M. Stuart opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed all present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES

There were apologies from Cllr Nicholas, Mrs Emily Hallett (R-Way) who was not well and Cllr Bennett (CDC) who was officiating at another meeting in his new role as Vice Chairman of Cotswold District Council.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Mrs Anne Stuart and seconded by Cllr John Kimberley that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th May 2011 as published were a true record. The meeting was all in favour.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CLLR MIKE STUART, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

If anyone thinks that being on a Parish Council of a large community such as ours is an easy task, all I can say is come and try it! Granted some years we have to deal with not much more than general house keeping such as the grass cutting, ensuring that the playgrounds are in a safe condition and making sure that the planning applications for the occasional new dwelling or the extension to existing ones are in order. Then you get a couple of years back to back when several major problems crop up. For a group of volunteers from a mixture of backgrounds and occupations, sometimes this type of problem does take a considerable amount of work.

In the past couple of years the routine stuff has ticked along extremely well. But the loss of much of the support we had been used to getting from both CDC and especially GCC has made life a lot harder. The cut backs in the budgets for many services we used to take for granted will be increasingly noticeable as the months and years go by. It is already being made clear that Parish Councils are to be involved in discussions and maybe even provide some financial support for works that in the past have automatically been paid by County. We believe that trend will become more pronounced as the years go by. If Parishes do have to financially support such works and services it will be interesting to see if the County's share of the annual precept will be reduced proportionately. I somehow doubt that will happen.

On the subject of finances, this PC has been able to manage the budget in such a way as to be able to maintain all the services we have provided over the past years without increasing the actual precept. Considering that SC has a far larger population than many of the other principle settlements in the CDC area, our precept payment on a Band D dwelling is surprisingly lower than most by almost £100 per year.

In my opinion, this, your Parish Council has done a darned good job in the past year. An extremely important player in that team is our Clerk, Maurice McKee who does so much for this community. We also have a new member since last year's meeting as we co-opted Chris Wearing onto PC at the June 2011 meeting. Chris was too young to stand for election at the May poles as his 18th birthday had not passed. Chris must be one of if not the actual youngest PC in the land. He brings to our meetings the views of the young people of our village where we have some 20% of our population under the age of 20. We are a team that gets things done even if some of our decisions are unpopular with some sections of the community we represent I wish to record my thanks to the entire team for the way in which this council has dealt with so much in the past year.

As I said before, this past year has been a difficult one with three major situations taking up a lot of time and effort.

The first was the totally unsatisfactory shenanigans in the Cotswold Water Park. In particular the unsavoury events which resulted in Dennis Grant the one time CEO of the Water Park being jailed for over four years have taxed our minds. We and our neighbouring parishes of Somerford Keynes and Ashton Keynes are jointly striving to make the best of a bad situation attempting to ensure that Lake 31 in Keynes Park is not subjected to further ravages and is returned to an acceptable condition. Also our joint attempts to protect the footpaths for the use of everyone continue. Our sincere thanks must be recorded to Cllr Esmond Jenkins one of our three CDC representatives who has not only worked ceaselessly in attempting to uncover the fraud that went on in the CWP but actually landed himself in front of a Standards Board hearing which could have resulted in his being disbarred as our councillor. Anyone who followed those four days in the council chamber will tell you what an abject waste of money and time that was. I am so pleased that all Esmond received for his heinous crimes were a light tap on the wrist! Thank you Esmond. Keep up the excellent work.

The second situation was the disposal of Lake 12 better known as SCOEC by GCC despite previous assurances we had received that it would not be sold. Fortunately it has gone to a company which could and hopefully will continue the good work SCOEC has done over the years.

The major event was of course the planning approval for the building of 150 dwellings and a new community centre for youth and sports on the old CAMAS site behind the Limes. This rolled over from last year and the approval was given in June 2011. At present the details of what Redrow wish to build are with the CDC planning department. It is not intended that we discuss the development tonight as there is to be a public meeting here in this Hall on the evening of Thursday 24th May at 7.30 pm when the printed plans will be available for inspection. In the meantime, the details can be viewed on the CDC website.

