

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 8 MAY 2017

MARLBOROUGH TOWN HALL, MARLBOROUGH

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Guy Singleton (Chairman)	Councillor
Neil Twentymen	Councillor
Andrew Smithson	Councillor
Rosemary Davies	Parish Clerk

Item No.	
01/17	<p>WELCOME</p> <p>The chair welcomed 17 parishioners and the guest speakers to the Annual Parish Meeting 2017. He introduced Rosemary Davies as the newly appointed parish clerk, following the resignation of Paul March in that role.</p>
02/17	<p>INTRODUCTION TO PARISH COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The chair introduced the current councillors. He explained that Shanne Boyd and Paul March have not stood for re-election. The chair thanked all councillors for work undertaken.</p>
03/17	<p>TALKS FROM VISITING SPEAKERS</p> <p>NIKKI MORGAN – FORESTRY COMMISSION</p> <p>Nikki Morgan explained that a Leigh Woods based Forestry Commission team of three, led by the forester, Thomas Blythe, manages Savernake Forest. Their ‘beat’ covers the Mendips, Bristol and Savernake. They are part of the West Forest District with a district head office in Coleford in The Forest of Dean, while the national head office is in Bristol. Nikki explained that the management of forestry is based around three objectives that cover timber, wild life and people. Dan Charlesworth is the Works Supervisor, and Nikki is responsible for Community and Recreation. Nikki gave examples of these as educational visits, orienteering and cycling, saying that she also organises groups of volunteers. Nikki explained that volunteers usually meet at Eight Walks at 10am monthly, or as often as they can attend. They undertake such tasks as ‘haloing’ the veteran oaks and planting specific tree saplings eg goat willow to encourage the Purple Emperor butterfly. The work undertaken helps maintain the forest’s Site of Special Scientific Interest status. Nikki stressed that new volunteers are always needed and are very welcome. To find out more information email Nikki on: nikki.morgans@forestry.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>JOAN DAVIES – SAVERNAKE HOSPITAL</p> <p>Joan Davies provided a detailed revision of background funding for Savernake Hospital since its refurbishment and re-opening in 2005. She explained that costs have since escalated and that the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) let a new contract for community nursing for Wiltshire as a whole. Great Western Hospital (Swindon), Royal United Hospital (Bath) and Odstock Hospital (Salisbury) formed a group, and staff at Savernake Hospital are now employed by GWH, with Ailesbury Ward at Savernake receiving patients from GWH. It is thought that NHS Property Services will now be taking over Savernake Hospital. NHS Property Services manages,</p>

	<p>maintains and improves NHS organisations to create efficient, sustainable and modern healthcare, and work environments. It acts as landlord, disposing of surplus properties that commissioners decide are no longer needed, regularising leases and developing new facilities. Mrs Davies explained that a new end-of-life care centre opened in Savernake Hospital run as an Outreach Centre by Prospect Hospice, which is a charity and for which GWH Foundation Trust charges a peppercorn rent.</p> <p>TESSA HERBERT – COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Tessa Herbert explained that she is part of the Devizes Community Policing team, which is currently short staffed. All such officers now carry video cameras. A recent national focus on knife crime has resulted in many visits to local schools. She explained that burglaries in the Marlborough area are mainly of low-value items, that 11 caravans have been broken into, and that theft at local beauty spots continues. The public is urged to beware ‘purse dips’ in Waitrose. She encouraged parishioners to inform the police should they see something suspicious. As part of the Rural Crimes Partnerships, there is a stand display in Marlborough Market on the first Wednesday monthly. In response to a parishioner’s question on the use of CCTV on private houses, she stated that this should not be intrusive on neighbours, but that it was an effective way of helping to catch criminals.</p>
<p>04/17</p>	<p>GENERAL COMMENTS AND FINANCE</p> <p>The chair proposed a vote of thanks to Paul March for keeping the parish council’s books and accounts in good order, which was warmly supported by those present. Mr March explained that the precept had been kept at the same level as the previous year, and that the parish council has a £517 surplus. Neil Twentyman kindly volunteered to take over the accounts.</p> <p>The chair invited comments on the display of plans for the new housing development at Marlborough Road. The impact of additional traffic generated by the new households was the dominant concern. The chair explained that these comments would be fed back to Wiltshire Council as the promised traffic-impact survey on the A346 does not appear to have been undertaken.</p> <p>The chair thanked parishioners for attending and closed the meeting.</p>