**MIDDLETON CHENEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Parish Meeting Room, Main Road, Middleton Cheney, OX17 2LR**

**Thursday, 14th April 2016 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. A. Youel, Vice Chairman Cllr. S Jerrams Coughtrey

Cllrs. J. Canning, E. Mason Clerk/RFO V. Furniss (Mrs)

Clerical Assistant (Mrs. E. Winn),

County Councillor: R. Sawbridge

District Councillor: V. Furniss

13 Members of the public

1. **Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman, Cllr. Alan Youel, welcomed all who were attending.

He explained that the meeting was an opportunity for village organisations, clubs and residents to share their experiences and aspirations with Council and raise any queries they may have.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from:

District Councillor: J. Baxter

Councillor: A. Deary

Councillor: P. Dixon

**Apologies had also been received from:**

The Village Archivist, Chairman PFA, Parkland Fencing, Dog Training Barn, Signs & Engraving, Hedges Signs, Round & About Publication, Banbury Chimney Sweeps, D.K. Symes Associates, Chestnut Osteopathic Practice, MC Pre-School and MH Painter & Decorator.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes for the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th April 2015 had previously been circulated, accepted and signed on the 5th May 2015 – Item No. 15/120.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Reports to the meeting**.

1. The Police report covered crime figures for 2015/16 that were specific to Middleton Cheney advising all members of the public to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity via 101, the non-emergency number. Northants Police also supported local social media networks and those attending were encouraged to view them as they provided information and advice keeping a two-way flow of information between the police and the public. Any concerns could be raised with a local officer via the email address: [SCT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@northants.police.uk](mailto:SCT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@northants.police.uk).

***A report is attached to these minutes.***

1. Chairman’s Report – Cllr. Alan Youel

The Chairman thanked all Councillors new and longstanding for their contribution, both in and out of meetings, especially as the amount of time, which Council affairs properly demand, had increased and this is all carried out on a voluntary basis. It was recognised that the most common topic residents would relate to was planning and he explained the Parish Council’s role as a Statutory Consultee. He also explained that the Parish Council works closely with the police, manages open spaces, allotments, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters the cemetery and other areas in the village. He then gave an overview of what the Parish Council had achieved during the past year and the actions that had been taken to achieve objectives. Answers to questions/concerns raised were and would be answered as soon as possible but this was reliant on the pace of others. At times, therefore, expediency was out of the Parish Council’s control. He summed up by thanking those who volunteer for the benefit of others in the village. He reminded those in attendance there were still 5 Parish Councillor vacancies and he encouraged residents to consider the role. Finally, a Beacon would be lit on the Primary Academy fields on Thursday, 21st April at 7.30 p.m.

***Full report is attached to the minutes***.

1. County Councillor Ron Sawbridge

The Chairman invited our County Councillor to present his report. He introduced himself to those attending and explained his role and how long he had served as a County Cllr. – 15 years - but thought he would not stand at the next election.

The main topic of the report centred on the reform of Local Govt and how County had to find ways of improving efficiency. He explained that income had decreased and costs were rising due to 3 factors, elderly, numbers of children in care and increase in the general population in Northamptonshire. With regard to the reform of Local Govt he felt it would be impossible to continue to have County, District and Parish in the same structure. He also felt that this was confusing to the public and the removal of one tier would not only be a financial saving but also a bureaucratic one. This restructure would reduce the number of CEO’s, senior managers who he considered were duplicated across the current set-up, reduce the number of Councillors who were also receiving allowances. He felt the proposals being put forward were done in secret without reference to County and that residents would end up as part of Oxfordshire that would not get support from residents. The other issue would be that this would also lead to a massive house building programme which would jeopardise the rural character of the area. Reference was made to the 7 MPs who have written to the Leader of County that has prompted an independent research into the options for reform.

The final part of the report covered the budget and the financial year to come. Two main services receiving support were Adult Social Care and Services for Children and Families although reference was made to the other areas supported by County.

Allocation of Cllr. Sawbridge’s £7,000 Empowering Allowance was referred to and which villages had benefitted.

***Full report is attached to the minutes***.

1. District Councillor, Judith Baxter was unable to attend and unfortunately had not submitted a report.
2. District Councillor, Val Furniss

After thanking our County Cllr. for the contribution he had made of £1K for the production and distribution of Cheney Chatter, Cllr. Furniss referred to her 2 roles of Clerk to the Parish Council and District Cllr. for the Ward.

