

CHACOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday 3rd April 2022** at **6:45pm** in Chacombe Village Hall

Present: Cllr Taylor, Cllr Wilkin, Cllr Castle, Cllr Jenkins, 6 members of the public

1. Welcome and apologies – Cllr Wright.
2. Report from Parish Council Chairman

CHACOMBE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

This year has been a year of transition for Chacombe Parish Council with our erstwhile Chairman Peter Gliwitzki stepping down from the council in May, after many years in the Chair, leaving the Council with a new leadership group. As Chairman, this summary report of the year gives me the chance to give formal thanks to Peter for all of his hard efforts leading the council over the past few years. It has been a challenge, and a privilege, to step into the role to lead a team of relatively inexperienced councillors, with certain notable exceptions, throughout the rest of the year. We are now a merry band of 6 Councillors, with open opportunity for others to join us if they wish, and I would like to thank them all, and our dedicated clerk, Kirsty, for their efforts in supporting me and the Village over the year. We have a variety of things going on in Chacombe and it is great to see particular individuals taking a lead where their knowledge and experience can be of help.

This year in particular, Councillor Faye Wright has lent her expertise in Planning to lead our responses to the various planning applications that have come up during the year. Of particular note have been detailed objections in response to the proposed large warehouse development, and subsequent appeal, at Huscote Farm. These were successfully quashed but there will inevitably be more in their wake which will need further PC attention.

Having listened to concerns raised by residents over the last couple of years we are doing our best to improve the village and the safety of its residents. The challenges we had with the mowing of our grass verges and other public spaces were addressed with our grass-cutting contractor. We have discussed the reasons behind the inconsistent service provided and have agreed the appropriate service levels for the coming year. This has been drafted into a contract which both guarantees their performance and guarantees us value for money over the next couple of years.

The ongoing battle with Highways about the speed of traffic entering and leaving the village continued throughout the year and Councillor Neil Castle has worked tirelessly to get even the simplest changes implemented. The entrance gate near the allotments was eventually replaced after being destroyed by a speeding motorist and despite having qualified for the 20mph advisory speed limit scheme nearly a year ago, we are still awaiting the official signage from WNC. All villagers can help by driving at 20mph, in order to protect our friends and families walking to the pub, allotments, school and other village amenities. We can all do our bit.

On the health and safety theme, this year has also seen us secure some funding towards the installation of a new defibrillator. This will be located in the centre of the Village on 'The Ring', next to the Parish Council Noticeboard. The new mounting pole has been erected and the defibrillator unit delivered, and we are just awaiting the final electrical connection to be completed. In the meantime, the existing defibrillator unit, located at the front of Chacombe School, has been refurbished including a software upgrade and will still be operational for some while yet. Thanks to Councillor Brendan Jenkins, supported by Faye and our clerk Kirsty, for getting this project to the final phase.

This year we have also moved forward into the digital age by joining in with a Nationwide Asset Mapping project being coordinated by the 'Parish Online' software developers. As our IT lead, Councillor Ralph Wilkin has engaged with the project team training and has mapped all of our Assets, such as lampposts, benches, bins etc. onto the

website tool. These are inspected quarterly, and this tool may help us keep track of their condition as well as connecting us into a national database. Thanks also to Ralph for keeping our website updated this year. Please take time to visit it and sign up to automatic alerts which will provide a fast link to agendas and minutes. www.chacombe-parish-council.org.uk.

I would also like to pass on thanks to all others who give their time to help the village and whose work isn't always recognised. John Roulstone has been our Footpath Warden, Geoff Annalls our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and Police Liaison contact and Ian Eames has bravely taken on the unenviable task of emptying the bins around the village. Our thanks to them all.

As a Parish Council we are looking to support villagers' activities and provide services and benefits to the village. Please do use Public Time at the Parish Council meeting, held on the first Monday in the month, unless a Bank Holiday, to bring along any ideas, proposed village improvements and/or raise any issues or concerns. The agenda is posted on the village notice board and in the Chacombe Chimes as well as the Parish Council website. If you would like to get more involved and are considering becoming a councillor, please do get in touch. Your contribution would always be valued.

Finally, the Parish Council is looking forward to Chacombe celebrating the coronation of King Charles III in style with our 'Picnic Party in the Park' in Berry Close on Sunday May 7th. This will be a chance for the Village to come together and celebrate as a community, something that we all deserve.

Cllr Andrew Taylor
Chairman - Chacombe Parish Council

3. Reports from other village organisations

CHACOMBE WI

The WI have had another busy year and welcomed an eclectic mix of speakers on topics including life in the classroom from then to now, producing goats' cheese, the life of a studio potter, lifechanging decluttering and a hands-on art lesson when everyone produced their own 'masterpiece' to take home.

Within our membership there are a wide range of interests and skills and this year members have visited Stowe Gardens, enjoyed two concerts at The Mill, walked together and regularly play skittles with Chipping Warden. The WI and cooking are synonymous and we have shared some lovely food at the Pot Luck Supper and Summer tea party. We also engage in projects to improve the lives of others, completing the renovation of the garden at the mental health hospital in Banbury, knitting dementia fiddle blankets for Chacombe Park and latterly blankets for Project Linus to provide comfort to children who are sick and in hospital.

The Christmas Craft Market in November and May plant stall and coffee morning were both well supported and provided an opportunity for villagers to catch up together. Our cookbook sales have continued to raise money for Katharine House Hospice and we made a donation to the school's library refurbishment.

Chacombe WI welcome new members, so do come and give us a try or visit us as a guest if you want to hear a particular speaker.

Hilary Maggs - Chacombe WI

Chacombe Sports & Social Club

CS&SC has been in a membership crisis for some years, despite pleas, and threats to close, we have had 3 new members who are willing to come to committee meetings. It is still unclear whether these good people will take on the mantle (they have been shadowing us over the last year)

Fireworks was a successful night, running according to plans and with enough helpers to avoid problems (no car park attendants turned up on the night) Thanks to the George & Dragon for their help with the catering, and Mr Mayhem and Tammy for the Bumble Bee Roadshow's entertainment. Around 1500 people attended and costs were covered.

The Father Christmas Float was a well oiled machine with a few extras, our new helpers innovated a tracker system for Santa, and card donations were taken for the first time!

Our usual route was followed and the weather held for once. Chacombe Village felt an especially good night, it seemed like the whole village turned out to cheer us around!

We were able to donate £1000 to the British Heart Foundation (Our charity for nights 1-4) and £ 600 to Chacombe Churches' Foodbank as well as £200 for Time2Talk, a local charity helping with Children's mental health issues.

For now, the committee stands as is, we do not know if Fireworks will go ahead this year, and sadly, unless the Christmas Float can find a new storage home then it will have to be dismantled.

Under the direction of Andrew Taylor, CS&SC are providing an umbrella group for the Coronation Celebrations this May.

CHACOMBE CHIMES

The Chimes continues to have good support from the village and we are pleased to be working with the school this year to offer the opportunity for pupils to see their work in print.

We try to both celebrate and inform villagers about the work of the village organisations and the achievements of our community. I always look forward to Richard Tustain's piece about the farming year and this year we followed Rachel Bee's progress on her 1,000-mile walking challenge for Samaritans.

The Chimes has been able to celebrate the good work done on volunteer days at Berry Close, the churchyard and the playing field, and the volunteers who participated in the Sports & Social Firework Night and Christmas Float, the WI garden project at The Elms and Craft Fair, and the thriving PTA at the School.

Thank you to everyone who writes articles for the Chacombe Chimes and our delivery team, and the Parish Council whose yearly donation is an important element of the Chimes funding. Anyone can contribute, it is your village newsletter, so please do contact the Editor.

Hilary Maggs - Chacombe Chimes

VILLAGE HALL

It has been an interesting and active year creating a new extension and toilet block. The builders have done a decent job. This is part of a two phase project - the second phase will include updating the kitchen facilities, putting in a fully accessible toilet in the main hall building, and creating more storage space in the main hall building. More funds need to be raised before getting the second phase underway. We would like to do all of the work in one go to reduce disruption to hall users. There are a number of regular hall hirers but there is room for more - in particular it would be good to get someone to start running a Badminton Club. Gigaclear are providing a free wifi connection for the village hall and they have the right to use the village hall twice per year free of charge. The Village Hall also organised a Scarecrow Competition which was well received in the village. The Village Hall are running a 'dress your house' competition for the King's Coronation event – entries close on 1st May. More details will be published on the website and in the Chimes. We would like to thank all those using the hall facilities and would welcome new users in the forthcoming year.

Cllr Taylor thanked the groups for providing their reports this evening and thanked all of the village groups for their work in the village.

4. Any other issues parishioners wish to discuss – None.

Meeting closed @ 7:12pm.