

# **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Guiting Power held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 8.00pm in Guiting Power Village Hall**

Chairman: Cllr Dawn Rimmer

Fifteen parishioners present,

Councillors Present: Dawn Rimmer, Lisa Rose, Nettie Ekblom, Else Ogden, Patrick Flaherty and Simon Gardner. County Councillor Nigel Moor

- 1. Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Cllr Rimmer and opened at 8pm
- 2. Apologies.** Apologies were received from Cllr Dover, District Councillor Richard Keeling, Rev. Scott and David Broad.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm in Guiting Power Village Hall to be signed and approved.** These were approved and signed as a true record.

## **4. Brief Reports**

### **Gloucestershire County Council – Cllr Nigel Moor**

- Gloucestershire County Council on Wednesday 13th February 2019 agreed a budget of £428 million, an increase of £16 million on the current year. This allows the council to go on supporting the most vulnerable people in the county but also investing more in schools, community facilities and highways. The capital programme now stands at more than £600 million with some 250 projects across the county making a real difference to local communities.

- The budget also includes £178 million of new capital investment for schools, community facilities and highways, including funding for the council's £150 million road improvement programme. An extra £150k for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and £25k to help the county get ready for 5G were added by the Cabinet at its meeting in January and form part of the new budget.

- Among the new initiatives are:

- £150,000 to fund pressures in maintaining subsidised bus services.
- Each county member has a Highways Local Budget of £25,000
- A district fund of £10,000 to support youth activities which will be supervised by county councillors.
- A contribution of £30,000 to map existing cycle-ways. This is part of a county wide cycling strategy.
- A further £24 million to complete the conversion of some 60,000 lamp standards to LED which has hugely reduced the carbon emissions across the county estate.
- To further promote the Apprentice Travel card.
- The continuation of the Lengthsman's scheme which will be organised by the new local highways contractor Ringway.

- The budget is based upon a 2.99% increase in Council Tax (£8.4m) to be invested in children`s services, making sure improvements go from strength to strength. Based on current figures, when compared with other councils across the country, Gloucestershire sits in the bottom 25 percent when it comes to council tax levels. The council has also agreed to apply the national social care precept at two percent, which will raise an additional £5.6 million to help manage the increased demand for adult care service. This will see a £5.13 per month increase for the average Band D taxpayer.

My email address: [nigel.moor@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.moor@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

## **District Councillor – Richard Keeling**

Some highlights of recent Cotswold District Council decisions:

### **Council Tax**

CDC has agreed a 2% increase in the authority`s share of residents` council tax payments for 2019/2020. This follows a sequence of either reductions or freezes over more than 10 years which represents a real terms reduction of c50% against a 2010 baseline.

The 2% rise means the average band D charge for District services will increase from £126.40 per annum to £128.93 per annum - less than 5p per week.

### **Car Parking**

There will be a continuation of the freeze on parking charges at all CDC owned car parks for 2019/20.

There will be a continuation of the `free after 3 pm` parking scheme until the end of March 2020 at selected car parks across the District, including in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury.

Work is progressing with detailed plans for the proposed Waterloo decked car park in Cirencester and with interim arrangements for additional parking at Cirencester Rugby Club.

A structural ground survey began on 18<sup>th</sup> March prior to submitting proposals for the new multi storey car park.

To make up for the shortfall of spaces whilst the Waterloo car park is constructed the Council is to provide temporary decked car parking for c100 extra spaces in the town.

### **Garden Waste service**

The Council reversed a decision, after consultation, to suspend the garden waste collection for 3 months during the winter. The revised arrangements reinstate the all year-round collections albeit on a fortnightly basis from November 2019. The license fee for the service remains at £30 per annum.

The new arrangements – which include separate collections of food waste (in new larger and more robust outdoor caddies) on a weekly basis – will come into effect on 1st November 2019.

### **Publica**

The work to establish Publica continues. The company is a council owned arrangement delivering shared services to Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council.

By sharing services and staff Publica delivers efficient, value for money and enables the use of digital technology that would not be possible or cost effective for Cotswold District Council on its own,  
Savings estimated in the 2020 -2023 budget period are £2m for Cotswold District Council.

### **Guiting Power Church**

I have been pleased to assist in a grant application to CDC in connection with the construction of the proposed public lavatory and mower store in the Church Yard. This will be a great asset to the visitors to both the church and the village and the work involved in getting the project to this stage is a fantastic example of village community effort and cooperation.

