

Annual Parish Assembly

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in Culworth Village Hall at 7pm.

1. Present: Cllrs Rolt, Rowling, Guinness, Leadbeater, Mumford, Lamb and Koster.
2. Clerk was in attendance
3. District Councillor Mrs M A Sergison Brooke and County Councillor Ian Morris were present.
4. 27 members of public present
5. The Chair of Parish Council welcomed everyone pointing out this is an Assembly for all residents to ask questions on any topic.
6. **Ability- Possible Community Transport Service.** Following the cessation of County Connect due to NCC constraints representation had been made by residents to the Parish Council for a public transport system Cllr Guinness had been liaising with Sulgrave, Moreton Pinkney, Eydon and Thorpe Mandeville to find a solution. A community transport service Ability run by **Nigel and Lynn Hinch** were invited. Nigel clearly outlined his present system which is intended to reduce social isolation and increase independence. It is working in other villages using concessionary bus passes and farepaying passengers. The low level bus fitted with all safety regulations would pick up from points within a village or from the person's door if mobility issues. He was negotiating with Oxfordshire County Council to take people into and out of Banbury on this possible once a week service. The bus could leave about 9.30am reaching Banbury 10.15am picking up persons within the catchment villages and returning about 1pm. He stated it wasn't a taxi service. Residents would need to register to use the service in order to book a space. Residents received satisfactory answers. In order to get this off the ground, Parish Council would need to contribute £500. The driver and bus would be available for hire too.  
Cllr Guinness will raise this at May PC meeting and collect in the meantime residents viewpoints.
7. **HS2- Nisha Mejer Community Engagement officer for HS2, Carley Richards Fusion Community Engagement Officer and Chris James Eiffage Kier** Community Engagement Officer outlined the issues the local community faced with the works proposed. Fusion engages with schools running workshops on archaeology of the sites, wildlife. Dawnus the works contractor had gone into liquidation. It is hoped that another contractor will be appointed soon. Chris James works for the French contractor who is the fifth largest in Europe. Any damage caused will be repaired prior to handover to the local community once work complete. Care is being taken to build bridges tunnels and viaducts minimising the noise and visual impact to the communities. Many questions were answered. Ian Morris County Councillor complimented them on their professional input and presentation. Residents can contact them through HS2 community updates page or directly. Drop in sessions have been and can be held in Forge Coffee or elsewhere locally.
8. **County Councillor Ian Morris** has been the Silverstone County Councillor since 2013. He urged villages to benefit from HS2 contributions to local projects. NCC has had a challenging year with Section 114 notices, constraints, issues with adult and childrens services. However, the Government has allowed NCC to increase their precept without rate capping. Unitary authorities can work well. The County will be divided into two. South Northants will be in the west with Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough and the part of County Council. Shadow authority will be in place once legislation has been passed in Government. Some contracted services may return in house with new authorities. Childrens Commissioner has been appointed with a salary of £230,000. In response to residents questions, planning under the new authority may have changes. Street Doctor is now FIX MY STREET.

9. **District Councillor Mrs MA Sergison Brooke.** SNC has a high level of recycling but never be complacent. At present Waste and recycling is collected fortnightly whilst neighbouring Districts are three weekly or monthly. SNC has combined all their grant avenues into one scheme to enable villages to claim larger amounts for their projects prior to the formation of West Northants. The Local Plan is being reviewed by the Inspector in June. SNC does have a nine year supply of housing unlike the other districts. Much more attention is paid to detail in SNC. Over the last 30 years Mrs Sergison Brooke has been pleased to help Culworth and its residents with their problems. She wont be standing for reelection. The Chair thanked her for her stalwart service.
10. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly in April 2018 had been circulated in April 2018 newsletter and attached to agenda. These were agreed as correct and the Chair of Parish Council signed and dated them.

