

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH
HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, CRANMORE, ON 27TH April 2015 AT 7.00PM

Present **Grant Bolton (GB, Chair),**

In Attendance **Vickie Watts (VW; Clerk) and 13 members of the public.**

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Philip Ham, PCSO Nikki Housley, John Reakes, Gwenda Brock and Diana Reader sent apologies.

2 **Agreement of the minutes held on 28th April 2014 and matters arising**

The minutes had been distributed and it was agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting and were then duly signed by the Chair. Matters arising had been completed.

3 **Meeting open to the public**

The Chair explained that Pete Reakes was doing a Wing Walk on the 16th May to raise money for the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research and the Dorset Air Ambulance. All donations will be gratefully received. Visit www.petescharitywingwalk.co.uk

4 **Parish Council report**

Grant Bolton, Chair of the Parish Council confirmed that the last year had seen some Councillors leave, Mark Snelson and Christine Smith. David Van Dyk was co-opted. He went on to thank all current Councillors and past for their commitment and hard work.

The Chair also said that Gloria Cawood would be standing down as District Councillor after over 30 years – he thanked her for all her help over the years, her experience and local knowledge has been a real help around the village. The Chair wished her well in her retirement.

There has been lots of administrative work going on with combined efforts with the community group and the village hall committee. Funds for the hall maintenance, as well as the insurance costs are now combined, bringing a discount and benefiting all.

During the year the Grapevine has gone electronic with David Dixon taking on the responsibility for the editorial. If there are any events planned for the village then please contact David for it to be included within the Grapevine.

Both the bus service and mobile library came under scrutiny but were given a reprieve. Please support the library service because all visits are monitored and if it is not used, we could lose it.

There was a slight rise in the Precept this year as a result of other sources of support and grants being tightened. Over the next year it is hoped that the number of dog waste bins and litter bins will be installed. Enquiries are also being made into ways that the 1st World War can be commemorated.

A grant was secured to help with the installation of a hearing loop in St Bartholomews church which with the balance being raised at a bucket collection at Tesco's.

The Health and Well-being grant from Somerset County Council will be used to provide the fence along the roadside of the sports field.

The Chair thanked all of the groups for the work that they do around the village which makes it an enjoyable place to live.

Cranmore Parish Council still has on vacancy for a Councillor, please get in touch if you are interested in finding out more.

Cllr Crowcombe expressed thanks to the Chair for his commitment to the Parish Council.

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

5 Reports from:

5.1 Jill's Close committee

A report was provided which was duly read out. It said:

"Jill's Close Committee has 5 members - Diana Reader (Chair), Jenny Short (Secretary), Teraza Connock, Mark Knight and Pete King. Max Edgar has moved from the village and he resigned from the Committee in September. Pete King who lives in Cooks Lane, joined the Committee and has made a great contribution to our activities already. The Committee reports to Cranmore Parish Council and is responsible for the safe operation and development of the village playing field, Jill's Close.

The Committee held a pub quiz in the Strode Arms in March to raise funds. It was a great social event for the village and the pub, and we raised £169 for Jill's Close.

Our thanks go to the Parish Council for replacing the swing seats and chains. The Committee has replaced broken planks on the fort and new rope has been tied on the wooden boat. We had our annual Spring Spruce on 19th April. Committee members and their families spent a sunny day, sanding and painting equipment, varnishing benches, pruning trees and pressure cleaning the wooden boat. Hard work but surprisingly fun!

We conduct a monthly safety check on the playing field and a copy of this is sent to the Parish Council. An annual safety inspection is conducted by Wicksteed in July.

Our long term goals are to install a rocker for younger children. At some stage, the ageing fort will need to be replaced. We are also considering some willow structures in the playing field and an extension to the popular wooden boat. In the meantime, the Committee's aim is to ensure the playing field is a safe and clean environment for children and their families to use and enjoy.

5.2 Memorial Hall committee

John Reakes was unable to attend but had provided a report which was read out on behalf of the committee. It read:

"The Hall again had a good number of bookings. Preschool is continuing as our best hirer by far. Tai Chi and WI giving us continued support.

Families have regular bookings for children's parties. We are pleased to announce that a wedding reception has been booked during spring 2016.

The Insurance is still in line with the Parish Council renewal date with the Community Group still paying 50% of the cost which is much appreciated.

An amount of maintenance is required on the windows and this will soon be carried out.

Karen Mitchell has just supplied a kitchen blind which was kindly fitted by Alan Price,

A Christmas Bingo was held on November 28th and made a profit of 256 which proved an enjoyable evening with a number of people who do not usually attend village functions.

We are happy if we are able to continue to set aside along with the Parish Council money for future roof renewals and any other major future expenditure as and when it is required. We are financially sound and Maria for her secretarial work. Many thanks to the rest of the committee for their continued help and support.

The Committee appreciate very much the hard work and dedication of Brian and Vera put in taking bookings, looking after the building and carrying out our regular cleaning.

I believe that the Hall continues its purposes in catering for the young and more senior people of the parish."

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

5.3 Community group

John Reakes was unable to attend but had provided a report which was read out on behalf of the committee. It read:

The major event taking place during 2014 was the Summer Fayre which was as successful as it could be due to our small committee. Again it was necessary to use the Village Hall and Lawn area to the rear profit of £872.66 was made. Other income for the year came from:

100 Club	£540.00
Tent hire	£835.00
Summer Hop	£384.55

The Summer Hop was a great night and may well be repeated with 54 people attending.

A table top sale which took place on March 28th made a profit of £167.01

We are expecting to renew the doors to the station store in lieu of paying rental for storage of the tents.

Grants paid this year are as follows:

Cranmore Pre school	£150 – towards new fence on East boundary
Methodist Chapel	£50 – towards insurances
Friendship Circle	£100 – to subsidise Christmas lunches
Cranmore Church	£225 – To help pay for new guttering and lead roof repairs
Tennis Club	£150 – To help with resurfacing the court and maintenance
Memorial Hall	£500 – to help towards future roof renewals and possible boiler renewal with maintenance of heating system

The Committee has not received any applications for grants from the Cricket Club or Jill's Close committee.

Insurances are yet to be settled and a payment for the station doors to be made when complete.

The Village Fayre is to take place on the 25th July.

5.4 Friendship circle

Apologies were received from Gwenda Brock who provided a report which was read out. It read:

"Although we consider ourselves to be a small village, a high number of our senior parishioners live alone and without a shop and post office as a common meeting place – many don't see each other and can become lonely, especially if disabled through age or illness. Our aim is to keep these people in touch in a social and happy environment and we are grateful to Cranmore Parish Council, the Hall Committee and the Community Group for their support.

We meeting for coffee mornings or special birthday celebrations and the occasional BINGO which is always a fun afternoon. At these meetings we have raffles or bring and buy's which brings in funds which we put towards our Christmas lunch. Last year 49 of us sat down to a marvelous lunch prepared by Suzette Thorner and her sister Lee. We are hoping to repeat the event again this year.

We regularly welcome friends not only from Cranmore but also from Doultling, North Wootton, Shepton Mallet and even Crewkerne!

Unfortunately this year we lost several of our elderly members and they are greatly missed. It is amazing the number of ninety + year old residents we have in the community and we will be celebrating more in the coming months. It must be the Mendip air!!

I am grateful for the friends for the friends who so willingly turn up and help at meetings. So appreciated.

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

5.5 Cricket club

No report had been provided.

5.6 Tennis club

Marie Pitman attended and read the reported that last week they held their 9th AGM since the group started in 2006. Robert Gilderthorp was elected again as the Chair, with Rosie Lescallys as Secretary and Maria Pitman again as Treasurer.

There are now 26 members made up of families and individuals. Maria thanked the Community Group for the donation which will go towards the cost of the resurfacing which will take place soon. The problem with the padlock has been resolved.

The application form for membership is available online and is in the Grapevine.

5.7 Cranmore pre school

No report had been provided.

5.8 St Bartholomew's church

David Dixon attended and read the report on behalf of the committee. It said: St Bartholomew's Church has had an unusual and interesting year.

We have hosted 36 Sunday and 11 Wednesday services. Highlights include

Christingle (with everyone making Christingles)

Christmas Eve Family Carols (with the church absolutely full again)

Remembrance (with the 2 minutes silence which means so much to all of us)

Epiphany (when people generously donated food items for the Shepton food bank)

Palm Sunday (with Cranmore's own donkeys, hot cross buns galore, and a very moving service)

In addition we have hosted 5 weddings – an unprecedented number – all successful and enjoyable. Cranmore Church is obviously a very desirable wedding venue!

In November, we said goodbye to David Williamson, the Priest in Charge; since when we have been 'in vacancy', and managing very much on our own. In addition, the job of recreating the Parish Profile to send to applicants for the position has kept many of us very busy.

Before he left, we became involved in Shepton Mallet's 'Healing Wounded Churches' process, which touched many people with a new optimism.

At the Annual Parish Church Meeting, Adrian Candy announced that he would not be reapplying for the post of Churchwarden. So that also lies vacant (not for the first time, actually – there was no Churchwarden from 1767 to 1805). A team of volunteers has come forward to share out the churchwarden's many duties – a solution that the diocese commends as very forward-looking. However, if someone would like to take over the role of churchwarden, that person would be warmly welcomed. Meanwhile we all acknowledge how grateful we are to Adrian for his conscientious and caring work amongst us.

Financially, we have remained solvent – just! – having paid our parish share of £9972 and having commissioned and paid for most of the works identified in the last survey – the most significant being the renovation of lead roofing, guttering, downpipes and drainage – helped by a substantial grant from the Community Group.

We also gratefully acknowledge grants from Mendip District Council (for a hearing loop, to be installed free of charge by our own local expert!) – and the Parish Council (for a set of beautiful large-print psalm books).

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

We have recently had two fund-raising activities – one being the table-top sale here in the Memorial Hall organised by the Community Group – the other being the opportunity to raise money in the foyer of Tesco in Shepton Mallet. Both of these were very successful and unexpectedly enjoyable. We will now be able to add a proper PA system to the hearing loop installation. (Instead of 'Watch this space' we might say 'Listen to this space'!

To sum up, the church is alive and well. It is a very happy part of our community life. Many people contribute by sharing the burden of responsibilities and duties, and without that we could not function. Our only wish is that we might be able to welcome more participation by families and young people – though of course we are very well aware of the many demands made on people's time.

5.9 Neighbourhood watch

No report had been provided.

5.10 Strawberry Line Women's Institute

No report had been provided.

5.11 Police Community Support

No report had been provided.

5.12 District Councillor report

Cllr Cawood attended and gave the following report:

Two issues have dominated in the Council over the past 2014-15:

1. Shape Mendip – with its plans to further centralize public services for the whole District on the site in Shepton Mallet, including Police, Social Services and Capita.

While all this work has been going on meetings and trainings were held at various venues mainly Beardsley Batch, Jardines Ballroom at Kilver Court and Wells Town Hall. It was quite a relief to return to the Council Offices at Cannards Grave in September.

2. Planning issues, including Mendip Local Plan and the delegated decision process.

The Local plan had a bumpy ride during the consultation process and for a good deal of the year was challenged by a number of developers – notably at Evercreech where a huge planning application for housing received approval from the Inspector. It was argued that Mendip failed to ensure sufficient land had been identified to meet the target housing needs for the District.

Mendip had to go back to the drawing board and modify its Local Plan 2006 – 2029. Recently the modified plan (part 1) which indicates where new housing might or not be built has been supported by Inspectors in Appeals. Mendip has yet to gain approval for part 2, but hopefully is not far off.

Partly because of this Cranmore has had another quiet year on the housing planning front. Cranmore has been identified as tertiary settlement – it has no shop, post office or school and therefore does not qualify for new housing development under ordinary circumstances.

Mendip Councillors were given a fund of £2000 for 2014-16. Cranmore Parish Council applied for and awarded funding towards Dog bins and the pre-school for equipment.

It has been a great honour to be your District Councillor for 32 years and I would like to thank Cranmore Parish Council and its Clerk for the support they have given me over the past year. I have enjoyed working with you and if my successor has half the excellent relationship I have shared with you, the Parish Council then he or she will be very fortunate indeed.

CRANMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Vickie Watts

cranmoreparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk | 07971 516916 | Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB

5.13 County Councillor report

A report was provided by County Cllr Ham but the Clerk had left it at home. It was agreed that it would be circulated as soon as possible and included in the minutes. County Cllr Ham reported:

Budget – Over 30 million pounds had to be found but we did it! It was difficult, but with savings taken, investments to save and re-organization of buildings and staff it was achieved.

Rivers Authority –After the floods across Somerset much work had to be done to create a 20 year plan. Lots of costings, looking at ways of financing projects and implementation are still underway. There will be a new Somerset Rivers authority.

Scrutiny – I have attended all Scrutiny meetings with People and places, which has included Flooding, Minerals plan, Assets, Hinckley C, the Skanska contract, West Somerset railway and Health and Wellbeing.

Highways – A lot of work has been done since the flooding around Dunball, Beer Wall, Mulchalney and Althey including the dredging of the Parrett and Tone. 25,000 potholes have been filled and lots of new roundabouts and roads built in preparation for Hinckley C in the South Yeovil corridor.

Children’s services – the numbers are rising constantly. In twelve months the number has risen from 400 to 600. Senior management position has been advertised but no applicants came forward with the salary at £130K but we have managed to secure an officer at £140K. This is with a decreasing budget.

Offices – B Block is now complete and C block is empty. Many outlying buildings have been sold off or released to give income. A block is to be refurbished and let to Taunton Deane.

Health and Wellbeing grants: - My £5,000 was distributed as follows:

£1,000	Mell’s school – one to one teaching project
£1,000	To a partial sight group for East Mendip
£650	To fit hearing loop at Cranmore Church for meetings including the Parish Council
£1,550	to At the Hub Coleford
£800	to Nunney BMX trials track

With 16 Parish Councils it has been difficult to attend all as many clash with each other and other meetings.

6 **Display by Grant Bolton on how to use the Defibrillator**

An informative display was given which was enjoyed by all.

7 **Date & Time of next meeting**

11th of May 2015 for both the Annual Parish Council meeting and monthly meeting.

It is agreed that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting

Signed _____ Dated: _____