### **Cheery Club –**

No report received

### **Upper Windrush Local History Society – Mike Edwards**

The local History Society continues to grow in numbers and influence, attracting top visiting Speakers like Tim Porter, Steve Parkes, Cherry Hubbard, David Smith, Dan Allen, Harry Acland, John Putley, Allan Ledger, Kirsty Hartsiotis and Muriel Pilkington, covering a large and diverse number of historical subjects.

Number average between 40 and 50 persons each meeting, and including members and guests who regularly travel from as far away as Chipping Norton, Chipping Campden, Broadway and Cheltenham.

The active and involved Committee, represent the surrounding local villages of Guiting Power, Temple Guiting, Kineton, Ford, Farmcote, Naunton, Cutsdean and Upper Slaughter, they have a massive input into the content of our monthly meetings.

2018 was dominated by the centenary of the end of WW1, The Society were particularly active during this period, led by Peter and Pat Weale, they were a true inspiration, having researched local soldiers that had lost their lives in WW1 and also commemorating soldiers that returned with horrific injuries. Each Soldier from Guiting Power that died in WW1, was commemorated on the centenary of their death, with a small Church exhibition in their name, which included their age, where born and lived in the village, their relatives' names and his occupation. Their names and personal details, were called out during the Sunday Service. This was carried out upon each commemoration on the Centenary of their death over a period of 4 years.

The 4 years of commemoration, ended with a magnificent two-day exhibition of WW1 artefacts and local memorabilia in the Village Hall.

The Society in conjunction with the Guiting Power Parish Council, The Rector Rev Canon Katrina Scott and St Michael's Church arranged and conducted the Remembrance Service in the Church followed by "The Act of Remembrance" at the war Memorial on the Village Green. Special thanks to Guiting Manor Amenity Trust for organising the cleaning of "The War Memorial" it looks magnificent.

The History Society were also involved with the "There but Not There" commemorative Charity, which a small fundraising committee led by Mickey Morrissey and Gerald O'Mahoney

both from Kineton, raised the magnificent £1639.36 which went to the Service's Charity "Combat Stress". The Church Service at St Michael's raised approximately £800 which went to The Royal British Legion.

I can only say how proud I was of the "Upper Windrush Local History Society" its Committee and splendid Members and Friends, that supported the WWI centenary throughout!

A full programme of events featuring 12 top speakers, is in place for 2019, with membership at £5 annually, this is exceptional value.

### **Cotswold Friends – Mike Bryant**

2019 will be a challenging year for Cotswold Friends with increasing scarcity of fundraising and growing service demand. However, we continue to recruit a steady stream of new volunteers, enabling us to keep our service waiting lists to a minimum and keep pace with the growing demand for community transport. Many of these journeys need additional driver support with almost 60% of members needing help in and out of the vehicle and to find the the correct waiting room.

With the help of a generous grant from the Weston Anniversary Fund, Cotswold Friends is delighted to announce the addition of a wheelchair accessible vehicle (named Weston of course!) to our Community Transport Service. This service is much needed in the North Cotswolds and we are sure that the freedom and independence it will offer to wheelchair users will provide a wonderful support to the community. To find out more about 'Weston' please visit the Cotswold Friends website at [www.cotswoldfriends.org](http://www.cotswoldfriends.org) to watch a short film of the vehicle in action

Cotswold Respite Services – befriending Carer respite, community Activities, Community transport. Please do get in touch if you would like to volunteer.

Councillor Moor thanked Cotswold Friends for their work in the community, especially the community transport.

### **Guiting Amenity Trust – Mary Greenhill**

The following update was provided from the Amenity Trust:

- The refurbishment at Woodhouse by the new tenant is now completed and they have settled in
- Installation of central heating to a number of properties is now complete and provides a welcome upgrade for the respective tenants.
- New builds at Greenbank Gardens were finished at the end of April 2018.
- Tally Ho Garage site, GMAT intent to commence work building 3 flats and two semi-detached houses in May.
- Signs are now located around the playing Field advising users to keep their dogs on a lead which we can only hope will be adhered to!
- The replacement for the Old Horse Chestnut tree on the Upper Green will be planted by Guiting Manor Farms before the month end.
- Tally Ho Lane garage site: The Trust intends to commence the building of 3 flats and two semi-detached houses in May.

### **Guiting Village Hall - Chairman Neil Rimmer**

The village hall has another had good 12 months, it has required some significant work, we have completely repainted the hall, put in some more efficient radiators and completed the works to the gents, which simultaneously created more storage room and stopped those people fetching tables etc from seeing things they would rather not do in the gents. The fitting last year of a complete audio-visual solution, with a high definition projector, permanent screen and sound system (with Bluetooth connectivity) has been a great addition to the hall, and attracted more users and income.

Team Village Hall consists of a team of 12 villagers who work towards the goal of keeping the hall open and in good shape. We receive no external funding and are entirely reliant on our customers.

A point to note is that it takes around £6,000 per annum to keep the hall open each year and in good order.

The regular users of the Hall are a wide and varied group, from Yoga, Brownies, polling station, Parish Council, Art Classes, Jumble sales, Cyclists, walkers, the cheery club, kick boxing, and other keep fit activities along with weddings, parties and social events. Our largest customer is the Guiting Power Social Group with income primarily the Fete and Pantomime, our second largest single event customer is the Guiting Festival who have the hall for each July. We are thankful to all our customers, without whom this hall would not be open.

There is steady use of the village hall as a venue from both within and out of the Parish, this wider base has allowed us to leave the charging rates unchanged for the last 5 years' whilst increasing financial resilience and investing in maintenance of the hall. There is still plenty of time left to rent each week, so please recommend us to anyone you know. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the members of "Team village hall" who continue to do an amazing job to keep the hall alive.

### **Guiting Music Festival – Katherine Judge**

2018 was the 48 TH Annual Guiting Music Festival, and I'm pleased to report, it was one of our most successful programmes to date. We were very happy with the balance of the music programme which included some lighter classical concerts which sold out. It also included two previous winners of the BBC Young Musician award and a blues singer just awarded Best Female Blues Vocalist in 2018. We were also blessed with one of the hottest summers on record, which makes our beautiful Cotswold village a very desirable destination on a summer's day or evening.

The Festival was launched for us this year by The Albion Quartet, featuring violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen a very popular local musician. This was then followed up by a wonderful saxophone quartet who delighted the audience with a mixture of classical music, tango and film scores all arranged by them. Both concerts were sell outs. The rest of the week comprised a piano recital, a clarinet and piano duo, classical guitarist and violin and piano recital. Then we were also treated to a jazz saxophone trio and a concert by renowned jazz pianist Zoe Rahman in the village hall.

Our outdoor jazz Sunday was held on one of the hottest days of the summer, and as a result, was wonderfully well attended. The programme included three fantastic jazz bands, headlined by Liane Carroll, and gave the audience a lovely variety and great value for money. Despite a sudden and dramatic break in this summer's fantastic weather on the second Sunday, we sold a record number of tickets and an enthusiastic and loyal audience braved the awful weather and enjoyed a superb blues concert, featuring award winning

bands and headlined by Aynsley Lister. The fierce rain stopped about 2pm, and everyone emerged from either the marquee or the hall to stand and listen, or dance to the music in some cases.

This Festival is run by a small team of enthusiastic volunteers, all of us having a love of music and a wish to make this special event a success for the village and the community. We couldn't do it without the additional support of village volunteers who help run the bar, serve teas and coffees, help us set up at the beginning and dismantle everything at the end, returning the village hall in a good state. I offer them a very heartfelt thank you from everyone on the committee and from the artists who always feel they are very well looked after in Guiting Power.

If you would like to be involved in the music Festival, we are always looking for keen, local volunteers to help with the organisation and planning of the festival in a variety of roles. I'm Katherine Judge and am now Chair of the Committee, so please do get in touch with me either by email or phone. Contact details are on the website. Or alternatively do come and speak to me at the end of the meeting. I'd be delighted to have an informal talk to you about how it all works.

The 49th festival dates are 19th to 28th July 2019 with the two outdoor events being 21st and 28th July. We hope to see you during that 10 days. And in 2020 it will be our 50th anniversary, so we are hoping to have an extra special programme of concerts bringing back some of the many world-renowned artists whom we have enjoyed hosting in the past.

### **Guiting Power Social Group – Neil Rimmer**

I think it worth prefacing this report with a description of what and who the Guiting Power Social Group is and is not!

Firstly, it NOT a committee, absolutely anyone from the village that wishes to come along and contribute with ideas and time and effort is more than welcome. As we put events on different people take a lead, and other participate in an entirely optional and inclusive way.

Today's objective for the group is to provide various events throughout the year bringing community spirit and entertainment to the village. The funds raised either go back into subsidising events, upkeep of the village hall and now additionally towards the next phase of the children's playground.

A brief summary of the main events of last year follows, but there were of course the usual run of quizzes (the next exciting audio-visual quiz is on April 26<sup>th</sup>) and bingo nights.

June is the first of the Social Groups signature events, the village fete. For the last 3 years we were lucky enough to secure the services of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight who did a low-level fly over much to the delight of the crowds who attended. The stall holders had a successful day, the fun dog show, as always, was extremely popular as were the traditional games, bar and food. This year's date is June 15<sup>th</sup>, all helpers welcome!

We held another well attended Barn Dance in autumn, people laughed, danced and drank the night away.

The third big event of the year, the village bonfire night. This year once again funded fully by the social group, (with thanks to the Parish Council for organising the insurances!). A fantastic night helped the crowd of nearly 400 to watch a great display and share a drink, food and fellowship in the village hall.

The final signature event of the last 12 months was the village Pantomime (Oh, yes it was!), this year Whit Dickington, for the first time a completely original script written here in the village. It was a great success and the subject of much amusement and frock wearing, 3 performances sold out. If you missed it its available to stream on YouTube.

This is an enormous amount of effort by all concerned, from lighting and sound to props and prompts. It's a huge team effort by over 30 people.

The social group also funded and held a well-attended children's Christmas party at which presents were distributed by the actual Father Christmas, and a wide variety of games were played and fine food served.

Look out on "Guitinevents.co.uk" or the "Guiting Power village hall" and "what's on in Guiting" Facebook sites for details of all events.

We all would like to thank this wonderful village yet again for its great support, please keep coming If you want to get involved talk to me or any of the others in the Social Group, you will be assured of a most warm welcome.

### **St Michaels & All Angels Church – Rev. Katrina Scott (Rector)**

Many thanks for the opportunity to reflect on our church year within the village. I would like to begin with saying thank you – there are so many people who keep our church community thriving, so thank you for all that you do. This includes our Churchwardens and PCC members, but also many others from around the community who share in the care of the churchyard and building, who arrange flowers and clean, who support our work financially and share in the ministry of worship and social action. Thank you all.

This year, we have enjoyed a good mix of regular and special services, with packed churches at Remembrance and Christmas as real highlights. Our other services are diverse in nature – from informal to traditional.

We shared in a couple of great events with the Guiting Manor Farm this year – as we marked Rogation (in May) and Harvest (in October) and really enjoyed the chance to work in partnership with them.

In the autumn, Mike Edwards, David Broad and Ann Marshall all attended a Diocesan led 'Leading Worship' course. This gives us greater possibilities in terms of worship leaders and regularity of services.

Our Village Toilet plans are progressing well, and we are close to reaching the total fundraising required and being able to start the work. Many thanks to Roland for leading on this!

During the course of the year, our local fundraising is crucial. Despite terrible weather, our sales in August went well, and a number of well supported events have helped us greatly. We anticipate in the next couple of years that some major work will need to be completed on the church roof and are beginning to plan towards that now.

Our Church Annual Meeting is taking place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Please do come along to find out more and to join in.

We'd love to hear your ideas too of things that we could be doing to serve our community and work together – do let us know!

### **Guiting Watch – Nettie Ekblom**

A brief update was provided for Guiting Watch. The current reporting system from the police was now covering a much wider area so only relevant updates were going to be sent through. Everyone was encouraged to sign-up to the Community Alerts scheme via the subscription page on the Guiting Events website - [www.guitingevents.co.uk](http://www.guitingevents.co.uk)

### **Guiting Manor Farms – Nick Bumford**

A detailed report was provided by Nick Bumford on this the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Guiting Manor Farm. The farm had recently received awards for their Conservation work. The digging for the build project had now finished and the footing should soon be in place. Some aggregate remained on site and landscaping also needed completion.

Guiting manor Farm was taking part in Open Farm Sunday this year - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. All welcome to attend this fun and informative day.

### **Update on the toilet facilities project at the Church – Roland Greenhill**

*There's nowhere to go in Guiting*

#### **The Village Toilet in the Churchyard.**

On completion, this facility will provide a free and accessible toilet for the use of both residents and visitors. It will cater for wheelchair users, walkers, play ground users and churchgoers alike. It is our intention to keep both toilet and Church open during daylight hours.

It is the policy of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) that the Church building be available for functions other than just for Sunday worship. The addition of this most basic facility will give this large, community building a wider use.

#### **The progress of the Project.**

Currently, we have attained both CDC Planning & Buildings Regulations approvals, obtained a Diocesan Faculty (Ecclesiastical Planning certificate), made an Archaeological Assessment and secured a local building contractor through competitive tender.

#### **The fund raising.**

The Village Open Garden events organised over the last 36 months have covered all architect's fees and expenses incurred in the various planning stages. The total building cost is **£66,500**.

We have currently raised **£59,293** from within the community. The Guiting Manor Amenity Trust and an anonymous, local donor have been major contributors. Successful applications have been made to The All Churches Trust Fund and Gloucestershire County Council. We continue to seek financial help from relevant Charitable Trusts & regional grant giving bodies.

Building will not commence until the balance of **£7,296** is secured.

*Village Open Gardens, Sunday June 2nd, 2.00 - 6.00.*

We are pleased that Dane Dover has offered to manage this year's **Open Garden Event** in support of our **Village Toilet in the Churchyard Project**.

Dane will soon be inviting residents to help with opening their gardens, cake baking, serving teas, ticket sales, security and car parking. The advertising is underway and you will see notices in the local and gardening press; the roadside signs will be in place during May.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

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### **Constable's Piece Trust – Cllr Dawn Rimmer**

The Constable's Piece Trust is a fund established in the Parish many years ago to distribute its income for any charitable purpose for the inhabitants of the area of the ancient Parish of Guiting Power.

The Parish Council, as the Trustee of the Trust, welcomes any application for funding from eligible individuals or organisations. Two applications have been received for consideration within the time frame for 2018/19.

We would be pleased if those present could read the eligibility criteria & promote the fund in the local area.

The eligibility criteria & application form are available on the [guitingevents website](#) under the Parish Council page. There are copies available here today.

### **5. Annual Report from the Chairman of Guiting Power Parish Council – Dawn Rimmer**

Thank you for attending the annual Parish Meeting.

There have been changes to Council personnel since our last meeting: we have welcomed Dane Dover, Simon Gardener & Paddy Flaherty to the Council during the year. Our thanks go to David Broad, Nick Powell & Becky Roseblade who have moved on after giving their time so generously to the Council. Ruth Waller joined us as Parish Clerk & RFO following Kate Sales resignation.

Public attendance at Parish Council meetings continues to grow as all Guiting Power residents are welcome. The Council is a forum for public debate especially with regard to local issues so an audience ensures informed & varied debate. In line with current legislation, a debate was recently held regarding the option for the Council to record all its future meetings. The Council resolved NOT to record its meetings.

The parish newsletter continues to be well supported on a biannual basis. The Parish Council funds this so we hope that everyone feels it is worthwhile. The next edition is due in May for those of you present who wish to submit copy!

Most of our business has been routine: monitoring and responding to Planning Application consultations, liaising with CDC, GCC and Gloucestershire Highways Officers, and otherwise responding to matters brought to our attention by residents. The temporary traffic calming measures installed at Chapel Ash appear to have had the desired effect & will be removed once the build project at GMF is completed. Please feel free to report any items you would like investigated to one of the councillors or our footpath warden, Geoff Cuthbert. Thanks go to Geoff for his continued advice and guidance to help maintain access to our beautiful Cotswold environment. We hope that he might be prepared to continue to carry out this role in the coming year.

We recently produced our budget for the financial year 2019/20. After detailed discussion, it was decided that this Parish will raise the precept by 2% to maintain parish finances in line with current financial requirements.

There were two significant Planning Applications in the Parish since we last met. The proposed development at Dyers Triangle was rejected by the Council & by higher powers on appeal. The retrospective application for the external work completed at The Hollow Bottom was fully supported by the Council. Most other applications considered by the Council have been relatively straightforward.

The Council funded a defib training session last summer which was attended by more than 20 people. We hope to make this a regular event every few years.

We are always looking for new recruits to the Parish Council so, if you could give up a few hours a month to benefit your village, please speak to one of the councillors here tonight. The whole Council is up for re-election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May when anyone can be nominated to stand so watch for change!

I will take this opportunity to thank Simon Gardener & Guiting Manor Farms in their role as Snow Wardens. I also wish to thank the Clerk and my fellow Councillors for their participation in the various aspects of the work of the Parish Council during the past year, and for their valued advice and support.

## **6. Open Floor for Discussion**

No other questions were raised. Thanks were given to Cllr Dawn Rimmer for her past 5 years as Chairman for the Parish Council.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 9.14pm.