

ANSTY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Village meeting held in St James's Church, Ansty
on Wednesday 22nd May 2019 at 6.30pm**

19.05.01 Election of Chairman for the meeting: Cllr Tim Martin elected (TM).

19.05.02 Apologies for absence: Barrie Shore, Anne Martin, Tim Plumptre

19.05.03 Present: Chair Cllr Tim Martin (TM), Wiltshire Cllr Jose Green (JG), Cllr Juliette Foy (JF), Cllr Mathew Feltham (MF), Cllr Rob Wilkinson (RW), Parish Clerk Julie Ann Murphy (JAM), Lesley Simm (LS), Judith Wilkinson (JW), Jon Gooding (JG), Wendy Dykes (WD), Jonathan Ranger (JR), Caroline Plumptre (CP)

19.05.04 Approval of minutes of meeting held on 23rd May 2018: Minutes approved with correction noted of Jaci Baker wrongly named as architect and Eileen Roe wrongly mentioned. Minutes approved by all present and signed as true record of last year's village meeting by Cllr TM.

19.05.05 Matters arising from last year's minutes: Cllr TM: i) Flood Plan: discussed last year and completed last November and is now on the Website. ii) Identification of potential flood areas in Ansty are contained within the Flood Plan. iii) Bespoke signs for May Day: Tisbury PC had these made and offered to us at discounted price so therefore purchased by APC. iv) Three fields owned by Clouds Estates (farmed by Trevor Marks) mentioned by Jaci Baker as suitable for special protection as perfect natural meadow. Cllr RW investigated this issue and was told by Trevor Marks that there is nothing in their stewardship that obliges them to maintain them as wild flower meadows although they do try their best even though there is a lack of manpower to truly do them justice. Also, Trevor Marks is going to complete the cutting of the hedge in Ansty Combe, but he highlighted how dogs are not kept on leads and people do not keep to rights of way or clear up after their dogs.

19.05.06 Chairman's annual report: Cllr Tim Martin:

In summary: there were successful events over the last year which includes opening Ansty's own bridge that was dedicated to Eileen Fisher Roe; a well-attended litter pick, establishment of a part time SID in the village, the coming of age of the Ansty website and winning our region's Best Kept Village competition and runner up in the Wiltshire wide small village category, and finally, acquiring a public bench for the graveyard to be used by villagers and passersby.

SID: The SID was purchased in conjunction with Swallowcliffe and Fovant parish councils. Wiltshire Council paid roughly 50% of the cost and the remaining half was paid by the three parishes. So we paid about 1/6 of the purchase price and have it for 1/3 of the time. The SID is used in rotation with three weeks in each parish and then passed on. Anyone who has watched the vehicles coming into Ansty from the A30 will have seen the majority that are doing over 30mph, braking and generally coming down to 30mph. Average speeds are below 25mph. Average speed is not particularly meaningful as some vehicles proceed slowly, particularly if they are looking at the pond and scenery, while others pass through above 30mph. A more informative statistic is the 85percentile speed. What this tells us is that arguably 85% of vehicles are doing about 30mph or less. The SID also counts the number of vehicles passing as well as the speeds. This shows that on a typical weekday we have about 700 vehicles in each direction. It does vary day to day, sometimes by more than 100 vehicles. The numbers are less on Saturday and less again on Sunday. There are some hours over night when no vehicles are recorded within the hour.

The SID was a significant expenditure at about £650 to purchase and install. We had allowed £1,000 for the SID in our budget, but by undertaking the foundation work ourselves it cost us significantly less and is afforded without having to boost the precept for this.

Precept: We have one of the lowest precepts in the area. I looked at 17 parishes local to us and we have the lowest precept bar one. Our finances are stable year on year. We increased the precept by £100 this year, increasing the Council tax for a Band D property by £1.35 per annum.

Village Website: All those that have visited our website will know what an asset we have. It now has a wealth of information, not just a business archive for the parish council, but details of what's happening locally, a section on local history, historical maps, geographical insights, instant write ups on events, planning records, pictures galore, footpath details even our own weather station. When Cllr Rob Wilkinson took it over, perhaps 18 months ago, we were struggling for content, but now it is burgeoning with material. Well done Rob.

Ansty's Footpaths: All brought up to working order but require ongoing maintenance.

Ansty's Emergency Plan: This includes our Flood Plan. It went through a number of iterations and was signed off at our November 18 PC meeting. It is published on our village website for reference.

Planning: We have dealt with a number of Planning applications and issues in the last year. Taking Planning decisions in a small community brings its own difficulties. With just 50 or so houses in the parish views can too easily be as much about people, as property. We have to guard against this. During the course of this year the PC has published a procedure for when we are consulted by Wiltshire Council on Planning matters. This is to ensure we are as consistent and transparent as possible. This document was tabled, discussed and agreed at the November parish council meeting and is logged on our village website for your reference. Issues of non-compliance with granted consents are the most protracted and the most time consuming planning matters. This year we have been dealing with three such instances, 90 Blind Lane, Quarry Farm and Pennyfarthing Cottage. I am hopeful that these are approaching closure and we shall report back on these at the Parish council meetings.

