

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Potterne Village Hall on Wednesday 17 April 2019

Welcome and apologies: Councillor Peter Balls, Chairman of Potterne Parish Council welcomed Councillors and members of the village to their Annual Parish Meeting.

Apologies had been received from: Councillor Nesta Pudney, Potterne Parish Council; Anna Cuthbert, Wiltshire Council; Graham Watts, Community Speedwatch; Revd. Ali Bridewell, St Mary's Church; Potterne Cricket Club

There were 24 attendees.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2018: It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2018 were an accurate record. The minutes were duly signed.

Matters arising: There were no matter arising from the previous meeting.

Presentation from SSE Network: Representatives from SSE Network gave information on their Priority Service. Residents who may need extra support during a prolonged power cut can sign up to be on the Priority Register. Examples of those needing extra support may be the elderly, families with young children or those who are disabled. Examples were given of the support that can be provided. This will be publicised in the Parish Magazine and on the Parish council website.

Information was given concerning power cuts:

- Telephone number to call if power cut – 105.
- SSE Network website app "Power Track"; enter postcode and informs where power cuts are and how long they are likely to last.

Currently, there are no schemes to underground the overhead network in Potterne. However, there is significant ongoing investment to replace equipment to improve the network performance further in the area'.

The chairman thanked SSE Network for attending.

Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council: Councillor Peter Balls introduced himself and gave a brief update on the activities of the Parish Council. There is considerable Parish Council information on the potterne.info website including agendas and minutes. During the last year, the Council have:

- had discussions on road safety;
- supported the Royal British Legion who planted a tree in Ryeleaze community garden;
- explored the Community Right to Bid where assets of community value can be listed with Wiltshire Council and if the land or property is put on the market, the community will have the option to purchase. The following were suggested: George Day's field, school site, shop, pub. School has already been listed so the village would have the first option to purchase it, Funds would have to be raised.

Informal crossing sites have been created at Ryeleaze steps and Blounts Court to the George and Dragon. The crossing at Ryleaze steps now has coloured tarmac but there is a need to make the steps more obvious. The Blounts Court crossing is waiting for a light, coloured tarmac and a mirror.

The annual precept has been increased in order to improve the appearance of council owned areas of Blounts Court play area, Brownleaze cemetery and Ryeleaze Field. Looking to develop a play area at Ryeleaze field – if anyone would like to be on the committee to plan this, please contact the Clerk.

Last November the village took part in WWI Commemoration events which Councillors Clifford, Pudney and Chandler, along with others, had spent considerable time organising.

Reports from members of the Parish Council: Each individual councillor has taken on a 'workstream' or responsibility based on the Community Aspirations from the Neighbourhood Plan and they gave a short summary of what they have done to date and plan to do in the future.

- Road Safety, Vehicle Parking and Public Transport (Whole Council) – Councillor Balls reporting:

Large bid for traffic calming measures is to be submitted to Wiltshire Council's Community Area Transport Group (CATG) including reducing speed limit on approach roads to village, speed indicator devices, village gates, 20mph limit for smaller roads. Parish Council are aware that individuals have raised issues directly with CATG and agree with what has been said.

A Community Speedwatch group is in the process of being set up and volunteers are needed.

The Parish Council's proposals for traffic calming are on the website.

- Residential Development (Councillors Richard Clark/Robert Hunt-Grubbe) – Councillor Clark reporting:

Councillor Clark explained that he and Councillor Hunt-Grubbe lead on planning matters – which means that the two of them examine each planning application, visit the site and speak to the applicant (if possible). They also gauge the reaction of the neighbours most likely to be affected. Where relevant they speak to the Case Officer dealing with the application and then make a recommendation at the next meeting as to whether the Parish Council should support or object to such application.

If it is visually acceptable, in keeping with the property and does not impact on neighbours then the Parish Council will support it. Any new housing must conform with the Potterne Neighbourhood Plan which sets out a framework governing future development. The Parish Council doesn't oppose applications just for the sake of it, they do we try to act reasonably.

We have adopted the policy above because all planning decisions are actually made by Wiltshire Council – the Parish Council is merely consulted. Because we take the trouble to review each application as I've described we feel we are beginning to be taken more seriously by the powers that be.

During the year ended 31 March 2019 we've had 32 applications referred to us – coincidentally the same number as last year – and the majority related to the cutting or lopping trees within our Conservation Area, or to minor alterations. Without going into specifics, there were 3 other sites that involved quite a lot of work, but without question the main planning issue last year has been the proposed development of some land at St Mary's Close.

Councillor Clark went on to speak at length concerning the issues with the St Mary's Close site. This site is an important open space nestled within very dense housing at St Mary's Close off Silver Street near the shop, comprising 12 garages and 10 parking spaces. It's owned by Aster Group who, last August applied for permission to demolish these garages and build a pair of 2-bed semi-detached houses.

Aster have revised their plans 3 times, each strongly opposed by the Parish Council, before withdrawing their application. Aster have indicated they mean to go ahead with the development and will re-apply for planning permission. Councillor Clark hinted that the Parish Council are likely to continue to oppose this development.