**11. Chairs report**

- a. The Parish Council continues to meet bimonthly on second Tuesday of the month unless there are planning applications that need more urgent discussion. I am pleased to thank your PC members who are the same team as last year giving their own time for the village, They are : Martin Rowling : maintenance, litter. Michelle Koster : Planning Committee, Colin Lamb : Planning Committee, website and Vice Chair of Council ,David Mumford : cricket field, recreation field, castle and burial ground and streetlights Nancy Guinness: public transport and school liaison Barbara Leadbeater : internal controller for the accounts And of course our hard working and diligent Clerk, Jose
- b. As previously , many thanks to Jenny Howse for putting together the Newsletter every couple of months, and to Dawn Thompson for maintaining the village website . Can I ask everyone here to provide news and information to Jenny and Dawn to keep things alive and current and many thanks to Dick Winter, who looks after our accounts and audit process.
- c. Work on planning for a new village hall and cricket pavilion has progressed through the year, and your Parish Council, along with benefactors from the village , have helped with funding the early work that such a project needs , in particular preparing the planning application. John Duggan, who chairs the Culworth Hill Field Trust, updates the village with a report in each newsletter. I can now say that the plans have been lodged with SNC and will be available for public consultation shortly.
- d. Public transport to and from the village has now disappeared, as we knew it would. The Parish Council has been liaising with other local villages in order to find a way to reinstate some bus travel, and this work is ongoing. Ability- may be the answer. Do let us know your opinion.
- e. HS2 remains part of our lives, although there is much press speculation that it will be cancelled we have to assume it will still go ahead. There have been visits to the village from HS2 when residents have had the opportunity to ask questions , but I think it fair to say there is still a dearth of information in construction traffic and dates.

12. Parish Council accounts 2018-9. These were distributed for information only. Internally audited, PKF Littlejohn will audit them in June. At May Parish Council meeting they will be approved.

13. **Charity report Martin Rowling Trustee.** At Christmas 2018, residents at 14 households within the Parish received cash benefits from the Charity. After deduction of agents fees the nett rental income amounted to £2121. It is derived from an arable field at Wappenham and a small grazing paddock at Silverstone. Additionally, there are annual wayleaves relating to an electricity pole and an underground broadband communication cable. Both contribute to the income.
14. Update on Culworth Hill Field Trust- Plans are lodged with South Northants Council. The Parish Council will display them in the Church and Forge Coffee for public comment to SNC.
15. Reports

a. **Village Hall report- Julie Tinn Chair**

At the AGM in November 2018, all of the representatives and trustees agreed to stand again. Jane Field resigned as Treasurer but agreed to carry on until the end of the year. The Chairman and Secretary were reelected. Mark Izzett was elected treasurer at 15th January meeting.

Since the last Parish Assembly, work has continued on the new community project. John Emmett stepped down from the Design Committee but Julie Tinn continues as a Trustee on the newly registered Culworth Hill Field Trust set up to deliver the new building. Jim Gosling has been appointed architect and Jon Green Quantity Surveyor. After many consultations with SNC planning department, Sport England and ECB, plans have been submitted to SNC for approval. These had been displayed in the village with residents comments being taken into consideration before the final plans were submitted.

The Village Hall Committee has been considering the sale of the current Village Hall site. Which agents to employ, which way to market the site. It is hoped a decision will be made at the next meeting in May. The Village hall site has been registered with the Land Registry.

Regular fixtures such as film nights, coffee and chat, pilates, circle dancing, Tai Chi, Culworth Snappers and Village Café have contributed valuable funds to the upkeep of the Hall. They are also a way of getting people together. Jenny Howse organised two frugal lunches during Lent with proceeds going to Banbury Food Bank and also Shrove Tuesday quiz which tested us all but was much enjoyed.

The Village fete was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 with a fun run organised by Rupert Rowling beforehand. Many residents helped with attractions, stalls, teas, BBQ, Bar and Dog Show. The weather was kind and just over £3000 was raised which was split between the Village hall and the Church. There are no plans for a fete this year.

The Committee decided to increase the hiring rates this year as they had not been increased for a number of years.

The Village Hall remains a popular well appointed venue and an asset to the community.

**b. Culworth Cricket Club- Jim Powell Coach**

2018 was a very good season for Culworth Junior Cricket Club. We increased our membership, especially gaining a lot more girls, which was an aim for 2018. We split

the children into under 7s soft ball, 8-9's were the kwik cricketers playing with a semi hard ball. Then we fielded a under 11 and under 13 team.

The under nines in the Tuesday night sessions have been working a lot more on fielding drills, catching, throwing, calling when running in-between the wickets, being on guard in your fielding position, all these basic skills which need to be instilled to create all round cricketers.

As a consequence, when it came to our kwik cricket games, we went with a really solid team, which resulted in two wins. Unfortunately we only got the opportunity to play two tournaments this year, I am hoping there will be more next year.

