**MIDDLETON CHENEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Virtual Meeting - Thursday, 28th May 2020 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Chairman Cllr. S Jerrams Coughtrey & Cllr. K. Burgess (Vice Chairman)

Cllrs.M. Allen, K. Jones, P. Fuller, Clerk/RFO V. Furniss (Mrs)

District Councillor: Val Furniss

District Councillor: Mark Allen

8 Members of the public

1. **Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman, Cllr. Sue Jerrams Coughtrey, welcomed all who were participating.

She 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.

She also said there would be a 10min break for those who wished to participate in the weekly 8 p.m. clap for the NHS and Care Workers – COVID-19.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from:

1. County Councillor: R. Breese
2. Councillor: A. Deary
3. Councillor: C. Bowden
4. Councillor: R. Solesbury Timms
5. Councillor: W. Smith
6. Police

Apology had not been received from:

Councillor: T. Rice

**Apologies had also been received by the Clerk from:**

Individuals, Organisations and Clubs who had been invited but were unable to attend due to other commitments.

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

The minutes for the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2019 had previously been circulated, accepted and signed at a Parish Council Meeting on the 7th May 2019.

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

There were no matters arising.

5. **Reports to the meeting**.

1. The Police report was read on their behalf by Cllr. Fuller as they were unable to attend and it covered crime issues, such as the significant spikes over recent weeks in thefts of trailers, quad bikes and other agricultural equipment and tools. They asked that all members of the public be vigilant and report any suspicious activity via 101, the non-emergency number. The report also covered police visibility, especially in rural areas and there had been a renewed interest in Parishes sponsoring their own Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). Currently, 2 men from Towcester are under investigation following recent thefts. Neighbourhood Teams attached to Middleton Cheney have a plethora of responsibilities in respect of safeguarding vulnerable people, working with educational establishments and the use of social media (Twitter) to inform residents of crime and incidents relevant to our area. The Neighbourhood Alert email system used by Schools, Parish Councils and community members and residents provides information and advice keeping a two-way flow of information between the police and the public. PCSO Kev Thompson joined the team in 2019 and became the dedicated Schools Officer in order to efficiently capture the ear of primary age children within South Northants. He has over 72 schools within his remit and delivers a huge range of key messages and safety presentations including information on drugs and country lines, knife crime, road safety, online safety, etc. It was agreed that the Annual Report will be issued on the Parish Council’s website as it contained useful links for various Police websites relating to vehicle tax reports/driving, children’s safety, scam protection, Trading Standards, Crime Stoppers, etc.
2. **Chairman’s Report** – The Chairman, Cllr. Sue Jerrams Coughtrey, 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 would be planning, managing open spaces, allotments, play areas, street lighting, speeding, parking problems, Potholes, the cemetery and numerous other areas in the village. The report also 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: Cllr. Jerrams Coughtrey asked those participating to forward these to the Clerk and they would be answered as soon as possible but, as always this was reliant on the pace of others. At times, therefore, expediency was out of the Parish Council’s control.

The report also covered the appointment of a new Litter Picker, the creation of a Freewoman/man of the village the first recipient being the Chair herself. Neighbourhood Plan was still in the process of being developed - we had appointed a Consultant but would still need the full support of residents.

There had also been a few closures in the village such as the Methodist Church, Social Club and postponements/cancellations such as the VAS/SID system and CCTV in Stanwell Play Area, VE75 weekend celebration and most crucially Local Council Elections which would have taken place in May.

Other notable area covered was a scheme set-up to help vulnerable residents and those self-isolating during the pandemic.

The report concluded by thanking those who volunteer for the benefit of others in the village as this was appreciated.

1. **County Councillor Rebecca Breese**

Cllr. Breese had sent her apologies as she was unable to attend and therefore the Chair read the report on her behalf.

The main topic of the report centred on the reform of Local Govt and how County had to find ways of improving efficiency. It had been a challenging time to be a Cllr. Over the course of last year, the aim of members was to work with the Commissioners and others to help place

County’s finances and its services in the best possible position ahead of the transition to a 2 Unitary local government structure in Northamptonshire. The restoration of the Council’s finances has been the primary focus while maintaining statutory services plus working with the 7 District and Borough Councils.

The report explained that across all areas of Council activities a detailed study of contracts has identified areas where considerable savings could be made or performance enhanced.

The report explained that the Shadow Authority’s role over the coming months would be to recruit a permanent Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. This Committee is making decisions on how the ‘Shadow Authority’ will operate prior to the establishment of the new Unitary and is a Statutory requirement.

The final part of the report covered Rebecca’s work relating to SNC using some of its reserves to kick start technical preparation work for the A422 Farthinghoe Bypass.

1. **District Councillor Val Furniss**

After thanking those participating, she said her main responsibility was to sum up the year and said frankly there had been highs and lows not to mention changes in legislation and future ways the community would be governed – she expressed the view that going forward we would need to manage expectations. She also referred to her 2 roles of Clerk to the Parish Council and District Cllr. for the Ward.

Other areas covered were changes in legislation and future ways we are to be governed and what it would mean to residents. She also covered Local Govt Reform that had been dominated by events at County and how the fallout was being dealt with. The report covered the sheer scale and complexity of bringing together Authorities into a new one and although vast she felt it was paramount to ensure services ran smoothly, safely and legally. Although this undertaking is huge she assured those participating that Council staff are continuing to focus on doing their day jobs by providing the services residents pay for through their Council Tax.

The report then covered topics such as the New Homes Bonus, Planning & Land Supply, Private Sector Housing Initiatives, Environmental Services, Supporting Local Businesses and the Community in General relating to ‘Good Neighbour Schemes; Health and Wellbeing, Ability Bus Service, Sports and Leisure, Homelessness and Rough sleepers, Grants that were available, Police and then the Annual Comfort and Joy Campaign that was started in 2015 geared to helping those who have been affected by Domestic Abuse.

**District Councillor Mark Allen**

Councillor Allen said he had been appointed as a District Cllr for the Ward following the Bi-election last year when Cllr Riley was unable to continue due to health issues. Although not being in the position for very long he gave an overview of the Committees he was a member of and areas of work within the village that he was participating in.

**Reports Given by those participating relating to Clubs/Organisation they represented.**

1. **Tennis Club** – The Chair of the Tennis Club, James Griffin, thanked the Parish Council for their continued support. The Club had enjoyed a successful 2019 with 58 members and they had been focusing on encouraging junior participation. Michael Hodson (LTA qualified coach) continues to run Saturday morning coaching classes for different age groups. 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. The club has also taken part in the August Month of Madness where they have received positive feedback.
2. **Playing Fields Association** - Mrs. Caroline Stacey, Chairman of the Playing Fields Association, gave an overview of the clubs, their vision for the future covering possible new location and premises in order to have the best facilities possible for current and future clubs. She explained that the Social Club had closed and the different ways this could be addressed by the PFA - this was a significant amount of the revenue they receive in order to maintain the current facilities.

Finally, Caroline said she would be stepping down at the AGM.

1. **History Society** – As Chris Wells was unable to attend the Chair read his report.

They continue with a good core membership and programme of talks attracting members and visitors and a number of speakers participated.

The report thanked all those for their help including the technology needed. The past year’s programme covered the 1940’s, High Society Scandals, Photograpic Scams and local Roman History.

A varied programme is being put together for the coming year.

viii **Scale Model Club** – Sam Evins said they have 15 members and won many awards including the gold best club display at scale model world (biggest model show worldwide).

ix **Tai Chi –** Martin Edwards saidtheir aims and objectives are to make Tai Chi available to all, promoting health benefits, cultural exchange and to help others. They have been part of the village for 15+ years using the Village Hall every Thursday morning with 3 Instructors. They have 40 members and new members are always welcome. Membership also allows attendance at any 500 classes worldwide.

**Other reports received and read in their representative’s absence.**

**Middleton Cheney Football Club**: covering membership and the tournament last summer which was well attended.

**Pre-school**: report covered fund raising activities, past and present. Numbers attending – 97% capacity. They have also remained open during the Pandemic looking after vulnerable children and children of keyworkers parents during the current COVID lockdown. The lockdown has meant they have had to temporarily put their visits to Cheney House on hold however they have remained in contact. They welcomed students from Banbury College and also Chenderit School. They also had 2 Chenderit students who completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Service module with them.

**The Cricket Club:** they had a successful 2019 season with the Senior Men’s remaining in Division 1 of The OCA League and the Senior Men’s 2nd gaining promotion to Division 6 of the OCA League. Mixed Juniors U13’s finished 3rd in South Northants League and took part in the Country Finals Day. They have been successful in fundraising and are looking for new members.

6. **Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting**

Reports given by those attending and reports read and/or those sent to the Parish Office by those who could not attend are available from the Parish Office.

7. **Any Other Lawful Business**

No other lawful business took place.

8. **Closing remarks**

Before Cllr. Jerrams Coughtrey gave her closing remarks she reminded those attending that if they had any questions/concerns they would like to raise to send an email to the Clerk. The meeting then closed with the Cllr. Jerrams Coughtrey thanking those who had participated and wished them well for the future.

Signed…………………………………………………………….. Date: ……………..…..2020

**Chairman**