

EVERCREECH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 15th May 2018 at 7.00pm at the village hall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Barry O'Leary (Chair) & Cllr Murray Stewart (Acting Clerk).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Michelle Phillips (Clerk) – Unwell.

District Cllr Peter Bradshaw and 35 members of the public.

AGENDA

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed everyone.

The Chair advised that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2017 were not available at this meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR – Cllr Barry O'Leary

12 meetings held during the year

No extraordinary meetings

1 Annual Parish Meeting

1 co-option. Now have full council

2 sub-committees. Finance and Staffing

2 employees. 1 x clerk and 1 x street cleaner

- staff now entitled to pensions, so cost implications going forward

Creation of Parish Community Support Fund

- support given to Evercreech Show and Village Hall

FINANCIAL REPORT – supplied by Clerk Michelle Phillips, read out by Chair Cllr Barry O'Leary.

To summarise for 2017/18 the Parish Council spent £38,509.00 and received £39,217.00 as income including the precept.

Main areas of expenditure were:

Loan repayments in August/17 and February/18 of £4,403 each totalling £8,806.

No grants received in 2017/18 year

Other areas of expenditure – few examples:

Clerk and street cleaner's salaries, insurance,

grass and hedge cutting (including the cemetery), Evercreech Support Fund, Village Christmas Tree, New Accounting Software, PC Laptop & Accessories.

To list but a few

To summarise the main items received as income:

£46,586 Carry forward from 2016/17

£32,492 precept

£4,347 Cemetery/burial fees

For 2018/19

The precept increased to £34,434.

There is a carry forward balance of £47,295.

The two loan repayments of £4,402 will again be due in Aug & Feb totalling £8,806

Chair added:

Single largest expense is Weston Town playing field loan at £8800 pa

Outstanding loan period is 17 years

Only Council source of revenue is the cemetery.

CEMETERY – supplied by Clerk Michelle Phillips, read out by Chair Cllr Barry O’Leary.

Income for cemetery was £4,347 made up from purchase, burial and memorial fees.

Expenditure was £3,083 which consists of grass cutting total £2,354, the emptying of bins £639 and ICCM Subscription £90.

Chair added:

Lacks statistical data and year on year comparison

BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND – Rupert Cox Chief Ex

£30k to support charitable objectives inc bursaries to young trainees

Established a Royal Enterprise Centre to support start-up rural business

New events including FitFest, Supergroom and Christmas Fayre

Truckfest returning in September

1200 Key Stage 2 children attended Field to Food day inc Evercreech PS

Grassland UK, an international event, was very successful

UK largest Dairy Show returns in October

Bath and West Show new format proving a success

Trustees have agreed to invest £750k in new infrastructure.

Members Pavilion tickets no longer given free, but can be bought for £5

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM Cllr Nigel Hewitt-Cooper

No report. No apologies.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FROM Cllr Peter Bradshaw

See Appendix 1

AVON & CONSTABULARY POLICE – PSCO Guy Dury

No report. No apologies

GREENCORE – Phil Skelding (Site MD)

Desserts plant A closed last week

Desserts plant B closing in 5 weeks

Hopeful of redeploying most staff

History Society involved in archiving 127 year old legacy documents

Decommissioning started, but does not include asbestos related items

Doubling of security guards to ensure 24 hr cover after closure

Site being marketed as a whole. No future yet decided.

Engaging with community via MDC and PC on future.

SPORTS CLUB – Dave Briars

Good publicity in EDIS

Site used for football, rugby, rounders, fitness training and weddings

More helpers required

Car boot sale and open day on 17th June to attract new members

EVERCREECH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION – Becky Steward

20 plots in use

Full, half and quarter plots available

Problem with rabbits, despite fencing
Pub Quiz at The Bell on 9th June to raise funds for communal tools

YOUTH CLUB – Vikki O’Connor

Holding a pizza night to attract interest of older children
Forthcoming trips include a camping night in the locality
Youth worker and assistant undertaking Level 2 diploma Safeguard
Finances healthy at £4.6k with grants from PC, SCF and SCC.

EVERCREECH SHOW SOCIETY - Carol Octon

Fantastic 2017 Show
More stalls and entertainment for 2018 to broaden appeal
Need more people to get involved
Costs over £6k to put on the show, so fundraising crucial
Antiques valuation day raised £400
Plant Sale raised £300
Future events include open gardens, Christmas fayre.
Grateful to PC for financial support
Meeting on 14th June to elect new chair and plan the way forward
Village organisations like Sports Club, Youth Club to work together

EVERCREECH FILM CLUB – Becky Steward

Been going for 1 year
Average 30/40 people per showing
Films for 18+ shown up until now but first children’s film last month
Not yet in profit

OTHER ITEMS – Chair Cllr Barry O’Leary

Queens Rd Play area to have phase 1 rolled out by year-end
Need for organisations to use EDIS, Evercreech News and Online

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION.

Cricket Club future?On agenda for next PC Meeting
Greencore support for Millennium Garden.....under review
Future of defibrillator at Greencore.....unknown

Meeting closed at 8.01pm.

A.P.C.M.

Everreech will witness some fundamental changes this coming year.

You will have read about a proposal by Somerset County Council to seek discussions about making the Authority a unitary council. This has come about largely due to the high cost of providing adult social care and funding children's services. Somerset went public about their intentions prior to both councillors and staff being given advance warning.

Mendip District Council are the envy of many a council due to the way the governance model is fit for purpose in these trying times and the production of a balanced budget. Unitary status puts this at great risk in return for a proposal of saving in excess of £20M should all the councils agree. This would help fund services. The figures are open to debate and I cannot support a proposal that may be seen as asset stripping. Somerset need to reform their governance, and not infect well performing districts with a system that appears not to work. However, it must be the duty of all councils and councillors to support someone in the provision of services which are vital to the public. Savings can only be spent once. The district councils will now enter into discussions with Somerset as to how they wish to proceed, but my initial reaction is that the proposals are deeply flawed.

With regard to the function of decision making and accountability twenty five votes are sufficient at Mendip to stop or proceed with a policy. With a unitary authority the major decisions require a multiplication of at least six, therefore, the influence of your local councillor is greatly diminished, and all for savings that only exist on paper and presented in such a way that will give the maximum "spin".

Another change is that of demographics. The Show Society are in desperate need of new "blood" to preserve many decades of the village show. Where do these people come from, where do all the youngsters of this village go to live. There are a dearth of volunteers

The closure of Greencoat has massive implications for this village. What will happen to the site? In what state will the land be sold ie will the buildings be demolished or left in situ? Will it be sold in plots or as a whole? The first question is whether or not the site will be employment land. If not, for housing alone, or a mixture of housing and employment use at a ratio to be determined.

There is however, one certainty. Whatever the usage there is the only opportunity this century to secure a car park on the site next to the village square, and new shops. It is now time for the village as a whole to engage in the debate, and to enquire if someone says No what is the alternative? The site will be developed for sure, the alternative a decaying relic

The good news is the official opening of the social housing at Maesdon. HOUSING FOR VILLAGERS OR THOSE WITH A STRONG LOCAL CONNECTION. I have said this for six years, and am proud to have played my part in the completion of this Parish inspired project. The new generations of Evercrechers need housing, and it is our duty to provide it, as the high cost of housing and historic low pay puts home ownership out of the reach of many.

Many of you will know I am the Mental Health Champion for Mendip. I can report that mental health is embedded in all the policies of Mendip, that staff have been trained as mental health first aiders, and that progress has been made on many fronts, and especially in removing the stigma, as mental health enjoys PARITY with physical health. I am currently engaged in schemes to make Mendip dementia friendly. To round off this report I leave you with this proven thought "It is possible to live well with dementia".