Parish steward: Cllr Mathew Feltham has been trying hard to boost the output from our Parish steward when he visits for one day each month. Whilst there are things we would like done, they so often fall outside his limited repertoire of jobs he is able (willing) to perform.

Dark skies: In November we were approached by Amanda Scott from the Dark Skies team at Cranborne Chase AONB. They have spent the last year or so compiling a bid to secure International Dark Skies Status. It is really building on what we already have and that is minimal light pollution, giving us dark skies and the opportunity to see the stars and planets.

Bridge Dedication to Aileen Fisher Rowe in January: A low-key event was planned, Martin Shallcross officiated and Chris Smith read a befitting poem she had written about Eileen. This was a lovely village event which some 40 people attended.

Litter pick – 30th March: Very successful litter pick this year, once we overcame the Novichok risk assessments. We had 15 able volunteers and 7 bags of rubbish were collected.

Tisbury Neighbourhood Plan – April: Concerning the development of a combined Neighbourhood Plan by Tisbury and West Tisbury parish councils. The draft plan was submitted last year and following some comments and recommendations, it was circulated for final comments, at the end of

the year. In some respects the Plan has a greater impact on Ansty and indeed the other surrounding villages, than on Tisbury itself. Traffic is the obvious example. And so the expansion plans for Tisbury are of interest to us, as they will certainly generate more through traffic, both heavy commercial vehicles and cars. Ansty parish council made a submission, which incidentally was also fully supported by Swallowcliffe Council.

Morwenna Brewer

I would like to thank Morwenna for her long service to the parish council over many years, I'm told 10 years! I have had the privilege to work with Morwenna on the PC for the last two years and know, as you will, her absolute commitment to the village and the very considerable contribution she has made. For instance, we were discussing the possibility of putting our BKV winnings towards a new bench somewhere in the village. Before you could say the word bench, Morwenna had 3 or 4 bench options to consider, prices, delivery thrown in, costs for the addition of a plaque. It goes without saying Morwenna will be sorely missed.

So on behalf of the parish council and the village thank you for your amazing contribution while you have been on the parish council and I hope we can still come to you for advice.

19.05.07 Wiltshire Councillor Annual Report: Cllr Jose Green:

It is now 10 years since Wiltshire Council (WC) became Unitary. Previously, it was Salisbury District Council who was the main point of contact for the services they provided. Now argued, whether it has been replaced by greater efficiency and joined up thinking (which in turn leads to savings and less bureaucracy) remains a matter of opinion!! 350 services are still provided by WC with social services being the greatest demand and rising as the population grows older, the number of vulnerable children that require looking after also increases year on year.

It is always a pleasure to present my annual report to the Parishes within the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division, I shall endeavor to keep it short but with a caveat that I am always available to answer any queries you might have.

I'm sure many of you have noticed how much publicity Salisbury is receiving post the Novichok incident; with high profile visits from Royalty to Politicians in the last year, it all forms part of the Salisbury recovery programme which will bring tourists to visit and stay in and around the City. There are many events planned for this coming year but over the last year some very many memorable occasions took place.

Wiltshire Council has approved a 3% increase in the Council Tax (CT) for this coming year. This is the level of increase permitted without having to hold a referendum, every year it is a constant challenge to make savings at every opportunity sometimes at a cost to staff, providers and users. I accept that CT can be the biggest burden a household is required to find and it would appear, that as residents in rural areas, we do not receive the numerous services and easy access to facilities that others have; I must emphasise though, a balanced budget is imperative and that has been achieved again this year, also, it is the first time that WC hasn't been reliant on the Government's grant to achieve it.

There was a full and lengthy debate on Climate Change at Full Council in February, mainly revolving around what further measures can be taken to make the County progress towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. This subject was partly brought about by the actions school students highlighted by going on strike and emphasised by the occasional very warm days in February thankfully followed by typical March weather. In past reports I have mentioned the investment WC is making by replacing the street lighting to LED bulbs, this coming year there will be many other measures introduced to reduce our carbon footprint, a few examples are pressing for new eco 'built housing, promote car share, encourage electric cars by installing more charging points, address air quality, by not using single use plastics and at every opportunity to educate and promote greater levels of reducing, recycling and reusing our household waste.

Every year I attempt to tell you what might be of the greatest interest to you rather than what might be the most relevant to the 14 parishes I represent. Looking to the future you might be aware of the proposals the Local Government Boundary Commission of England (LGBCE) have suggested in their review of the Wiltshire Divisions ; although I didn't receive any direct representation from anyone about the consultation, WC and the Boundary Commission did. The LGBCE accepts that Wiltshire Council retains the existing 98 Councillors but some boundaries will change so that each Division has an equitable number of electors based on a population assessment in 2024, therefore there is a possibility that Coombe Bissett, Homington and Odstock will come into Fovant and Chalke Valley and Compton Chamberlayne, Netherhampton Village and Tollard Royal would move in to neighbouring Divisions, finally the 'built up' part of Netherhampton would go into Harnham. We must wait to hear what the final decision will be which will then come into effect in 2021 elections. Whatever the proposals it is Parliament that confirms the final outcome, not WC.

Highways; always the greatest concern to most and which remains a high priority. The Speed Indication Scheme (SID's) the Area Board partly financed last year has proven to be popular, successful and effective. The 20mph speed limits remain popular and a further 2 villages will be chosen again this coming year in our area if the Parish requests it. The Police must play their part in enforcement. A further £8 million from Government will be spent on improving the highways and street scene across Wiltshire, this is an additional sum above the £21m spent year on year in maintaining our roads, we must be sure the workmanship and quality is upheld.

The Centenary of WW1 was commemorated with the planting of 10,000 trees across Wiltshire. Not the tallest specimens but a lasting memorial to remember those 10,000 Wiltshire men who died during those war years. Again, I compliment the efforts of those who reinstated the Badges at Fovant, Sutton Mandeville and Compton Chamberlayne. The Armistice Day service on Compton Down was very moving.

Anyone reading my reports regularly will know I often mention the plight of the Syrian Refugees, It has been recently agreed that Wiltshire will take 10 vulnerable, unaccompanied children per year over the next 10 years dependent on having foster homes in place as part of the Safe Passage, Our Turn campaign. As you might be aware this has been likened to the Kindertransport event during WW2.

98% of Wiltshire's school children have been offered places in their preferred secondary schools. 93% were their parents first choice up 1%. 4% attend their 2nd choice and 1% their 3rd, in total 4981 applications were received, (up 174 from the previous year) out of this figure 102 parents did not get an offer of their preferred school which is disappointing. Obviously, they have the right to appeal.

WC has a 'smoke free 'policy in place on Council owned property. The 3 main Hubs have introduced it already which prohibits smoking in the grounds. Vaping is permitted by the public and staff outside but requested to do so away from the entrances of the buildings.

On a personal level in the last year I have remained Chair of the Area Board and vice chair of the Licensing Committee, I sit on the Southern Area Planning Committee, the School Transport Appeals Panel the Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership Board and the Environment Select, plus many other commitments. I'm always happy to support grant applications and there have been a number of successful ones in my Division over the last year.

My priority has always been to listen and hopefully help those who approach me with an understanding that by working together we can do our utmost to ensure the fairest and best outcomes for all.

19.05.08 Report on May Day celebrations 2019: On behalf of Anne, Chair of the Maypole Committee, Caroline Plumptre Treasurer, presented a report on this year's once again successful May Day. This year Ansty's first ever May King was crowned. Many thanks to all who played a part in the enormous amount of work that went into the preparation, planning and publicity for this happy

village event. Also thanks to the sponsors. Attendance was probably a little down due to different factors but a profit of just under £1,000 was made which means we are beginning to build up a good reserve fund for future Maypole repairs or replacement. This is important because tradition dictates that should the Maypole need unexpected replacing this must be effected in one day only – so fundraising or applying for grants would be virtually impossible. Once reserves have increased; the wishes of some villagers for a donation to charity may be possible.

19.05.09 The ‘Villager’ update: Lesley Simm’s report on the publication of the latest ‘Villager’ distributed to Ansty village and friends of Ansty. Thanks to the team who worked on it: Emily Diamond for the layout; Wendy Dykes for her illustrations, also Louise Gooding for her editorial. LS highlighted in her report the links to the website, and how the ‘Villager’ is a quick source for local phone numbers and information. Future publications will probably be thrice yearly and will include nature notes and any suggestions welcomed.

19.05.10 Best Kept Village Competition 2019 update: Cllr Rob Wilkinson reports that Ansty will enter again this year and judging is from mid May to mid June.

19.05.11 Open Forum: (i) JW concerned that the village notice board is situated in a dangerous place. Cllr TM replies that the APC is looking for a better location perhaps near the Willow tree. APC to action. (ii) Cllr JG requests update on the pond, Cllr TM replies that he will email Charlie for an update. Also Cllr JG requests update on Rob Beale’s road and the work being carried out, and access. Cllr TM has requested information from the planners but as yet has had no reply. He states that the road had subsidence hence repairs and landscaping is still to be completed.

19.05.12 Date of next Village meeting: Wednesday 20th May 2020

19.05.13 AOB & Closure: Meeting closed at 19.46

SIGNED: