

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
ARNCOTT PARISH COUNCIL, VILLAGE HALL
ON May 7th 2024 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Paul Wilson (Chairman), Paul Hooper, Alex Dean, Martin Byrne and Daniel Cooper
Apologies: Luke Collins, Dinesh Patel. Cllr C Miller (OCC)
Cllr G Coton (CDC)
Also Present: Kevin Jessop | GSO / UWO | HQ Bicester Garrison
Cllr J Nedelcu and Cllr A Russell (CDC)
6 Parishioners
Representatives of Village organisations and societies.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 23rd May 2023, having been circulated, were approved as drawn.

2. Councillors' Report

Cllr Nedelcu introduced the new Liberal Democrat Councillor for CDC – Cllr Alisa Russell, to the meeting and confirmed that the Liberal Democrats were now the largest party on Cherwell District Council, with 17 Councillors. There will be a meeting of Cherwell District Council on 22nd May, when it is hoped that Councillors will have agreed to form an Executive.

3. Mod Update

Kevin Jessop reported that his role was as the MOD liaison point for the area, for Parish and town Councils, together with Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. He pointed out that the MOD had issues similar to those experienced by the Parish Council with planning applications that were not notified to either the MOD or, in his experience, the local prison.

The MOD holdings around Arncott are now a location for multi-national military training, including search and rescue, and he tries to ensure that the residents of Arncott are aware of proposals for noisy training activities on MOD land.

He warned the Parish to expect some HGV movements, as AJAX – a large multi-function vehicle, will be moved into St Georges Barracks.

Residents expressed concerns about the speed of HGVs through the village, and he agreed to refer these to the appropriate people. However, he advised the Parish that the Depot was the major refuelling point for Army HGVs. If this causes problems he advised that registration numbers are reported to the MOD, as vehicles can be tracked.

He advised that the current state of MOD premises meant that a number were being upgraded, and new constructions of modular units were planned. Following concerns expressed about the number of MOD vehicles he agreed to ask if materials for this improvement could be shipped into the site via the back gate.

He advised residents that military guards from St Georges Barracks may, at times, be seen to be carrying weapons.

Residents expressed concern about the length of time it took the MOD to carry out repairs, and asked if a request could be made to the MOD to clear the drainage ditch inside C site adjacent to the football pitch, as the water had flooded and at times, rendered the football pitch unusable.

He reminded the Parish that 29th June was Armed Forces Day, and the flag would be raised in Garth Park on 28th June.

A resident of the area where the gate guardians had been located could be screened. It was confirmed that the Defence Infrastructure Organisation was now considering development of the area where the old railway shed was sited.

4. Chairman's Report

Attached.

5. Finance

The Clerk reported that, during the financial year 2023/4 the Parish Council received the last instalment of s106 monies from CDC- in the sum of £175631.19, which means that, at the end of the financial year the Parish accounts had a total held of £248,859.35. The end of year accounts would very shortly be displayed on the Parish Council website, and the Clerk confirmed she welcomed any questions from residents.

6. Village Hall

The Village Hall committee has recently changed its banking arrangements to Unity trust bank, and currently holds about £30,000 in its bank account. They were now receiving part of the income from the solar panels on the roof, and they thanked the Chairman of the Parish council for his help in reclaiming this. By retaining the Village Hall Charitable status the Village Hall saves about £3000pa on Council tax.

7. Arcott Community Association/300 Club

The ACA and the Village Hall Committee have the same personnel, and meet every 2 months.

8. Football Club

The club is now playing in Division 1 of the Banbury League. The team has a new training kit, which has been sponsored for them. The club requested permission to erected moveable 5 a side goals on the pitch, which was granted, and also asked or permission to mow he ground, which was also granted.

8. Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm