

Upper Rissington Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 25 May 2017, 7pm at Upper Rissington Village Hall

1. **Welcome Statement:** The meeting was opened.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April 2016 were approved.
3. **Reports were received as follows:**

County Councillor Nigel Moor: *Report not available at the time of writing the minutes.*

District Councillor Mark MacKenzie-Charrington: *Report not available.*

Bovis Homes / Linden Homes: *Report not available.*

Parish Council Chairman: Councillor Hanks sent a report to highlight some of the things that have happened, and what the Parish Council plans to deliver over the coming year.

The biggest highlight of the past year has been the Council signing the agreements for the Village Hall Management Trust, supported by funds from the Parish Council, to take over the running of the Village Hall from 1 June; all councillors were agreed that the bureaucracy over Council activities meant that the Council were not best placed to run this important facility that we want to see fully used for the benefit of the village. For those who have followed events, the handover of the hall and its management by the Trust has been beset with many unforeseen hurdles outside of the control of the Council. However, we have now achieved the goal we set and look forward, with the rest of the village, to seeing the use of the village hall maximised and many activities provided for the residents.

During the year a defibrillator was purchased and installed on the Village Hall.

Following the presentation by Byron Hadley at the last Annual Parish Meeting, a local Scouts group was formed, and the Council provided a grant of £500 to enable them to purchase equipment; a grant of £500 was also made to the Social Committee to help with the costs of the Christmas pantomime.

Looking forward, the Parish Council has an ambitious list of things it would like to deliver:

- provision of an all-weather table tennis table and giant chess set in the play park, together with further benches and tables;
- continuation of the neighbourhood plan, which will enable the Village to receive a greater share of the Infrastructure levy as well as protecting the open spaces;
- installation of a village shelter;
- planting of spring bulbs at the village entrances together with fruit trees;
- measures to minimise the problems that arise from inconsiderate dog owners not clearing up dog mess which create health risks.

There are currently four vacancies on the Council, which will be considering co-option at the June meeting; if you want to influence the Council's decisions please put your name forward.

Police: *Unable to attend.*

The Rissington School: Headteacher Liz Pearce sent the following report:

The school currently has 201 children, aged 4-11, in attendance: 84 children on the Great Rissington site and 117 on the Upper Rissington site. You will be aware that the Upper Rissington community continues to grow. This has put such pressure on school places that the local authority has at last agreed to build one extra classroom on the Upper Rissington site. This classroom will be built next to the room that is currently being used for Little Rascal, which will return to being a classroom in September. Work is planned to start on the new classroom during the summer, for completion in September. A temporary classroom area will be set up in the large central atrium until the room is ready for the children. The additional classroom will mean that there will be 3 classrooms on the Great Rissington site and 5 on the Upper Rissington site, together with the large staffroom that we already use as a classroom.

Our pre-school group "Little Rascal", continues to thrive. We currently have 33 children aged 3 and 4 on our register, with 31 children already signed up for September 2017. We have obtained funding through the Department for Education for a new nursery building in the school grounds, on which work has already started. The building has been designed to mirror the tower on the school building, which is clad in cedar and will consist of three classrooms, two of which will be separated by a sliding partition to enable flexibility of use, a kitchen, an office as well as cloakrooms and storage. Everything that is needed to serve those most-important young citizens of our community! It is so exciting that after all of this time, pre-school provision for the Rissington area is now securely in place at last! There are no current plans to accept two-year olds to the nursery, as it is important to establish the organisation of the new building initially.

I am retiring at the end of this academic year after 40 years of full-time teaching, 20 of which have been in headship. Mrs Sue Dawes, an experienced headteacher, who has been appointed as head of The Rissington School from 1st September 2017, has already been on several visits to the school and has been involved in interviewing new school staff, who have been appointed following the impending retirement of Mrs Wilcock and the announcement of Mrs Winter's maternity leave, Miss Tucker and Miss Gale have been appointed to these posts and we have just completed the interview process for additional staff, due to school expansion.

At the time of writing this, the children have just completed their Standardised Tests, in which we expect them to do well – they are super, hard-working children! During the academic year school trips have been made to The Birmingham Museum, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Cheltenham Literature Festival, The Everyman Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk, The Natural History Museum, The British Museum, The Oxford Museum, The Steam Museum in Swindon and most recently, The Gloucester Synagogue and Gloucester Cathedral. During the Autumn term our Year 6 students took part in a residential visit to The Woodlands in Birmingham.

Sporting success has been achieved throughout the year. We are currently district (Cotswold) champions in Quicksticks Hockey and Indoor Athletics, North Cotswolds Netball champions and Y3/4 Gloucestershire Gymnastics Champions! Our Quad-Kid team has just qualified for the Gloucestershire finals.

We won the North Cotswold Area Nature Quiz and were winners at the Ogden Trust Science Festival. We also participated in Young Voices at the Birmingham Arena. We have competed in The Stemwork Challenge for designers and entered in maths challenges throughout the year.

We are a Community School and I am proud to say that our facilities are used by community groups 7 days a week throughout term time. We welcome the gymnastics club, singing group, yoga group, jive club as well as CURVE. It is wonderful to see the school facilities used so well. We have also provided community support in other ways, such as singing at the Wyck Rissington Christmas event and at Jubilee Lodge.

It's been another busy, successful year at The Rissington School. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time that I have spent as part of this community, both as a resident and during my tenure as headteacher of the school. It is delightful to see the wonderful community of Upper Rissington grow and thrive and I wish you all well in the future.

Badham Pharmacy: On 2nd May we finally were able to open the doors to our new pharmacy. We are delighted with the premises, we have two consulting rooms, an excellent dispensary and a spacious retail area. We have been overwhelmed with the warmth of the welcome we have received from our new patients. The main question I have been asked, is how patients switch to us. We can nominate patients at the pharmacy, so that we can receive their prescription electronically from their surgery. This speeds up the process with regards to supplying medication. We can collect prescriptions from any local surgery, if that is required. Finally, we can order medication for patients, on their behalf, for any surgery. We are providing a raft of services which include:

- The new Minor Aliment service
- The Urgent Repeat Medication Service
- Free diagnostic tests
- Free delivery service
- Weekly medication trays

The Hangar: *Report not available.*

Albion Water reported the following:

- Potable and non-potable water main and service pipe laying continues on Victory Fields (>80% complete).
- Non-potable water main between ring main and works postponed until after pond construction.
- Consultants instructed to oversee pond geotechnical work and ensure it is constructed in line with design and technical specification.
- Surface water and foul sewer testing and inspection work continues (prior to Victory Field sewer adoption).
- NAV area extension to cover new development and existing properties off Barrington Lane.
- Annual bills for water, wastewater and recycling (where connected) are currently being produced and mailed out.
- Albion's volunteer team is working to promote habitat conservation on calcareous grassland.

Village Hall Trust: *Report not available.*

Social Committee: *Report not available.*

Upper Rissington Youth Club: *Report not available.*

Upper Rissington Scout Group: *Report not available.*

CUR;ve: *Report not available.*

Little Hurricanes Toddler Group: Little Hurricanes Baby and Toddler group continues to grow. On average we welcome between 20-25 Mums a week and between 25-30 children, although those numbers have fluctuated somewhat over winter due to various illnesses that have gone around the village! We now have Mums coming not just from Upper Rissington but also the surrounding villages including Bourton, Stow and Kingham.

When the group started two years ago, we wanted to be able to bring businesses and local information to our mums, especially those who are without a car during the day so find getting out and about a bit more challenging. In the last year we have welcomed Aqua Tots, Marsh Pottery, Alastair Curril photography and even one of our local Librarians has popped in to see us and tell us about their services. We hosted a great Christmas Bazaar which bought in businesses from as far as Gloucester and Stroud as well as local ones! We have also had bake sales to raise funds for Macmillan and more recently the Lola Rose Foundation which is a charity run by one of our regular Mums.

The Health Visitor now visits twice a month due to the increase in demand. We were thrilled to be told that because of the success of Little Hurricanes they have now arranged to also set up a clinic at one of the baby groups in Stow which means even more mums and children will be benefiting from this valuable service.

We are hoping to release some of the funding we were given last year to buy an extra rug for the baby area as it is becoming a bit of a squeeze, some more soft play equipment for our toddlers and hopefully some tables and chairs so that the little ones have something to eat off.

At the end of the summer term we would like to throw a party with a teddy bears picnic to thank all the families who have supported us over the last year and hopefully hire some extra equipment as a treat for the children.

It has been a pleasure over the last 12 months to see friendships become stronger between the mums that come every week, welcome new mums and dads, and of course watch the toddlers grow, many of whom were babies when we started the group and are now getting ready to leave us and move on to Little Rascal at the school.

We are very lucky to have a great committee behind the group who are full of enthusiasm for what we do which has helped the group go from strength to strength over the last 12 months as well as ongoing support from our Parish Council and members of our community. We continue to learn what works and what doesn't work at the group and come up with new ideas for crafts and the 'love it or loathe it' messy play. We hope over the next year the group will continue to thrive so we can keep supporting the youngest members of our village and their carers.

The Breeze magazine: The Breeze started back in Spring 2014 when the first issue was produced by a small editorial team of volunteers. It is published quarterly and the 13th issue Summer 2017 is nearly ready to go to print. The idea of The Breeze is to be a source of information about what is happening in Upper Rissington, especially for those who aren't online. It runs with a few

adverts to support the printing cost, which is about £250, as it has to be self-funding. We are now at a print run of 750 and looking to bump it up with Victory Fields near completion and the Officers Mess area, the first few homes now occupied. It has also gone from 16 pages to 24, so it may seem like there are more adverts but there are more pages of village information.

The Breeze wouldn't be here without the support it receives, and thanks were given:

- First to overworked editor Sue, who does a tremendous job pulling all the articles and adverts together to form The Breeze;
- Keelin for making The Breeze financially viable by calling on the generosity of our advertisers
- Polly for the gardening tips;
- Wayne who co-ordinates it and does the updates on Village Hall Trust and Social Committee.
- All the other article contributors; and
- the volunteers who deliver it to all the homes in our village.

Articles have come from the small editorial team and the team cajoling people in the village to write articles, covering a wide range of topics from: development, gardening and cooking tips, group news like Sports or Youth Club, Parish Council and school news, history, useful contacts, village events, star gazing, and health, to mention a few.

The Breeze team is always looking for ideas/suggestion of what people would like to see in their local magazine, and even more importantly, for people prepared to submit articles.

Sports Committee: *Report not available.*

4. **Public comments and questions:** *Not recorded.*
5. **Closing comments from the Chairman:** The meeting was concluded.

Minutes to be reviewed at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22 March 2018.