

Frithestock Parish Council

Minutes of the 13th Combined Annual Parish Meeting and Village Hall Management Committee AGM held on Thursday 27th April 2017 at 8:00pm in Frithestock Village Hall

Councillors Present: Mike Stokes (Chair), Mackie Poole, Mark Goldman, Elizabeth Hunkin and Andrew Heard

Village Hall Management Committee Representatives Present: Adrian Green (Chair), Lizzy Hunkin (Secretary), Marcelle Paton-Smith (Chair, Entertainments Committee), Maureen Poole (Deputy Bookings Secretary), Eileen Brown, Ruth Blake, Derek Raymont, Mike Stokes

Playing Fields Committee Members Present: Terry Warrington

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 7 members of the public

1. **Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council:** Mike Stokes welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Roger Hunkin and Mike Baker
3. **Minutes of the 12th Combined Annual Parish Meeting and Village Hall Management Committee AGM:** held on 19th April 2016 were agreed and signed as a true record, proposed by Marcelle Paton-Smith and seconded by Melanie Goldman, all in favour.
4. **Annual Crime Report:**
PCSO Melissa Baker was unable to attend the meeting, however, a report was sent and read out by the Clerk:
There have been 4 crimes over the last year:
2 – use of threatening/abusing/insulting words/behaviour to cause harassment/alarm & distress
1 – assault
1 – communication/article of indecent/offensive nature sent
There have been 27 logs over the last year:
9 – highways disruptions
6 – road traffic collisions
4 – intelligence
2 – suspicious behaviour
2 – abandoned 999 calls
1 – abandoned quad bike
1 – nuisance anti social behaviour
1 – concern for welfare
1 – domestic related

5. Village Hall Management Committee AGM

- 5.1 Apologies: Pete Hutchings and Roger Hunkin
- 5.2 Minutes of the AGM held on 19th April 2016. There were no comments and the minutes were taken as read.
- 5.3 Matters Arising. There were none.
- 5.4 Report of the Chairperson of the Management Committee including the Financial Statements. The Chairman's report is appended. In the Financial Statement it was reported that the current balance is £14,825.62 with there being £460.00 worth of cash. An additional £1015.00 is due from the Parish Council to pay for noticeboards.
- 5.5 Adoption of Financial Statements. The adoption was proposed by Mel Goldman and seconded by Mike Stokes.
- 5.6 Report of the Chairperson of the Entertainment Committee. Please see item 6.
- 5.7 Election of Elected Members. This was proposed by Colette Henerty and seconded by Lizzy Hunkin; there were no changes and the Elected Members remain as:
Adrian Green
Melanie Goldman
Eileen Brown
Derek Raymont
(An Entertainment's Committee member)
Andy Haville
- 5.8 Confirmation of Representative Members. There have been no notifications of changes from the appointing organisations to their representative Members so they remain as:
Skittles - Arthur Poole
Playing Field - Terry Warrington
Church - Jean Short
WI - Ruth Blake
Parish Council: Mackie Poole, Roger Hunkin, Gale Riddell, Peter Hutchings, Mike Stokes
- 5.9 Confirmation of Officers. There has been no notification from any of the Officers to change and they remain as:
Lizzie Hunkin - Secretary
Colette Henerty - Treasurer
Julian Carrington - Auditor
Jean Short - Bookings Secretary
Maureen Poole - Assistant Bookings Secretary

- 5.10 Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for current year. Mark Goldman proposed and Andrew Heard seconded Adrian Green as Chairperson; Mackie Poole proposed and Eileen Brown seconded Mel Goldman as Vice Chairperson.
- 5.11 Proposal for rotating chairperson of the Entertainment Committee for current year. This was agreed upon.
- 5.12 Any other business. There was none.
- 5.13 Date of next meeting. 26th April 2018.

6. Entertainment Committee Annual Report

There have been 5 events organised by the Entertainment Committee since the last AGM:

The 2016 Annual Quiz

- Held in April.
- Popular event and continues to be well attended.
- Notional profit from gate receipts and the bar was £286 and also £100 was raised for Devon Air Ambulance.

Scrupy Stroll

- Held in May.
- More than a 100 people young and old attended a very interesting and varied walk across land kindly permitted by Charles Moore, Rob Squire and David Petherbridge.
- The afternoon ended with a BBQ and bar at the Village Hall.
- Overall, the Scrupy Stroll, including the BBQ and bar, resulted in a notional profit of £350.

Summer Event

- Held in June with music provided, as last year, by 'The Wild Strawberries'.
- A number of rural games, including a tug of war were provided to entertain people before the band.
- Although the Wild Strawberries have increased their fee we have already booked them again for this year. The band has their own followers from outside the parish and these followers obviously contribute to our takings. This continues to be a popular and profitable event and so it was felt that an increased booking fee could be absorbed.
- The notional profit for the 2016 Summer Event was £1,876 which is the largest profit to date for this event.

Autumn Quiz

- Held in October.
- An event is normally organised for the autumn and it was decided to trial an additional quiz as the autumn event.
- Numbers attending very similar to the Annual Quiz normally held in April but the bar takings were nearly double those for the April quiz providing a higher notional profit of £406.

- Possible that the bar takings were higher due to the different format of this quiz which had a number of interactive question rounds giving people more time to go to the bar.
- The raffle, which was in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, raised £66.

Christmas Party Night

- As in the last 2 years, there were insufficient acts to hold a formal entertainment evening but there were a large number of Christmas themed fun competitions which were very well subscribed to as well as carol singing, mince pie judging and Christmas stories for the children and a fancy dress competition.
- The evening turned out to be rather more eventful than planned as a partial electricity failure occurred as people began to turn up at the hall and then a full loss of power occurred during supper. The electricity was restored in time for the children's games and for the adults at the bar.
- A notional profit of £76 arose from bar takings and £101 was raised for the RNLI.
- Following the recent Frithelstock quiz night, there are 2 further events being planned for the next few months:
- The Scrumpy Stroll and BBQ, which will take place on Sunday 28th May.
- And,
- The summer event, which will take place on the Playing Field on Saturday 24th June.

As always, if anyone has any suggestions for other events the Entertainments Committee would be very pleased to hear them.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank everyone in the village who has attended the various events we have organised during the past year; we hope that you have enjoyed them and thank you for your continued support.

7. Playing Fields Annual Report

Terry Warrington said it had been a quiet year. They had 2 new members joining the Committee, Mark Goldman and Mike Baker. There have been a number of maintenance issues, some have been completed but there are a few outstanding and are due to be completed this year. Families appear to be enjoying the fields and the festival did well. Stuart is still cutting the grass and keeping the grounds tidy in general. There is an event planned for 27th August and the Committee is applying for a further grant for new equipment. They are looking forward to another busy year and they intend to keep on top of equipment that is deteriorating.

Accounts

The brought forward balance was £2,905.69 and the closing balance was £3,438.03.

8. Poorland Charity Report

Maureen read out a statement on behalf of the Charity. Their opening balance was £731.40 and the closing balance was £711.72. Gale Riddell sincerely thanked those who gave donations and the Village Hall for the proceeds from the Quiz Night Raffle.

9. 50 Club Report

Michael Short said the 50 Club is still going strong, last year there were 78 members and they hope to maintain these numbers this year. Their total income for the year was £942. Mike thanked the Village Hall for their efforts in helping to raise funds.

10. **Speedwatch Report**

There has been a continual programme of checks throughout the past year. It is amazing that some drivers seem to completely ignore the blue warning signs we have to show – they must be driving without thinking, or supremely confident that nothing will ever happen to them.

On an average session we find that about 12 to 14 per cent of the passing traffic is travelling at 35 mph, or over, at the point where we monitor the speed. Few are caught at over 45 though. We vary our times and locations – we have three on the A388. Checks during rush hours result in a high count of traffic past this Hall but few are caught speeding as traffic passes in groups. Outside rush hour we have a much greater catch.

A year ago, the team included 5: Dave Debnam, Mark Goldman, Maureen Poole, Marcelle Paton Smith, myself. To be effective, we need to field four at each session. Maureen is standing down however she has been kind to offer her help at the very occasional occasion. So I am pleased to report that we now have three more volunteers – Julian Carrington, Nigel McCree and Sid Adams. Your team of volunteers – who I remind you, turn out in all weathers for which I and I hope everyone here tonight will thank them. (Pause for applause?)

Some of you will have seen us in action, and noticeably when we are on the bank facing incoming traffic from Monkleigh, we know drivers passing us on their way TO Monkleigh will flash their lights to warn oncoming traffic. We even had someone park in Steve Beer's lane but we got his number!

We also are asked from time to time, to help train others and this month we had two from Stibb Cross. Interestingly, both have volunteered to help us if asked! So it may be possible to run a two team check catching traffic in both directions! That's an ambition for the next year.

Now – a word about the 30mph flashing sign. Stats taken from the sign confirm that the average speed is 42 MPH with the occasional spike of someone doing 70 mph plus. During last year, we had a traffic officer (who has now moved on) from Barnstaple who checked our site and expressed concern that the speeds the sign is recording cannot be used to justify one of our aims – to have the 30mph signs moved 50 yards or so out towards Monkleigh. This will give drivers more distance in which to reduce the speed past the entrance outside. I would ask the PC to act on this and follow up by asking the Barnstaple police to visit again. It is expected that another device will be temporarily installed to provide the police with satisfactory speeding data. You have seen these before – two rubber pipes across the road.

Also, recently, it was mentioned that there is money to be had to help us create a symbolic pair of gates either side of the road as traffic enters Stone. You can see an example at Horns Cross on the A39. Again, I would ask the PC to add this project to a list for next year

11. **Website Report**

In previous years I have reported that the servers hosting parish site from my home were becoming old and might expire at any time. The gateway to our servers was through Eclipse which made a monthly charge of £4 per month.

So I was faced with two choices: move the site, as it is, onto a remote server elsewhere without changing the software used to create and effect changes (that was Frontpage which Microsoft ceased to support some years ago) - or move the site and

jump to a more modern HTML software and use another remote site. But both options would increase the monthly cost.

When I checked the size of the Frithelstock site, it had grown to some 600 Mb of data – from video clips to a large number of images. I spent time cleaning out old data and reduced it half. For the records, the hit counter shows 80,450. The count increases by about 700 / month. The increase is largely added to by search engines which robotically check the site. An interesting example of how thorough these search engines are came to light two months ago. I searched for a postal address of the Poorlands Charity. Google came up with several results – one of which was a single line entry on an Agenda for this meeting three years ago. Amazing. After some deliberation, and with the help of my IT expert Kevin Grimshire, we have moved the site – and jumped to a modern HTML software. There are many such programmes on the market but we decided to use Web Expression which I own. This choice also allowed me to move the site to an IP provider where I already have two major websites. Best advantage of all is that there is now no monthly charges. There will be a small cost though for the domain but this won't amount to much - £15 a year.

So from April onwards, all monies from advertising charges will go in rotation to Poor lands, Village Hall, and Playing Field. To remind everyone here our costs are £2 per month for business in the parish and £3 per month for those outside. The placing and sizes of these will now change as I work through the pages to update then and improve the presentation. Bear with me on this!

The disadvantage is that I have had a crash course in HTML coding. More late nights! I am aware that there are still some links I have yet to check so if you come across any, do alert me by e-mail and I can correct them.

I remind those who provide information, accounts, minutes etc to send them in. If I don't get them, I can't add them to the site.

Also, as most of you know, we have a closed user group of e-mail addresses used to keep everyone informed. If you are not receiving our messages, please complete the –mail form.

12. Rowing Club Report

This was given by Lizzy Hunking due to Charlie Heckman's retirement in December. He had been training the various rowers in the Village Hall on a Friday evening. Lizzy thanked him for many hours over the years and that everyone had enjoyed rowing with him. Di Beer has unofficially taken the helm with Lizzy in a supporting role. They meet on a Friday and if anyone is interested, please just turn up on the a Friday evening. They held a Marathon row in aid of Little Johns House, and raised £3,160. The popularity of the club will be monitored over the coming months.

13. Parish Council Annual Reports

13.1 Finance Report

The Clerk confirmed the opening balance of the Parish Council's accounts was £6,104. Payments during the year totalled £5,419 and receipts were £5,798 giving the Parish a total of £6,483.

13.2 Chairman's Report

I only intend this evening to highlight the major events, as I see them in the parish councils' year because the minutes of our meetings are available on the web site for all to see.

As reported at the last meeting in April 2016, Pat Blossie had tendered his resignation as Parish Clerk but had agreed to stay until a replacement had been appointed and also to assist us in finding such a replacement.

This he did and after the posting of vacancy advertisements, two candidates applied, both were interviewed and Zena Tett was successful and duly appointed as Parish Clerk and Proper Officer. For those who have not yet met her, this is Zena and I thank her for organising this evening's event.

Since our last Annual Meeting, the Parish Council has met on 11 occasions including 3 additional meetings to consider planning application consultations. At the September Parish Council meeting the question was raised on whether a meeting should take place for every planning application, due to the lack of public interest at past meetings. At that meeting it was decided, future planning applications, whose consultation period falls outside the usual Parish Council meeting date schedule, would be considered by Parish Councillors via email and the decisions recorded at the next PC meeting. However, if all Councillors are not of the same opinion, if a member of the Parish has lobbied a Councillor or, if there are any contentious issues with the application, an extra meeting would be called.

Monday's meeting to consider the closure and change of use application for the Clinton Arms was such an occasion calling for an extra meeting.

During the year, the PC has considered and written to TDC with our views on 7 planning applications and on one occasion made a verbal presentation to the TDC Planning Committee.

For those who are not aware, our War Memorial on the village green has now been Grade 11 listed by Historic England and is therefore a protected monument.

A number of years ago, the Parish Council made an agreement with the landlord of the Clinton Arms that he could site some picnic tables on the Village Green and use the area very much as a pub garden, in return for keeping the grass cut and the general area tidy.

We owe our thanks to Richard Joseph who basically did this work on behalf of the pub as well as cleaning the War Memorial on a regular basis. However, with the closing of the Clinton Arms and with Richard having been unwell this past year, he has decided that he can no longer continue in this duty and therefore responsibility for maintaining the Village Green has returned to the Parish Council. As a result, the council has sought quotations for the regular cutting of the grass and a local contractor has been appointed.

Parish Councillors have agreed to undertake the cleaning of the War Memorial themselves in time for the annual Remembrance Day event. Incidentally, Ian, the pub landlord has donated the picnic benches to the parish and these have now been removed by Terry Warrington and relocated to the Playing Field.

One particular agenda item over the past year has been the parish notice boards and their rather 'tired' look. It was therefore decided to replace the

notice board located in Hele Lane and we were very fortunate to receive a £550 grant from TDC through the good offices of our District Councillor, Phil Pennington, for which we are very grateful. Following this decision, Phil found a further £300 from a different budget and we decided to replace the Village Hall notice board as well.

We therefore have two new notice boards in the parish which we hope you will agree improves the local street scene.

Having replaced two of the three parish notice boards, it is hoped that the notice board located on the Village Green can also be replaced in the near future. For your information, the notice boards were made by a small company in Exeter, appointed after competitive quotations were obtained. And finally, the parish has sadly lost this year, a long time stalwart of the community and I will now call on Mackie Poole to say a few words on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Poole, who had known Michael Hearn for many years, paid tribute. He explained that Michael Hearn had lived in the village most of his life but more importantly he worked for the village. He helped with the Frithelstock Village Book and he was the Parish Clerk for 32 years, he will be sadly missed by the Parish.

14. Litter Picking

Peter Hutchins and his grandchildren, Ryan Kimberly and Dean were so disgusted with the litter they went around the village and picked it up. After a discussion it was decided that the Parish Council would set a date for Village Litter Picking and the date will be advertised on the website.

15. Open Forum

Terry Warrington asked about the Welcome Packs and whether they had been printed. Cllr Stokes confirmed they were and anyone moving into the Village would receive a copy. Marcelle Paton-Smith asked how the Parish Council would know if someone had moved into the Village, the Parish Council explained that they rely on communication from parishioners. Copies can be obtained from any Parish Councillor and a copy will be placed on the website.

16. Proposed date of next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 26th April 2018 at 8pm to be held in the Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting concluded at 9:10pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: **DATE:**