Cllr. Furniss said she would like to respond initially to comments made by Cllr. Sawbridge relating to reform of Local Govt. covering joint working as since this topic had come into the public domain it had caused a few concerns and raised a number of questions. She emphasised that SNC and CDC remained independent Councils. They made decisions and implemented them based on their own Council polices for the benefit of residents in their respective areas. The breakdown of deployment of staff was covered and the benefits of joint working.

Reference to matters being done in secret in Cllr. Sawbridge’s report was indecorous. Oxfordshire had simply put forward a proposal to create a new unitary model due to the current joint working. Feasibility studies were being undertaken and when matters were known they would be presented to residents for consultation. There were no firm proposals. SNC had not ruled out a unitary authority with other districts but she felt other Districts were not, to date, enthusiastic about joining with County.

Other areas covered were District’s budget; the new leisure contracts for Brackley and Towcester; Brackley Town Hall; Waste Recycling; Local Plan Part 2A; Community Infrastructure Levy; the move to the Forum and Committees she attended at SNC. She also attended Overthorpe’s Parish Council meetings and her highlighted her involvement with Warkworth.

Cllr. Furniss mentioned that she holds surgeries once or twice a month and she was more than happy to make alternative arrangements.

***Full report is attached to the minutes***.

1. Tennis Club – A representative from the Tennis Club, Helen Harman, thanked the Parish Council for their continued support in particular over the past few years allowing them to carry out repairs to the courts. The club currently has teams in the Banbury Town Tennis Leagues and competes with clubs not only in Banbury but the surrounding area with mixed teams. Junior coaching helps promote healthy lifestyles and introduce younger members of our community and surrounding villages to tennis in a safe and fun environment.

***Tennis Club Report continued:***

The club has also taken part in the August Month of Madness where they have received positive feedback.

The Chairman had recently attended a LTA workshop in Northampton.

The Tennis Club was very active with the Primary Academy. This year they have entered a new league with separate ladies and men’s teams.

Those there were reminded that the club has website page where up to date information could be found. The building housing the club house needed refurbishment and they lacked toilet facilities.

***Their full report is attached the minutes***.

1. Cricket Club – Andy Mayo represented the club and gave a report detailing that the cricket club was thriving and having a successful season. The club now has the largest membership and known as the most progressive club in South Northants. The club fields 4 senior teams, Under 11’s, 2 Under 13 sides and and under 15’s. The season starts again in May and they will again host 2 County matches, one of which will be a girl’s game and the other will be District Under 11’s vs County Under 10’s.

***Full report is attached to the minutes***.

1. MC Football Club – Richard Fisher – Richard informed those attending that the club is one of the largest and all teams have reached the highest level of attainment. What is missing is a ladies team.

There are 12 teams in the junior league and they are working closely with Chenderit and the Primary Academy.

The pitch needs remedial work and the cost is in the region of £10,000. The Clerk said she would send details to Richard where help might be given. Richard thanked Andy Mayo for his continued work.

***Report yet to be submitted.***

1. Playing Fields Association - Mrs. Caroline Stacey, Chairman of the Playing Fields Association was unable to attend and Cllr J. Canning read her report.

***Full report attached to these minutes.***

1. Voluntary Village Archivist – Nancy Long – Although unable to attend, her report was read out by Cllr. Sue Jerrams Coughtrey.

***Full report is attached to these minutes.***

*xi* Health Walks – report given by Janet Burton – she encouraged people to join of all abilities. Walks are varied and club members are in the region of 50 people. Talks were held at the library and at one their meetings she had welcomed youths to join and she felt they were a delight to have at the meeting and encouraged other groups to engage.

Janet also explained she was connected to Brackley Dippers at the swimming pool and again those who wished to attend would be welcome. Swimming abilities at all levels.

6. **Reports for Meeting**

Reports received by the Parish Council by those who could not attend are also attached to the minutes.

7. **Any Other Lawful Business**

No other lawful business took place.

8. **Closing remarks**

Before the Chairman gave his closing remarks he asked residents attending whether they had any questions/concerns they would like to raise.

The Chairman’s closing remarks were to thank all volunteers who had worked extremely hard for the benefit of residents saying he appreciated the work they were doing.

The meeting closed with the Chairman thanking those who had attended and wished them well for the future.

Signed…………………………………….

**Chairman**

Dated………………………………………