The Under 11s season was one of massive improvement. From an unsure start and getting badly beaten by Towcester in the first game, all the players worked really hard, improved their technique in training and by halfway through the season we were playing some really good cricket. The team looked very sharp in the field and were looking strong in both batting and bowling.

In the end we won 4 (including a particularly pleasing victory over Middleton in a very close game), lost 5 and had a couple of games cancelled at the end of the season that I think we would have had a good chance of winning given how we were playing by the end of the season.

The Under 13s team did very well, coming fourth in the league behind Towcester, Horley and Brackley. It was nice to see us beat big teams like Middleton Cheney twice and established cricketing teams such as Evenly.

We hope 2019 we be even better. We will be fielding the same kwik cricket team, under 11 and under 13, and for 2019 we will also have an under 15 team. We are also not very far off from fielding a ladies/girls team.

The club is preparing well for the new season. We have replaced the broken concrete on the run up of the nets, and we will be getting a new net, as the previous nets had too many holes in it.

Some of our players have been in county and district trials during the winter and spring. To date India Harrison has been selected to play for Northants county at under 17, and we have other children doing final district training and selections.

We would welcome villagers to come and support us on Friday nights (kwik cricket), Sunday mornings (under 11), Wednesday nights (under 13s) and Monday nights (under 15s)

#### **c.St Mary's Church Culworth- Jenny Howse** **PCC Secretary's Report for 2018**

Culworth Church continues to maintain its position as the centre of the village. There are regular services and we continue to have a service every Sunday. The church is well maintained and always looks splendid. As usual Martin Rowling takes care of all the day to day maintenance but the churchyard is maintained by a group of willing mowers in the summer and a working party which clears the conservation area in August, which has resulted in the past few years in an absolutely magnificent display of snowdrops and primroses in the Spring. The flower arrangements in the church continue to expertly organised by Diana Langdale and she manages to bring in many others to help with the magnificent Christmas, Easter and Harvest displays.

The electrification of the clock-winding mechanism has been our major fund raising event and the work on this was completed by the Cumbria Clock Company in July and is running well. We were so lucky with two fund raising events – the garden tour and cream teas at John and Barbara Leadbeater’s house and the summer lunch at the Old Rectory, courtesy of Nancy and Ed Guinness and a donation from Banbury Masons and the Parish Council helped towards the cost.

Although our congregation is not huge we can always rely on people to come to church for the major events, help with churchyard mowing and maintenance and help with fund raising even if they are not regular church goers- for which are extremely grateful.

Apart from raising money for the clock winding mechanism we have raised money on behalf of Culworth church for many other worthy charities throughout the year including Water Aid, the Children’s Society, Brackley foodbank, Macmillan Nurses and the British Legion.

Sadly the church has suffered two cases of theft this year. The minor event was the theft of the lock on the collection box, which had little money in it but the loss of the lead from the south roof was a major blow. The PCC had hoped to be able to replace it with concrete tiles, as on the north roof, but the diocese has stipulated terne-coated steel or lead. Lead would be liable to be stolen again so it must be steel. Planning application has been applied for but until we get this we will not know the full cost of the replacement roof. This is likely to be in excess of £20,000, an amount that will mean other necessary or desirable projects will be on hold.

We have sadly lost two of our most faithful members this year. Rosemary Courtney raised money for many years with candles at Christmas, the money which went to buying new mats and altar linen. This will still be continued in her memory. Phoebe Stewart was a regular Sunday worshipper and supported us in many ways.

The notice board by the gate was vandalised but this has been replaced by a magnificent oak one, which Adrian Kilminster made and has very kindly donated -for which we are very grateful.

After a period of ill-health Fr. Brian will be reducing his hours from 6 days a week to 5.

It is becoming harder to find clergy for busy Sundays such as Christmas and this year Paul Franklin from Middleton Cheney administered Communion by Extension at Christmas as there was no priest available.

Last year we felt very proud that Culworth church was included in the list of ‘Inspiring Northamptonshire churches’. The church is at the centre of our village, a place where villagers turn to in times of need, for weddings and funerals. The building is a Grade 2 listed building in a most beautiful setting overlooking the cricket field. The church belongs to the village and as such is much loved.

#### **d.Culworth Primary Academy Oliver Johnson Head teacher**

A good place to begin would be to say that we have recently had work completed in our school playground to update some of our outdoor play facilities and equipment that the children access at break and lunch times. This has been a project that has been ongoing for the last 12 months or so and has involved a lot of community

cohesion in order to raise the funds needed to pay for the work. The final and biggest fundraiser was the recent promises auction that the CPSA held at Thorpe Manor. This event raised over £7,000 and was a huge success. This is just the first phase of what will be an ongoing project to eventually modernise the whole of the outdoor area for the children.

More fundraising will be taking place this year to continue to support this cause.

Whilst our school numbers continues to offer one of the biggest challenges/threats to the school, our pre-school numbers are looking very healthy and we hope to build a model that will mean that numbers coming into the main body of the school will be consistently supported by our pre-school.

We are less and less able to rely on new people moving into the local area, any new development that may boost numbers or people travelling long distances (relatively speaking) to get to a school.

We continue to look to interact with the village in as many ways as we possibly can. Children this year have been on many a walk about to local spots including the war memorial which we visited as a link to our Autumn Term topic on the First World War. Local beauty spots have been used as inspiration for still life art drawing and painting. We continue to visit the church for celebrations of Christian Festivals and work very closely with Father Brian who comes into school each week to deliver Collective Worship. We have been approached by the Forge coffee shop to potentially display some of the children's art work in their shop as part of an exhibition at some point during the summer term. We will soon be calling upon the services of the village cricket field once more for our annual charity sponsored run and also sports day. We also still enjoy the fact that we have a facility to use for our basketball club (the village hall) that is right on our door step.

The school is still part of a four school, church trust which it has been for over six years now. However, the trust is looking for more and more active ways in which our four school: Culworth, Boddington, St Loys and Chacombe can work together to enhance and maximise the quality of the provision that our children receive when they come to one of our schools. The more that we can do to support each other, the stronger our schools will be and, specifically speaking, the greater the benefit that Culworth children will see.

We would like to seek any further ways that we can to develop increased links with the local community.

#### **e. Good neighbour scheme. Sarah Izzett**

Towards the end of last year, Jose invited Rebecca Breakwell of the Northamptonshire branch of Acre ( short for Action with Communities in Rural England), an independent countryside charity set up to work with rural communities to improve their quality of life. The suggestion was that Culworth should set up a formal 'Community Neighbour Scheme' and Rebecca came to the village hall to explain to those interested how such a scheme could work in our community and to tell us about the possibility of local government funding for it.

Careful consideration was given by the group as to whether such a formal scheme would be practical and appropriate for Culworth. Concerns were that too formal a scheme in what is a small village might give rise to complications such as the requirement for insurance policies and formal regulation.

It was decided that for us, in a village with fewer than 400 residents, what would work best would be a more cohesive approach to what, in fact, on the ground was already being done. We all know that there are many people amongst us who consistently give up a lot their personal time to help others in the village in all sorts of ways. What did become clear at our meeting, though, was that some people who have needed help may have been slipping through the net simply because nobody knew of their need.

It was therefore agreed between us that it would be a good idea to TELL or REMIND those living in the village that neighbourly help, when needed, will be offered wherever reasonably possible and that we should provide everyone with proper lines of contact so that we all know who and how to ask for that help.

A letter was therefore delivered to each house in Culworth in January this year, explaining what sort of help is here if people need it and how to go about asking for it. A copy of that letter was also printed in the Culworth Newsletter.

We offer help 'informally' – as friends and neighbours within the village naturally lend a hand to others. We can, between us, help with getting someone to a doctor or hospital appointment, we can do our best to make sure people are not left lonely or are supported if they are going through a difficult time, we can babysit, we can do a bit of shopping if that is needed, we can give a lift to a local bus stop and so on. If a problem is beyond our amateur scope we will, of course, not try to deal with it ourselves but may be able to put people in touch with the right professionals.

We hope that those of us in our village who have time and are able to lend a hand once in a while will let us know. Shared between us, we think the task will be rewarding and manageable.

f. Finally, and linked to the efforts to provide neighbourly help within the village, a new edition of the **Culworth Directory** is in the process of being prepared and is expected to be ready sometime during the Summer. As it always has done, it will seek to provide useful information and contacts to all households in the village. This time our preparation has been somewhat more complicated by the passing of the new Data Protection Act 2018 which requires us to obtain written authority from any person whose personal data we might be printing in the Directory. The process is well in hand and those preparing the new version are very grateful to be able to build on all the hard work done by those compiling the previous editions.

**g. RIGHTS OF WAY** are gradually being walked with problems reported. Please contact Sarah or Mark Izzett for any problems

**h. POLICE**

#### Annual Report March 2019

The last 12 months has seen some changes to the teams based between Brackley and Towcester. PC Francesca SMITH has joined the Brackley team whilst PCSO Matthew TAYLOR has joined the Towcester team in a sponsored position for the Bugbrooke Parish. A sponsored PCSO is paid for by the parish and their sole responsibility is for that parish area. If you would like more information regarding sponsoring a PCSO please contact the team.

Nationally there have been increases in burglaries and thefts from vehicles. South Northants has experienced this also. Neighbourhood officers spend a considerable amount of time looking into these offences, reviewing CCTV, analysing trends and using local knowledge to build a picture of who may be committing these offences. We are pleased to report that a man, from Northampton, has been charged with a number of residential burglaries that took place on Christmas Day in Towcester. Another man, also from Northampton, has been charged with burglary following a series of offences committed in the Potterspury area.

Over recent weeks there have been some significant spikes in thefts from vehicles. These have been recorded across the area and clustered to a specific community over a particular night. Brackley, Milton Malsor & Blisworth saw a cluster of vehicles targeted between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March. Towcester and Syresham experienced similar between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March. It would appear that offenders have taken the opportunities provided by vehicles being left unlocked or with valuable property on display. Items reported to be stolen range from sunglasses to wallets and laptops. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of removing property and locking your vehicle. CCTV has shown us that offenders will try the door to a locked and empty vehicle and then move on. Unlocked vehicles are entered and searched and those with visible property are broken into. As of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 officers have identified two potential suspects for the recent thefts from vehicles as mentioned above. Work is being undertaken to collate all evidence sufficient for a charge to be laid once arrests have been made.

We often see comments on social media regarding a lack of Police in an area or that a crime would have been prevented if there were more Police about. Firstly access to social media is widespread and often local sites cannot prevent intrusion from people living outside of the area. Is it wise to suggest that our community is vulnerable to crime or is it better to stand united with the Police to fight this threat? Crime will always happen due to many social and economic factors but we can be better prepared to fight it as a cohesive community. Please support those people that work within your Community as emergency services, volunteers, clubs and organisations and help us make the area less attractive to criminals. Your Neighbourhood Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester and are often the first port of call for an emergency as the closest Police resource. We also take on a plethora of other responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments from an early intervention perspective, crime investigation and intelligence gathering. We use social media (Twitter) and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake. Unfortunately there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved.

Neighbourhood Alert is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils,

Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. Register your email address to receive up to date information. Sign up to Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at [www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk) Towcester & Brackley currently have Street Watch schemes. Street Watch is the equivalent of a mobile Neighbourhood Watch. In addition it can cover the entire Community and tackle issues such as; vandalism, anti-social behaviour, drug abuse and dog fouling. If you are interested in helping your community and joining your Street Watch Scheme please contact a member of the team.

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). Should you wish to discuss a particular issue or wish to meet a member of the team and discuss local trends then please contact either team via NT-

[SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk](mailto:SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk) or NT-

[SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk](mailto:SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk)

Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in many ways. This includes ringing

101 or online. Northants Police's new website also offers a reporting system for

A road traffic incident

Missing person – no immediate harm

Terrorist activity

Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad

Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the

following information and have it ready to provide:

the date and time the crime happened

the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village

a description of any people involved

the details of any witnesses or suspects

if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone

footage

if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed

Date for Diary;

South Northants Community Fun day

10am-4pm 23 rd June 2019 Islington road Recreation grounds, Towcester

Free open public event which will include demonstrations from the Police, Fire and Ambulance. Crime prevention advice, bike marking and the Rural Crime Team. There will be many local voluntary, support and cadet organisations represented.

Refreshments will be available for the duration of the event.

Useful Links

Northamptonshire Police Website

<http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary:

[vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk](http://vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk)

Useful link for all matters related to driving <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

Please use this link to support your children's safety

<http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams -

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/spotting-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers – Don't get caught out, find an approved trader:

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Community/trading/Pages/default.aspx>

t.aspx

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime:

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless is a site where young people can access non judgmental information and advice about crime and criminality

<https://www.fearless.org/>

Any other matters

None were raised.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm