

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
ARNCOTT PARISH COUNCIL, VILLAGE HALL
ON Tuesday 1st May 2018, AT 7.30PM**

Present: Paul Wilson (Chairman), Lee Savidge, Di Selby, Peter Barnard.

Apologies: , Ade Doore, Martin Byrne and Andy Poppitt.

Also Present:

12 Parishioners
Kevin Jessop (Garrison Adjutant)
Kaye Forrest (ACA/300 Club)
Christine Dunkin (Craft Club and Friendship Club)
Dan Sames (OCC)
David Hughes (CDC)
Representatives of Village organisations and societies.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 2nd May 2017, having been circulated, were approved as drawn.

2. Chairman's Report

Attached.

3. Finance

The Clerk reported that, as residents will see paper in front of them, the Parish Council has a balance of £75266.73 in its Cambridge Building Society account at the end of March 2018 (which includes some interest when £50,000 of this money is to cover maintenance costs in the new playgrounds that have been transferred to the Parish Council by CDC) It also has £56825.94 in its Barclays Bank Account. The Parish Council now has a project (led by Cllr Peter Barnard) to improve the facilities for the playing field and village Hall, which will utilise some of the money held and will also use the £50000 or so held by Cherwell District Council to improve "off site sports facilities" in the Village. Cherwell District Council also have a further £7500 allocated towards a community art project, which is likely to get underway later in 2018, with the new art installation being in place in the spring 2019.

4 Garrison

Kevin Jessop, the Garrison Adjutant, explained that he was pleased that the MOD had at last sorted out the pot hole at the level crossing – and confirmed that if there was a need to contact the garrison out of hours, this contact should be made through the Guardroom. He confirmed that the unit at St David's Barracks is likely to remain there until 2028, and then it is hoped that it will be replaced by another unit. To ensure the viability of the Bicester Garrison it is important that there is a critical mass of soldiers to keep their structure of support – medical centre, shop, recreational facilities etc. The MOD are currently looking at their land holding and it is possible that connections with the MOD base at Kineton will be strengthened to create an arc of engineering excellence between Kineton and Bicester. He confirmed that there had been a significant investment in the DEMS unit on A site, which, because of this, was likely to continue into the foreseeable future.

Q Is there any likelihood of munitions being stored at Arncott?

A No as Kineton has special structures needed to store these.

Q Will the MD provide a presence for the Parish fete?

A Provided the cost is low enough and it is seen as community involvement.

5 Village Hall

See Chairman's report attached.

6. Arncott Community Association/300 Club

Kaye Forrest, newly appointed treasurer for the ACA and 300 Club reported that, in the financial year ending March 2018 the total collected from 300club members was £1,285.50, with winnings paid out

of £ 540.00. The balance of £745.50 was used to fund both the Children's Christmas Party and the Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch.

Children's Christmas Party

This lovely event was organised by three mums from the village and she expressed thanks to these residents for giving up some of their precious time to organise this very well attended party. 66 children from Arncott and another 10 from outside the village (who paid a small fee) all joined in the fun at the Party. Thanks also goes to the wonderful Father Christmas and the entertainer. £400 was used from the 300 Club with donations from both villagers and the new owners of the Moto Cross to whom thanks were extended.

Senior Citizen's Lunch

This was organised by the VHMC and the ACA jointly this year. Thanks to residents for all their help alongside VHMC and ACA members.

There were 50 residents from the village, and 14 from Ambrosden, Piddington and Bicester (who paid £5 for their lunch).

It was wonderful to see residents from other villages joining us in this event.

Everyone was welcomed with a glass of sherry, or soft drink. Red and white wine was served with a most delicious traditional Christmas dinner. Port, Brandy, whisky Tea and Coffee were also served after the meal. There was then plenty of dancing and singing along to the music.

The Scouts got the tables and chairs out the night before, which was very much appreciated.

She gave thanks to members of the 300 Club and those that give their time to be collectors for their continued support. The 300 club is a monthly draw which costs 50p per month The top monthly prize is £20 with additional smaller prizes. It is the primary source of income to fund the parties and if anyone would like to take a membership it please contact the organiser.

ACA FINANCES 1st April 17 – 29 March 18

Savings Account - £7,308.66

Current Account - £1,058.72

She thanked all the Villagers who support the ACA and the VHMC, as without this support, they would not be able to fund raise and provide the two Christmas events for the young and elderly of the village.

A big thank you also goes to the auditor of the 300Club/ACA accounts.

7. Crafters' Club.

Arncott Crafter's Club meets every Thursday in the Common Room at Greenfields between 6.30 and 8.30pm. Current crafts are knitting, card making, crochet, quilting and cross stitch. The cost is £1.00 per session and new members are very welcome..

8 Friendship Club

The Friendship Club has been running for about 25 years and now has about 12 members and meets at 1.45 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. in the Common Room at Greenfields.. They have a wide variety of events, including Bingo, quiz and raffles with refreshments. It is suitable for every taste and all residents of Arncott are very welcome. .The Club is most concerned that the Greenfields Common room is under threat of development by Sanctuary Homes.

9. OCC Report

Dan Sames OCC Councillor reported that he had had a busy year trying to support the parishes in his Division. The majority of his work load has been chasing up the repair of potholes. He advised the meeting of the availability of his £15,000 Community Fund available for parish projects.

Q Could he report the drainage issue in Lower Arncott

A He will raise it with OCC

Q Ardley tip is now charging per item of waste – it would be more sensible to charge per car

A He will raise with OCC.

He explained that Highways England will announce the route of the Oxford To Cambridge Expressway in the Summer 2018.He understands that the route across Otmoor is likely to be the most expensive and plans to discuss the options with friends of the Earth.

10. CDC Report

David Hughes was advised about the village's concern that rubbish had been tipped at the old playground site in Woodpiece road. He suggested that, if the village had a plan for its future it is possible that CDC could provide a grant to assist the project.

12 Any Other Business

A resident expressed concern at the state of the former playground in Woodpiece Road – where rubbish has now been tipped, and which requires clearing.

The Parish was reminded that the Village Hall security light needs fixing, and it was noted that, with the new generator, the Village Hall could provide meals in the event of a power cut. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response to the suggestion that volunteers were needed to form a Neighbourhood Watch group.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm