

Upper Rissington Parish Council

Village Hall, Wellington Road, Upper Rissington, Gloucestershire, GL54 2QW
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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Wednesday 20th April 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

- 1. Welcome Statement from Parish Council Chairman:** Cllr Caroline Maclean opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. A video presentation kindly prepared by a Wayne Fisher was then played.
- 2. Approve Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 1st June 2015.** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Reports were read and received as follows:**

a) Nigel Adams, Head of Democratic Services, Cotswold District Council

- Nigel advised the meeting that the aim of Cotswold District Council is to assist the Parish Council and local residents with some recent complaints made and is working with the Parish Council to ensure that notices and agendas are legal
- A Parish Council is a legal body and Cotswold District Council has little control over a Parish Council. The bar for complaints is high and are mainly involved with Disclosable Pecuniary Interest matters rather than Code of Conduct matters
- Parish Councils have many powers and less duties, but all decisions should be collective
- A Parish Council has a contested election every four years
- At each Parish Council meeting, there should be an opportunity for members of the public to speak
- CDC can send in a District Councillor if the Parish Council membership falls below three but this would only be a short-term arrangement

b) Nigel Moor, District Councillor (report provided by Cllr Moor)

At the Council meeting on the 17th February 2016 Gloucestershire County Council agreed their budget for 2016/17. Just before the budget was finalized the government announced an additional £2.4m for Gloucestershire, and this has allowed an extra £2.075m to be spent on roads including increasing Highways Local to £30k per member and £7,500 per member for additional road maintenance in their areas. In addition, £100k is set aside to pay for designated Traffic Regulation Orders such as that which is to be introduced through Little Rissington.

Part of the funding will be used to roll out the lengthsman programme across the county. Lengthsmen are highways maintenance teams dedicated to an area of the road network, who work to repair minor defects before they can deteriorate. The

schedule has been the subject of a successful year long trial in the Forest of Dean and will now be continued and extended county -wide.

All these measures will help members such as myself respond to requests by parish councils such as yours to deal with local highway issues.

The amendment came as part of a budget for Gloucestershire which saw an additional £2.7m to look after vulnerable older people, an extra £156,000 for children and young people and will now see the roads budget protected too.

Dealing with local issues:

Gloucestershire County Council has agreed to my request that it review its 2014 Pharmacy Needs Assessment in view of the accelerated housing development at Upper Rissington and I hope that this will assist the latest application by Peter Badham.

We are looking to fine tune the early morning schedules for the 802 Bus Service and these changes will be confirmed once we have agreed a scheme to continue bus services beyond Kingham to Chipping Norton as Oxfordshire have withdrawn their subsidy to this service.

I plan to present your petition regarding faster broadband in Upper Rissington to the Leader of the Council at the council meeting on 23rd March.

I continue to try and interest Oxford Innovation to pursue a business centre in Upper Rissington. Linden have said they are prepared to dispose of the unit just south of the new road entrance which has planning permission to extend to 11,00 sq ft for a low figure if this will kick start such a scheme.

I am pleased to tell you that the new signage for Upper Rissington has been agreed by the county and will be installed soon at the junction with the A424 and there will also be warning signs to the north and south of this junction.

Council Leader Mark Hawthorne has appointed me to replace Cllr Will Windsor-Clive - who steps down to focus on his campaign to be Police and Crime Commissioner - as Cabinet Portfolio holder for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure. In the press release published last week I said "I am really proud to be asked to serve as a Cabinet member. I have extensive experience of the planning side of the portfolio and I'm looking forward to getting to grips with the issues in Fire and Infrastructure."

You will have read this past week of the campaign to form a new unitary council combining West Oxfordshire District Council and Cotswold District Council. The Cotswold District Council has for many years been a successful part of the two - tier system of local government in Gloucestershire and the integration of health and social care services, children`s safeguarding, investing in our roads and promoting economic growth. I believe the possible loss of Cotswold District would be a step in the opposite direction. The announcement by Cotswold District which was completely unexpected by Gloucestershire as Cotswold had been include in the devolution deal to central government has already frustrated the big £1m investment in broad band for the Cotswolds.

c) Mark Charrington-Mackenzie, District Councillor (report provided by Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington)

- Gloucestershire, a non-metropolitan county made up of 862,000 residents living in 25 principal settlements from Chipping Campden in the north to Wotton-under-Edge in the south. In addition there is South Gloucestershire which became a Unitary Authority 20 years ago.
- The Gloucestershire that we live in is governed by the County Council under which there are 6 distinct districts:

Gloucester City

Tewkesbury
Cheltenham
Cotswolds
Stroud
Forest of Dean

- These districts have responsibility for overseeing;
 - Housing
 - Planning
 - Leisure & recreation
 - Waste collection
 - Environmental Health
 - Revenue collection – Council Tax
- Politically the region is represented by 6 MPs and our region of the Cotswolds has a population of circa 84,640 in one of the largest constituencies in the country or 450 square miles.
- The GVA or Gross Value Added by Gloucestershire can be broken down as follows;
 - Agriculture 2%
 - Industry 28%
 - Services 70%
- This is all a preamble to the big question on the horizon as to whether as a county we go for Devolution or here in the Cotswolds we go for Unitary government with West Oxfordshire.
- The case for Devolution is that we get greater control over how our public resources are spent. Crucially local government finances are becoming unsustainable with ever decreasing support from Central Government with a fall of 13.9% in 2015/16 and an ever increasing demand from our aging population and demand for better children services which have grown by 14.5% over the same period. By being independent we can retain our locally raised funding and put them to the local need, not the dictate from Westminster.
 - A number of the strategic aims of the many County Councils wishing to take this route are:
 - Long-term Financial Settlement – budget of at least 5 years not annually
 - EU Structural Funds – to have complete strategic control over EU funds
 - Council Tax – end the Council Tax referendum policy and grant power to hold revaluations. Review the number of bands and ratios from band to band and set the tax rate.
 - Business Rate Retention – 100% of Business Rate growth to be retained locally.
 - Stamp Duty – retain all Stamp Duty on new dwellings built in the country area to be retained and reinvested in affordable housing and associated infrastructure.
 - Fuel Duty – To explore the local retention of a proportion of Fuel Duty to address specific local infrastructure & transport issues.
- The contrasting route is to join with West Oxfordshire, with whom we already have a very close and good working relationship, and establish a Unitary authority. The CDC currently share many of the main administrative rolls including Chief Executive, Legal Services & waste collection through Ubico. These proactive moves have meant that the CDC has been able to maintain their front line services while receiving less from Central Government as well as actually reducing the District Council's share of Council Tax by 25% over the last 3 years.
- The responsibilities that a Unitary authority could take over include:
 - Education
 - Strategic Planning
 - Transport Planning
 - Public Transport
 - Highways
 - Fire Service

Social Services

Libraries

In addition to those that the District Councils already manage and which I referred to earlier.

- It has been emphasised naturally that we will still be a region within Gloucestershire, not part of Oxfordshire, where incidentally virtually all their District Councils are going down the Unitary route with neighbouring, cross county border, communities.
- As you can imagine the County Councillors in Gloucester are all up in arms at the idea we in the Cotswolds might break away. Likewise the leadership of the CDC feel that under a Unitary authority with West Oxfordshire that a far better service can be delivered to our respective communities. The whole thing is now being evaluated to see what the financial as well as practical benefits pan out and by the end of the summer I'm sure we will know much more and I hope we will be given the opportunity to voice our respective opinions.
- 637 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, RAF Little Rissington, Upper Rissington
 - Waiting for feedback from Squadron Leader Woolridge about when flying will recommence. It had been suggested that it would have been so by now but the delays may be caused by operational requirements as well as waiting till the new 45 bed accommodation block is completed as well as the flight simulator installed. Initially there will be 4 gliders but with the intention of increasing this to 8.
 - Flying will be between dawn & dusk, mainly at weekends, public holidays and week days over seasonal holiday periods.
 - Flight paths will vary so no one village takes the brunt of it, depending on wind directions.
- Badham Pharmacy, Upper Rissington.
 - The responses to the research have now been received both electronically as well as by hard copy. They are now being compiled into a research document that will form the basis of an appeal to GCC NHS Panel for a hearing in June
- Nursery School Upper Rissington
 - I will be as much as a month before CDC planning is in a position to decide whether they will accept the change of use from B1 employment use to residential in Delfin Way. At this time of year the CDC look at all the planning consents over the last year and are therefore able to calculate the loss or gain in employment space. Depending on the outcome it will influence their professional decision on applications such as this.
 - Without a consent to the change of use there will no longer be an offer on the table from the developers to gift the £300,000 needed to build the new facility. In the meanwhile the governors of the Great Rissington & Upper Rissington schools have gone ahead with a planning application for the new facility within the new school's grounds.
- A429 or Fosse Way
 - As I reported to the last Parish Council meeting a task force has been set up by County Councillors Nigel Moor and Paul Hodgkinson to study in detail the many safety and other issues along the entire length from Warwickshire to Wiltshire.

 - Meetings have been held down the entire length and local concerns noted. These will be put into a Draft Report which we will be able to comment on before its finalised and put to the County Council.

 - The time scale is the Draft Report should be ready by the end of May with the final report going forward before the end of the summer.
- Cotswold District Local Plan – Submission 19

The latest stage of the Local Plan is now ready to be considered at the forthcoming Cabinet meeting next Thursday 21st April. This is the Draft Document that will, following any further minor amendments, finally go to Central Government early in the Autumn for ratification towards the middle of next year.

Looking at the local communities interestingly Bourton's retail centre is ranked 3rd in the District and surprisingly above Moreton & Tetbury. The Local Plan does not make allowances for any more housing owing to the high number of consents that have come forward since 2011. The same could be said for Stow and Upper Rissington

d) Bovis Homes / Linden Homes No report

e) Police Cllr Jason Corban read out the crime statistics that had been sent in from Stow on the Wold Police Station

f) The Rissington School, Liz Bannister

- The school has now been open for a year
- Little Rascals currently has 28 children attending 9-3.15 every day
- There is a library at the Upper Rissington site
- There are strong community links with Jackie Oliver and Polly Sayers both being involved with volunteering
- In September there will be a total of 104 children at the Upper Rissington site
- The school is full but will try to accommodate appeals from the local community

g) Albion Water

- Albion Water is 80% of way through installing the water supply
- Leakage is now lower than it was three years ago
- The Developers are undertaking geological tests on the attenuation pond but as yet there is no date for when it will be ready
- An Open Spaces offer has been made to the Developers

h) Pharmacy Services from Peter Badham (report provided by Peter Badham)

Background, who are Badham Pharmacy

Local family company with 17 pharmacies in the group

Considerable expertise with start-up pharmacies such as Kingsway, Brockworth,

A pathfinder company with regards to Healthy Living Pharmacies

We engage with all services

Where are we with the process

First application was turned down, this was within the criteria of the pharmacy needs assessment PNA

Second application is outside of the PNA, now at appeal stage

The Pharmacy needs assessment is now set to be reviewed in June

Questionnaire

174 responses to date, thank you to the large number of residents who completed the forms

Very grateful for the support from County Councillor Dr Nigel Moor, District Councillor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington, Parish Council, CO-op and School

Key findings are

Over 60% of properties have 2 or more occupants

39% of properties have 2 or more children

31% of properties have 2 or more residents over 60

8% of properties have one or more residents who are pregnant

36% of properties have a resident with 2 long term health conditions, and 71% with residents with one long term condition

57% of residents have issues accessing services

7% of residents use the bus to Stow and 15% use the bus to Bourton

76% of residents believe there is not a reasonable choice of pharmacy provider

95% of residents believe a pharmacy is needed in Upper Rissington

What are we intending to provide?

48.5 hours of service

Smoking Cessation

Sexual health services

Free delivery service

Free Weight management service

Free health checks

Services to Schools

Minor Aliment Service

Urgent repeat prescription service when surgeries are closed

i) Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Caroline Maclean (report provided by Cllr Caroline Maclean)

Diverse but United

Your council consists of 6 members: Caroline, Brian, Jase, Andrew, David and Dawn

Diverse skills: RAF pilot, accountant, engineer, administrator and nurse.

Diverse but all united in seeking the best interests of the village.

Highlights:

- **So much going on in this wonderful community**
- **Dramatic Growth in number of households** over past 2 years from 350 to 500.
- **Rissington school** very popular and full.
- **Village Hall completed** and handed over-almost.

Day we were due to exchange contracts and waiting for the keys to the new hall, our solicitor dropped stamp duty bomb. (The village owed about £32,000 for stamp duty).

Your council negotiated with the developer and got the new hall valued and saved the village £20,000.

Latest setback last week developer informed us he has to pay £80,000 in VAT.

- **Shopping complex almost completed**
- **New Bus Service 802** connecting Kingham station and Stow.
Opens new opportunities for commuting to work.
All communities benefit from public transport.
USE IT OR LOOSE IT
- **Your council has worked to improve the village** including installing picnic benches in the play park and a bench in the jubilee garden.

Looking forward: Your councils plans for this year include:

- Open New Village Hall
- Plant swathes of daffodils
- Plant Trees
- Bus shelters- erect new
- Improve play park
- Employ maintenance officer
- Encourage development of village groups through the grant scheme
- Footpaths: negotiate to reconnect village with footpath network surrounding UR.

j) Village Hall Trust, Dean Beard (report provided by Dean Beard)

What is the objective of the Trust?

the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Upper Rissington, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for:

- (a) meetings, lectures and classes, and
- (b) other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.

Why has the Trust been asked to run the New Village Hall?

The Trust were asked to take on the management of the New Village Hall to support the PC, and provide a focussed Management Team to both launch the village hall and develop a business model to ensure the hall is self-sustaining after 5 years.

What is the reason for delay in opening the New Village Hall?

A number of issues have led to the delay such as Stamp Duty and VAT which have detracted attention from resolving the issue of the lease. We are now in weekly reviews with the PC to expedite the open lease issues.

When will the New Village Hall be open?

Key issue for the Trust is to receive the revised lease from the PC following the requested changes in Feb 2016.

How can I support the New Village Hall?

The New Village Hall needs Management Committee Members and volunteers to help with the day to day running, you can become a "Friend Of Upper Rissington"

k) Social Committee, Wayne Fisher (report provided by Wayne Fisher)

Six plus events a year

- Fireworks display
- Panto
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Fete
- Fund raisers

- Curry quiz/Barn dance
- Cinema/Concerts
- Invest in facilities
- The committee is made up of seven mums.
- Run weekly sessions, with between 15-25 mums attending, each bringing 1-2 children.
- From June, a Health Visitor will attend a session on the first Thursday of every month, offering regular weigh-ins for babies and advice for mums.
- Once the new hall is operational, businesses will be invited to offer their services at the sessions: baby massage, for example.
- Fundraising ideas are being developed and will be implemented over the coming year; a 'Toddle Waddle' being one idea.
- The group are grateful to Linden Homes and local families for their very generous donations, but more equipment is still needed.
- A clause has been included in the constitution that should Little Hurricanes cease to operate due to low numbers, equipment and monies will be put in to the care of the Parish Council for safe-keeping until the group can become active again; but this is very much hoped to be unnecessary.

l) Youth Club

- Youth Club provides a safe place for any child of secondary school age. It is run mainly by volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome whether on a one-off or more permanent basis
- Recent activities have included go karting in Gloucester, water sports, egg hunt in the dark, movie night, rocket building, laser quest and a karate demonstration
- Older members are encouraged to return to help mentor younger members
- Regular activities include table tennis, air hockey, darts and outside activities

m) Sherborne & Northleach Scout Group

- This is an independent Scout Group and is community based and self-funded
- They are based in the Westwood Centre and have been running for one month and currently have eight children
- Activities include camping, caving and climbing
- They are willing to assist in the opening of a Troop in Upper Rissington

n) New Village Hall Management Committee

- Upper Rissington Village Hall Trust is being established. This will be a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organization; incorporated under the auspices of the Charity Commission.
- The papers have been submitted to the Charity commission, but timescales for acceptance of the application is entirely with the Charity Commission; estimated to be mid-July, but could be longer.

- The Village Hall Management Trust will, however, be able to accept hand over of the lease from the Parish Council before charity status is granted.
- 6 Board Members have been appointed, but others will be appointed in line with the Constitution, when need arises.
- Day-to-day operation will be delegated to the Village Hall Management Committee, with 3 working groups and 3 project groups having been set up, all of which will be overseen by the Chairman.
- To comply with Charity Commission requirements an audit will be undertaken each year.
- An extensive range of activities will be planned; thus, appealing to as wide a proportion of the community as possible.

o) CUR;ve

- Aims to help build the community by connecting relationships and promoting Jesus
- The community is growing has had to move into the school hall
- 1st Sunday in the month – café
- Next three Sundays – fresh expression of Church
- Also organise a Friday morning buggy run and a community boxing gym on a Friday evening at Runner Bean

p) Little Hurricanes (report provided by Little Hurricanes)

Little Hurricanes is about to turn one! In the last year, we have seen our numbers settle to between 15-20 regular mums bringing between 20-25 children. The local Health Visitor comes to us on the 1st Thursday of every month to run a mini clinic and on these days, we see our numbers increase to sometimes up to 30. Once we move in to the new hall we hope our numbers will rise slightly as we know some local Mums have been waiting for us to move before they start attending the group.

Little Hurricanes is now run by a committee of 9 members. Chaired by Heather Triggs, with Katherine Baker as Treasurer and Ruth Arnold as Secretary.

Our first year has certainly been a learning curve for us but after a year in operation we feel we are now running efficiently and providing a group that is of great benefit to the youngest members of our community and their parents. We now have several local child minders attending the group as well as Mums from other villages such as Bourton, Kingham and Stow.

We continue to offer a different craft each week for the toddlers and their parents to get involved with and once in the new hall we are very much looking forward to being able to offer a greater range of messy play mornings. We are hoping to be able to fence off an area in the new hall so that those with small babies have a 'safe zone' if they wish to use it and are also looking forward to having more space so the children can make use of all the great toys that have been donated to us!

We have some exciting fund raising planned for the next 12 months to help provide funds for our ongoing costs and the purchase of some new toys for the group. We are very grateful to Curve for recently hosting a coffee morning to

help raise money for us and to the Parish council and the other community groups in the village for their ongoing support of us!
We are all looking forward to being able to start using the new village hall and hope 2016 sees the group go from strength to strength.

q) The Breeze (report provided by David Harrison)

It **started back in Spring 2014, the first issue**, as there was a need shown from the **Parish Plan**, for some form of Village Newsletter.

The **brief of The Breeze**, is for a **fact based, no political, information source**, from articles from the community, for the community, to highlight the good stuff happening, which is all edited by a group of volunteers.

It's a medium by which clubs, groups and societies **can reach the whole community**, as it is **available to everyone** in the village for **free** and is **published quarterly**.

The group of **editors**, running at six people are:

Wayne Fisher - I would say the original driving force behind The Breeze and host to our meetings

Sue Handy – The person who actually does all the hard work, as Sue brings all the articles together to form The Breeze.

Polly Sayers – Our gardening expert but I must make specially mention of Polly's husband, **Martin**, as it was Martin who came up with the design for the **four seasonal front covers** – I hope you've noticed the cover changes depending on the season?

David Harrison – Currently I do the road name history and provide some of the photographs.

Keelin Bracken – Full of enthusiasm and looks after advertising.

Kami Kalsi – Very busy with sports and the youth.

Saying all that, we all **muck in** and help on different articles.

This nicely leads on to, **who pays for The Breeze**, as I said, it is given out at no charge.

The two main ways **money is raised** to pay for the high-quality colour 16 or 20-page issue, is by:

Adverts – This is the main source of income but we want to keep adverts to a small proportion of the pages, and

Grants.

Currently, a print run for the **20-page** version of **700 copies** is approximately **£200**.

Future articles that have been thought about, **is a local walk guide**. But the team would **welcome any ideas or articles from the community** or help with The Breeze, **especially on fund raising**.

Have a **chat with one of the team** in the breakout at the end. Or, if not today, contact details for the team are in The Breeze.

Finally, thank you for listening and if you haven't seen a copy, our latest issue, **issue 8 is available** to take away.

r) Sports Committee, Kami Kalsi

- Saturday sport is on the playing fields starting at 10am. The main sport is football and the running club

- Other sporting activities are added as the weather improves, however volunteers are needed to take an interest in getting involved in other sports to encourage the younger generation of the community
- The sports grant has enabled us to provide the community sports with a great selection of activities ranging from handball, netball, basketball and table tennis to name a few. There are still some funds remaining but we are waiting for the new Village Hall to open before these are spent
- Extra-curricular basketball is also held at the school

s) Jubilee Garden

- There is a new memorial bench to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday
- Roses to surround the bench have kindly been donated

4. Public Comments and Questions

- It was noted that Little Rissington has recently lowered the speed limit through the village to 20mph
- Disappointment was expressed that there was no representation from the Developers
- Can Cotswold District Council do anything about false promises made by the Developers e.g. ensure that they meet all s.106 obligations. Is there any recourse with the Developer if properties were sold on the back of false promises?
- Some roads do not yet have dropped kerbs and the level of the roads are different. Issues to be raised with Bob Skillern
- Road signage north on A424 needs to be identified. Cllr Moor offered to follow up on this point
- It was felt the grass had been cut too short on four occasions and it was requested that the grass not be cut when it's wet
- Dog mess is an ongoing problem especially on the sports field
- A meeting was requested with the Developers to discuss more sporting activities
- Regular open spaces meetings were suggested
- A query was raised relating to the new retail space with regards to future occupants
- Village litter pick needs to be re-arranged

Minutes reviewed at Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2017