All I will say about the situation is that since last year's Annual Parish meeting your Parish Council has used its best endeavours to ensure that the development will be one of the best of its type in the district. We have also negotiated not only with Redrow but with CDC and GCC over the benefits which will come to South Cerney and the wider community by way of the S 106 Agreement. These negotiations have I suggest seen this village get the best possible deal which will improve the facilities for the entire community for many years to come.

As I said at the start, this has not been an easy year but we have all done what we seriously considered to be the best for the people of Cerney, not just for those of us living here now but also for those who will be here in generations to come

R WAY GROUP REPORT

Cllr Chris Wearing gave a short report on the activities of the group. The group had just had its first anniversary. Mary Mychaleckyj had left Gloucestershire Youth Service and a new assistant youth leader Julia Cunningham had been appointed. Chris said that as he was approaching 19 years old he would be leaving the group when a replacement was found. Jasmin Tresadern continued with an apology from Emily Hallett who was unable to attend as she was not well. She then listed some of the activities that the group had been involved with over the past year. A visit had been made to the House of Commons where they had a meeting with Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, a trip to Cribbs Causeway for Christmas shopping, bush craft experience with Cotswold Forest School under the tutelage of Johno Kimberley, involvement with the Lantern Project, a trip to Cosmos in Swindon, ditch clearance which was good fun, our own stall at the forthcoming Street Fair in South Cerney and there were further plans in the pipeline for other activities.

Cllr Stuart recalled a recent visit to a communications exercise in Stow on the Wold where he was proud to be associated with such a go ahead group of youngsters from the village.

PC 2095 SARAH BRADLEY AND PCSO MIKE OWEN GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE – REPORT

This is a break down of crime reported to Gloucestershire Police in the last year compared to the same period May 2010–May 2011.

Violent Crime

16 incidents reported compared with 24 the preceding year.

Burglary

13 incidents reported compared with 21 incidents the preceding year. These figures include non dwelling burglaries eg. sheds and outbuildings and also attempts only. Out of the 13 incidents reported this year, only three relate to house burglaries. Hopefully this pleasing figure is the result of people taking precautions to protect their properties and to report anything suspicious.

Theft

43 reported compared to 36 the preceding year. The reason for the increase in theft this year was the uncommon rise in theft of fishing tackle from the water parks, whilst fishermen were asleep over night. However following an initiative advertising this problem through posters, awareness was increased and the problem ceased. Also there has been a rise in theft from vehicles left in car parks. Please increase an awareness in the community by encouraging drivers NOT to leave valuables on view in vehicles when unattended.

Fraud

1 incident reported compared with 3 the preceding year.

Criminal Damage

14 incidents reported compared with 19 the previous year. Overall we have seen a decrease in crime this year of 9.62% and our figures fall well below that of the national average. As the warm weather draws hopefully nearer I would ask that people take special care in protecting garden implements and keep thieves at bay.

Community Orientated Police Resolutions

This is a facility (COPS) which enables the police to deal with criminal offenders in a way that benefits the victim rather than placing them before the criminal justice system, a method which often disappoints victims by a menial court result. This method was recently used in the village following a burglary at the football pavilion in the Upper Up playing fields. The investigating officer, PC Simon Bourne was able to trace the offenders, who were not local and dealt with the offence by financial recompense to the Community and some actual physical work!

Lorry Watch

I have been asked by various sources as to what we can do about Heavy Goods Vehicles flouting the weight limits which are readily placed at all entries to the village. Lorry Watch was an initiative run by Gloucestershire Highways to combat such behaviour, however it is no longer a live option due to cuts. I have discussed the issue with the Counties Road Policing Inspector, Jason Keetes and once the evidence has been gained, Gloucestershire Police Traffic Department would be more than happy to deal with those companies whose drivers disregard the rules. I will be looking for volunteers who have time to spare in the future to gather this evidence, on dates to be determined. Please contact me via email.

May I take the opportunity to say that it has been nearly a year since I joined the Local Policing Team for Cirencester South Rural. It has been a pleasure to serve this community which is obviously greatly cared for by its residents. I hope that by working together we can continue to reduce crime and make the area a safe and pleasant place to live.

PC 2095 Sarah Bradley

PCSO Mike Owen.

Cllr Stuart reminded the audience that the next Police Neighbourhood Panel Meeting is on Wednesday 27th June at 7.30 pm in the Residence Lounge, Elizabeth Way, Siddington.

DAVE MARTIN, STATION STAFF OFFICER, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER BARRACKS – REPORT

The Regiment remains committed to operations at home and overseas, 80 Sqn returned today from a successful tour of Afghanistan, meanwhile 50 Sqn is in the early stages of their preparation for deployment in October. Our Regimental HQ with approximately 70 other soldiers is currently deployed in Cyprus as part of the UN mission. This has presented numerous challenges to us, foremost of which was training for a very different type of operation. In addition to all this, we maintain the ability to deploy anywhere in the world at short notice to provide support in our specialist capabilities.

Closer to home we currently had soldiers trained and located over the country as part of UK Defence's operation to provide fuel supplies in the event that a general strike was called by UNITE. Fortunately this was settled and our soldiers have returned to duty. We are also about to commence the training of troops who will provide security at the forthcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Unfortunately as a Regiment we have had to take our share of the pain as the country continues to feel the effects of budget cuts. Redundancies have already affected 12 soldiers, all of whom were volunteers. Next month we will see the announcement of the second round of redundancy; unfortunately our losses, particularly amongst the postal and courier trade, are looking to be more significant.

The two additional Squadrons of 240 soldiers I mentioned last year are still planned to arrive by 2014. However and not surprisingly, all planned building activities have been put on hold as these funds have

also been cut in these austere times. We are therefore no further forward in any of the new families accommodation we currently need. All options are being considered.

The Silver Stars parachute centre continues to draw in large numbers (weather allowing) throughout the week. The pilots have all been instructed to alter routes to minimise noise irritation to the local community. Anyone with particular strong feelings on the matter is free to discuss over flights of their property with Warrant Officer Class 2 Dave Jelly on 868222.

29 Regt will be assisting with the Olympic torch ceremony passing through Cirencester next week by lining the route as the torch is run through the town.

Finally you will be aware that the Gloucester Steam Fair relocated to our airfield last year. This was deemed a great success; attracting thousands of visitors to the area and raising significant amounts of money for local charities and businesses. The event will be held on the airfield again this year and will take place from 3rd to 5th August.

CLLR JULIET LAYTON, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – REPORT

It is just a year since I was elected to be District Councillor and I have been on a steep, though interesting learning curve.

I am a member of the Planning Committee which generates much reading material and an awful lot to learn, but just when I thought I was getting to grips with planning policies they were replaced with the new National Planning Policy Framework and the learning begins again. However, this document has only 50 odd pages as opposed to the 150 odd in the previous one. A plan led system where the local plan is an umbrella for neighbourhood plans. However, CDC still has a housing short fall and that still affects officer recommendations.

I was required to leave the Council Chamber on my very first meeting as I had a prejudicial interest in the Mallards development in South Cerney. Now there is a good start! But I persuaded Legal and the Chair to allow me to stay to present the findings of a survey of the village before being relegated to the member's room.

It was no surprise that the Water Park Ward would generate controversial elements, this after all was why I stood for election, and many of these elements are linked to Planning. However, I was surprised to find myself invited to meet with Lower Mill property owners to discuss safety issues regarding the road system in the estate and then supporting their application to Lower Mill for a new entrance for the Minety Lake development. Again on holiday/second homes I have attended meetings regarding the Guidance notes to Occupancy. And, again rather surprisingly for me, I am now arguing the mis-selling issues and mis-advertising of these properties which I believe has led to confusion for purchasers. I am also questioning why the only breaches of occupancy are reported to CDC by Water Mark and not, to my current knowledge, by Lower Mill and LakesbyYoo. I didn't expect to be using energy on holiday home owners but it seems there has been a raw deal done which needs investigating.

Lake 31 came back to planning last week having featured several times in the Council Chambers last year. The Officer's recommendation was to permit the retrospective application for the excess infill. The outcome of this was that Planning committee voted against recommendation and asked instead that we could return later in the year when a truer picture could be seen of the excess with lower water levels.

This year in the Ward we have had several major developments come to Planning Committee; the Mallards at South Cerney, which was granted permission. A field adjacent to North Hill Road in Siddington which was refused at Committee but has gone to Appeal and we now await the results of the hearing which was held earlier this month, and we will be soon looking at a Care Village at Siddington Park Farm, complete with a new roundabout on the A419 and the proposed closure of the Preston Toll Bar. A novel application in Somerford Keynes was for solar panels on a non-existent roof, the application has for the time being been withdrawn, but I am sure Lower Mill will be resubmitting it along with the building beneath.

Esmond and I pooled our Youth Funding money and supported The Willow Lantern Pageant entitled 'Creatures of the Night'. 250 to 300 people attended and at least 150 young people were involved in making some incredible willow structures and parading them around Upper Up Playing Fields and lake accompanied by Samba drummers from Kingshill School. It was a great night and one which I know everyone wants to repeat.

I have sat through days of Esmond's hearing, and bought the T-shirt. Listened to the findings of the Pegasus Report on Lake 31, supported Siddington at the NHR appeal and more recently attended the Inquest into the drowning of Kajil Oevi at Cotswold Park and Beach. I am now pursuing the intentions of CDC with regard to an investigation on CDC procedures and leisure park regulations.

I have dealt with barking dogs, noisy neighbours, damp patches in ceilings and even a long conversation with someone who thought I was a counsellor. I listened to her problems, made a phone call and went away for a week, when I got back I contacted her again and she seemed to have turned her life around and was feeling very positive. At last a result.

CLLR ESMOND JENKINS, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – REPORT

Cllr Jenkins stated that he did not have a lot to report. No promotion for him but a turbulent year all the same with the conviction of Dennis Grant and other violations in the Water Park. There were also positive developments in the community. The four day hearing into my misdemeanors was a great example and I felt thoroughly supported by local residents. The activities at Lake 31 illustrates how defective is local governance.

The 30 months I have served as a councillor feels like 30 years and along with Juliet Layton we challenge decisions of both District and County councils. Through involvement in issues, trust is being built up within the community and this advocates that people get involved and not sit on the sidelines.

CLLR CLIVE BENNETT, COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL – REPORT

As Cllr Bennett had been unable to attend the Clerk read his report.

Please accept my apologies for not being here this evening to give this report but I was elected Vice Chairman of the Council at the annual meeting and this evening I am in Cheltenham on my first civic duty.

The annual meeting marked the end of my second third year term as chairman of the council's Licensing committee. In between those two terms I had Licensing as part of my portfolio when I was in the Cabinet.

I was thrown in the deep end back in 2003 when the local authorities took over the pub, club and alcohol licensing matters from the magistrates. It was a near vertical learning curve.

We are remarkably lucky in the Cotswolds with the vast majority of licensed premises being well run and causing little trouble to local residents. However, we have taken severe action against licensed premises when there are problems. We have removed the licence from a shop in Tetbury when we received evidence that the licence holder was of selling alcohol to under 18s. The matter was brought to the council for action by the Police. Bizarrely the Police raised no objection when the owner applied for his license back six months later, so alcohol is once again being served from the premises. Hopefully the owner is being more diligent now.

There are nearly 600 licensed premises in the Cotswolds and 62 licensed clubs, but the Licensing department deals with far more than just alcohol licenses.

In the last year they have dealt with a total of 1052 licence applications covering such things as body piercing, taxis, pet shops, scrap dealers, street collections, cemetery deeds, camp sites, street traders and gambling and lotteries, to name but a few.

The small team is also involved in licensing local events and this year promises to be busier than ever with the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. The events are as varied as air shows and opera; street fairs and steam rallies; dog shows and Christmas markets; concerts and village festivals.

Hopefully that's given you a taste of the licensing activities of the council.

I now look forward to carrying out my new role as the council's vice chairman.

CLLR SHAUN PARSONS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – REPORT

Cllr Parsons stated that he echoed the comments made by Cllr Jenkins.

Excluding Schools the county council spends about £400m, CDC £9m, (and the police about £106m) £114m in savings from council's net £400m budget by 2015.

Every part of government has been hit hard by the need to pay back Labour's massive debts. For councils across the country these cost savings are front loaded – meaning they have to be found faster than from the rest of Government. In practice what has happened is that the government is reducing the amount of grant it gives to local authorities and in order for them to balance the books they have to make savings.

The process has been a difficult one – but in Gloucestershire we are on track to deliver our share savings, whilst protecting services to the most vulnerable and without having to increase council tax.

Cut the size of Shire Hall by over 1500 staff.

In order to deliver the savings programme, the council has had to oversee the biggest ever changes to staffing at Shire Hall, from 2010, the headcount of the county council has fallen from 5419 employees to 3847 – reduction of 29%. The council has used voluntary redundancies and non-replacement of retiring staff wherever possible – and focussed job losses on administrative and managerial posts wherever possible.

The civil service headcount nationally has fallen from about 522k to 471k since the coalition government came to power – a fall of 9.8%.

Protected the spend on vulnerable older people.

The administration has reviewed all services and wherever practical efficiency savings have been made, for example the review of the bus service, the implementation of which is now nearly complete, will save about £2m. The brightness of street lights on all main roads has been turned down between 10pm and 5.30 am, saving £170k plus each year.

Social care is the county council's biggest area of expense – amounting to over 50% of the councils spend. It is also a service which is likely to see a considerable increase in demand over the next few years. The increase in the number of elderly people living in Gloucestershire is likely to be greater than anywhere else in the Southwest. We are helping some of the most vulnerable people in our county to stay in their homes as long as possible, or be cared for in care homes.

Unemployed

The level of unemployment in the waterpark is 1.5% (39 people) (ermin 1%) well below the national average of 4.1% , based on the claimant count at the end of March.

SCOEC

I was pleased with the resolution to the Of the SCOEC. MY lobbying to the administration was undoubtedly helped by the support of the local community.

The Youth Support Service, based upon Cirencester, is in the course of extending its operations to South Cerney.

Garbutt Report

I welcome the findings of the Garbutt report into the CWPS, and especially the recommendation on the need to introduce a monitoring officer.

Localism

Masterplan

Roads

One stop pothole filling

- Q. Cllr Stuart enquired if bus service 51 from Cirencester to Swindon was being stopped through South Cerney.
- A. Cllr Parsons agreed to investigate the report.
- Q. Cllr Jay requested that the mobile youth service contact our R-Way Youth Service before it visits. It was patently very rude to just turn up without notifying them.
- A. Cllr Parsons agreed to inform the Cabinet Member responsible.

REVD DAVID BOWERS, VICAR ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, SOUTH CERNEY AND HOLY TRINITY, CERNEY WICK

Revd Bowers stated that he was beginning his fifth year in South Cerney.

We are part of the Churnside Benefice, which comprises South Cerney, Cerney Wick, Siddington and Preston. Our ministry, outreach and worship at All Hallows and Cerney Wick continues to be supported by a team of several people, including two honorary ordained colleagues, John Martin and Don Adams, a team of Readers – Joan Townsend, Richard Wrightson, Bill Irving and Helen Caine. Liz Pearse completes her reader training this year and will be licensed in Gloucester Cathedral in September. I also enjoy the fellowship of three very dedicated, though slightly less active, retired priests in the benefice: John Lugg, Robert Llewelyn and Roy Lambert.

Joan Townsend retired as Benefice Administrator at the end of July last year and was replaced by Carol Adams, who is in our church office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Our churchwardens, Tony Squire and Vicki Jones, also play an important and vital role in church life and we once again wish Tony well with his continuing treatment.

International Links

For the last few years we have supported Dr Nick and Kate Wooding, as they work in Kampala, Uganda in community health projects, sponsored by the Church Mission Society. Last July they briefly visited South Cerney and we heard their latest news.

We also have a very active link with the village of Garidepalli in the Dornakal Diocese in Andhra Pradesh, South India. A small group of us from South Cerney went out last August for the dedication of the new church building, which was funded by our benefice, and in April this year we went for the opening of the Children's Day Care Centre, also funded from here. It has been named the "Churnside Day Care Centre" after our benefice. We have also had two visits from the Bishop of Dornakal, Bishop Devamani, over the last year, as well as entertaining a priest from the diocese, Rev John Babu Rao, for a week.

In July this year three young people from our parish will be part of a group that I am leading on a three-week visit to Bangalore, working mainly in projects for street children.

Community Links

We continue to enjoy a close relationship with Ann Edwards Church of England School, as well as with other groups and organisations in the village. I am Officiating Chaplain at 29 Regiment RLC here in South Cerney, now also joined by 104 Logistic Support Brigade. The regiment join us for Remembrance Sunday, the Carol Service and other events.

Ecumenically, we continue to enjoy a close relationship with the United Church and share a number of services each year.

We look forward to a successful – and dry – Street Fair weekend this year and hope that we are able to help many local organisations to raise funds.

Outreach

Messy Church continues to be an exciting and well-supported event each month, as is our programme of children's workshops at various times of the year. Also, our under-5s service remains an established part of church life and is appreciated by those who come to it. On the third Sunday of each month we have Family Church, an all-age service, accompanied by our up and coming music group.

What are called "occasional offices" i.e. baptisms, weddings and funerals continue to keep us fairly busy. During the last twelve months we conducted 20 baptisms, 11 weddings and 14 burials. We have a new series of baptism preparation sessions for families as well as a marriage preparation day.

Practical Projects

Having carried out a very thorough historical survey of the churchyard, Richard Wrightson has now compiled a full record of marriages in South Cerney back to the 17th' century.

The pewter flagons, restored with the help of grants from the Parish Council and the South Cerney Trust, are now with the museum in Cirencester, awaiting a faculty from the Diocese.

Three of the historic stone memorials in the churchyard have been restored and repaired with a grant from the Parish Council issued a couple of years ago. There are five more to be completed.

Finally, we are grateful to the Parish Council for funding the grass cutting in the churchyard and for the grants towards the Street Fair and the lighting of the church path.

RETA-MAY MATTHEWS, SENIOR STEWARD, SOUTH CERNEY UNITED CHURCH – REPORT

As the Senior Steward of South Cerney United Church, I have been presenting reports at this meeting since 2007 when some in the village were not even aware of our existence. Over time we have become more of a village presence and so my report this year can be even shorter than usual. First I would like to introduce our current minister Revd James Taylor who is attending this meeting for the first time and who I am sure has already learned a lot about the village and all the work that is done to sustain it.

Secondly I would like to thank the Parish Council for the generous grant we received last week to support our church and the work we continue to do for those in the community. I won't list all the activities we run, sponsor or allow our building to be used for. You need only read our door notices to learn that information. They cover everything from children's programs to healthy lifestyle classes, charity events, music classes and just plain socialising; something for everyone.

We have a strong sense of community and very good working relationships with village organisations many who we would like to thank for their support when we were fund raising for our Memorial Garden which is now complete and being used when the weather cooperates. It is especially appreciated by the children who come to our regular Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions.

In addition to our garden another big achievement has been Cafe Church which has proven more popular than we expected. This Sunday we will be presenting our 19th session and if you would like to see what it is all about we invite you to join us for breakfast at 9:30 am and/or a short service at 10:30 am. If the weather is fine you can have a tour of the garden as well.

If you would like to know more about anything we run as a church or any other events held on our premises please contact me anytime. We are always happy to provide you with information that might prove useful to you or someone else you may know in the community who would benefit from our activities. There is no need to be lonely or bored in South Cerney. We are very fortunate to live in a village with so much community awareness and support to people of all ages and we are proud to be part of that foundation.

ANN EDWARDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – REPORT PRESENTED BY MATT McCAHILL, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

School Numbers

The school currently has 243 children on roll in 9 classes. We have had sustainable movement over the last year with 8% mobility mainly linked to the 29th Regiment and the Traveller community. For this September 32 year 6 children will leave us as they begin secondary education, and currently we have 44 registered to start in reception.

Personnel

We have seen some changes in staff this year. Miss Powell our Deputy Head is moving on after 13 years to pastures new from September and Mrs Christine Hall, our admin officer has retired after 21 years of service to the school. Mr Andrew Kirkup, class teacher left us last September moving to another school closer to home, and Mr Darren Barker, Mrs Carolyn James, Mrs Jo Jones and Mrs Lauraine Cheeseman (all teaching assistants) left due to funding being removed.

The governing body has also seen more changes with Mr David Martin joining as a governor providing a link with the 29th Regiment, and Ruth Lewis joining as a new foundation governor. We continue to welcome a number of residents in as volunteer helpers and they are doing a wonderful job in the school, providing a wide range of support. We have also provided training placements for a range of students from the University of Gloucester.

Curriculum and SATS

All the children in Y6 and Y2 are currently taking their statutory SATs (Standard Attainment Tests). Our SATs results for 2011 were excellent and placed us in the top 17% of schools nationally, a significant step forward from being in the top 60% of schools in 2010. This was due to the focused effort and contribution from all children, staff and governors to raise attainment levels within the school. This commitment continues through the school development plan to maintain and continually improve standards which is actively monitored by the governing body. This year the school has also really embraced the “creative curriculum” and there has been a great improvement in the children’s engagement and excitement relating to their learning, resulting in excellent feedback from both our children and their parents. We have taken the children on numerous trips as part of the wider curriculum and our thanks in particular to the Forest School for allowing our children to visit and have great fun with their learning. Miss Lund (reception teacher) is training as a forest school leader and we are looking to develop our grounds along the forest school lines. We have just introduced a Marvellous Manners Menu that aims to highlight the importance of good manners and to reward those children who show them.

OFSTED and Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS)

In June last year we were inspected by an OFSTED team led by a HMI inspector and we were graded satisfactory overall with 13 good aspects and an outstanding for care support and guidance. Due to timing of the inspection the primary achievement data was the SATs results of 2010 (60th percentile), which as above significantly improved last year (17th percentile). Our SIAS inspection team judged our provision for leadership and management and collective worship to be good and our provision for developing a distinctive Christian ethos to be outstanding. Both inspections have led to action plans which are being implemented now and are monitored by the governing body.

Other Extra Curricular School Activities

The school continues to offer a full range of after school clubs including for example, football, netball, tag rugby, multi-sports, athletics, stay and play, judo, drama, newspaper and art and craft, all well attended by our pupils. Our Y4, Y5 and Y6 children will soon be (or have) taking part in residential visits to Braeside in Devizes, PGL Liddington and Skern Lodge. Our after school and holiday club run by Gooseberry Bush and our breakfast club have again proved very popular.

Our PTA has organised a wide range of wonderful events that have been enjoyed by the children ranging from discos, Christmas Fayres and Mothers' Day sales to film nights and they have been lovely events to attend, our thanks for all their hard work. We have taken part in many sporting events and our pupils have just taken part in the recent cross country events with finishes ranging from 4th to 40th but all pupils represented the school superbly and showed real character. Recently the school took part in the local willow pageant and last term our KS1 children performed the nativity based play, Christmas with the Aliens. We were also visited by Charlie Martell this term before he sets off on his single handed crossing of the Pacific ocean and the children were fascinated by his boat (which he brought in!).

Other Projects

We have had visits from the Lifestyle Education Bus, Nick Williams the Birdman and the children have visited SCOEC on many occasions. We held our Harvest Festival earlier in the year and our thanks to Kathryn Harris for once again co-ordinating this lovely event each year. We have installed a Spiritual garden and last term we welcomed the Bishop of Gloucester and other visitors to officially bless it even if it was in the wind and rain! We have applied for two tranches of funding that will allow us to develop the front entrance of the school and other areas to develop provision for our children from service families.

Links with the Community

We have started to strengthen our links with the Parish Council and we look forward to a productive relationship that will improve the local environment for the children of the school and the village. Our thanks for the road line markings and for giving approval for the school signs in the village and we look forward to working with you to raise awareness of clearing up after your dog. Our links with the All Hallows church community provided many opportunities for our children to learn about a whole range of values and celebrations and our thanks to all the teams who organised the experience events and who come into school weekly to share bible stories with the children.

All in all another busy year to date where the children have really blossomed. The whole school staff and governors remained dedicated to continue to develop and improve the school, we are really proud of what has been achieved over the past year and will continue to build on this success through the school development plan.

Please feel free to come and visit us at any time and to see for yourself what is going on in our local school.

MIKE STUART – CHAIRMAN OF THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been an interesting and quite positive year for our village hall. This committee has met on five occasions and a great deal of work has gone on in the management field all year long. Changes have occurred and there are more to come in the near future.

We stopped being part of the CDC rural cinema scheme and replaced Cerney Cinema with our own Village Hall Club. We still show films once a month and also have other events for the members and guests. As you all know, to have an annual membership fee from nearly a hundred people as we have at present, gives us a lot more money than we were getting from the old scheme where we often struggled to break even at the showings. Now it doesn't matter if only a few turn up, we have still made our profit. Add to that the massive savings we make by not having to pay so much to the distributors plus the profit from the raffle and bar, and you can see we are much better off. We have almost a hundred members and usually we have a few guests or temporary members at each meeting. It will be interesting to see how many rejoin in September. I must thank those who have made such a change to the scheme. To have Christina and Mike Pollard, Joy and Derek Carter and Chris Metcalf running the club backed up by Hillary doing the raffle and Gill and Roger Scott keeping the bar stocked is marvellous and sincere thanks to all of them. It is also excellent to see so many of the members staying behind to help put away the tables and chairs.

We used the AV system to show the Royal Wedding which was a great success.

The new chairs were purchased and they certainly are easier to stack and store. Roger has been busy and is doing great things to conserve energy in the hall. In these days of ever increasing energy costs anything to help save money must be applauded.

Roger and Gill Scott are doing an ever increasing amount of work in the running of this hall. To have someone to take over the piles of paper work is such a relief.

John Veitch continues to look after the Hall extremely well and is helped so much by his wife Dee and by Mike Raymond.

The thatch on the front slope needs redoing and we are seeking grants from various sources. Again Roger and Gill are doing great work but our main problem has been finding three thatchers to give us competitive quotes. Hopefully I have solved that problem and we should be able to have everything we need in the next few days. Remember that Parish Council already has a sizeable sum put aside for the work so we are more than half way there already.

Away from the hall the most important development in our village will be the building of the new houses on the old Bradley site. The spin off which will effect the village hall will be the new purpose built Community Youth and Sports Hall. This is not an opponent for the village hall; it is to be an additional facility for everyone in the community to use. A separate body of people will be needed to set up the Centre and then to take over the running of it. Parish Council has strong ideas already formulated and will be setting up the new teams in the near future. Detailed plans of the new building will need to be submitted to CDC for approval but first the revised location of the building must be approved along with the plan for the dwellings. I believe that will be before the CDC planners in June.

The most important development which certainly is causing us a great deal of concern is the proposed building of new houses behind our hall. Recently the land has been offered for sale by Mrs Godwin's agents. When we heard about this happening we ensured that all prospective purchasers were definitely aware that we challenged there being a Right of Way to the site for anything other than agricultural purposes, by having our solicitor send a strongly worded letter to the agents. In it we insisted that all interested parties had to be under no misconception as to the situation. This had immediate results. I received a series of telephone calls from the selling agents wishing to enter into discussions on how to deal with the problem. However, since the first conversations I have heard no more from the man so I cannot report as to what is going on. Except to tell you that the Management Committee has agreed to appoint a chartered surveyor to carry out any negotiation on our behalf.

The next few weeks should be interesting!

There being no further business Cllr Stuart thanked all those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.07 pm.