- Community and Learning (Councillors Nesta Pudney/Carol Clifford):

Councillor Clifford reported on the Potterne WW1 Centenary 1918 to 2018

Our objective in organising the events was to involve as many community groups and Potterne residents as possible, bringing them together in an act of remembrance and unity. We wanted the events to be a gift to the village, rather than for fundraising

reasons, having said that we did raise some money and donated it appropriately as you will see below.

We held an event on Ryeleaze Field on Saturday 3rd November, where we told a story of everyday life during WW1 in Potterne.

This featured an historical display with photos of the village c.WW1; some of our Panto girls dressed up in period costume re-enacting everyday chores; toys and games of the era and a Punch and Judy show. Tea, cakes and period treats were served in the Youth Centre and £90.00 was received in donations that went to the Youth Centre.

In the evening we held a 'celebration dinner and dance' in the village hall to mark the end of the war. Music performed by the 'Sugar' Pat Reyford band had people up dancing after dinner with a selection of tunes going back to the 1920s, with help from dancers Louise and Michelle who taught their moves to the guests. A collection at the end of the evening raised around £380 which was donated equally to the RBL and Potterne Social Club roof fund.

During the week, Union Jack flags were hung near the residences of all the people listed on the War Memorial to show that lives were lost from all areas of the village. Accompanying the flag trail there was a family quiz with questions relating to the lessons being taught at Five Lanes School WW1. The family who came first in the quiz have won a family day out at Longleat Safari Park. Also, silhouettes representing some of the WW1 casualties were placed in locations around the village.

On Saturday 10th November, 26 oak trees were planted by members of our community including relatives of the men recorded on the war memorial, and representatives from clubs, business and community organisations. Even though it was pouring down with rain we had approx. 100 people taking part or watching. The trees have been planted in the old reservoir field near Blount's Court and will form two rows of trees which will be known as 'Soldier's Walk'. After the ceremony, the George and Dragon pub provided a buffet lunch and we had a singalong led by Five Lanes pupils with songs which were popular in WW1.

There was a full church for the Remembrance Sunday service at St. Mary's where we unveiled the cascade of poppies made by many of our community groups, young and old.

The team (Fi Walker, Nesta Pudney, Diana Robinson, Lilian Sutherland and I) would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who helped or came along to the events during WW1 Remembrance week, we couldn't have done it without you!

The chairman publicly thanked Councillor Clifford for all her work with the WW1 Commemorative events.

➤ **Footpaths and Cycle Ways (Councillor Philip Abbatt):**

Councillor Abbatt introduced himself as the lead councillor for footpaths and cycle ways since Rob Edwards stood down. He thanked Rob for all the work done so far.

There is less work being done by Wiltshire Council on rights of way routes and more that will be needed to be carried out by the community. The Parish Council has set up a working group to assess the rights of way and what needs to be done. If anyone is interest in helping, please contact the Parish Council or speak to Councillor Abbatt. Thanks were given to Steve Sawyer for his help with the group.

Councillor Abbatt invited questions from the floor and it was asked if the Parish Council had the support of the Wiltshire Unitary Councillor on rights of way issues. He confirmed support was available from Councillor Richard Gamble and it was hoped that support was available from Councillor Anna Cuthbert.

Cllr Balls concluded the reports from councillors by thanking them all for the work that they do.

Potterne Charities:

Andy Huntley read the report from Potterne Charities.

The annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2019 showed an income of £3,837. Investment income from the ten charities in Potterne came to £1,262 and income from land amounted to £2,575. With the available money the trustees at Christmas were able to maintain the individual grant of £50, a total of £1,250. Grants to village organisations amounted to £2,050. A contribution of £138.88 was also made to the Worton & Marston charities. These amounts, plus expenses of £768 leaves a balance of £1,890.

Report from Wiltshire Councillor Anna Cuthbert:

Cllr Cuthbert unable to attend but had emailed through a report which the Clerk read to the meeting and is préciséd below:

Potterne continues to be a thriving village with the village pub, social club and shop focal points for residents and visitors alike. Thanks for the hard work at the social club and the pub for the events that are held for our village to attend.

Potterne also has well established clubs and groups providing opportunities for people, who might well be by themselves, to get out and about. We have businesses providing all sorts of services from their premises and from people's homes attracting visitors to the village. And we have a lovely village school with some of the most dedicated teachers and staff you are likely to meet.

You will all be aware that due to the declining numbers on the school roll and the predicted numbers, that maintaining a school in the village has become unviable. It's a sad time for parents, some of whom will have been pupils there themselves, but the important thing as we move to having a small school just at the Worton site is about the quality of the learning and care that the children receive.

Local services that Wiltshire Council and other public sector providers are responsible for continue to battle against the government's austerity policy. The increase in precept in our council tax to try and cover some of the shortfall in government spending only goes so far and it has to be said that without some of the outstanding members of staff at Wiltshire Council, in Wiltshire Police, our fire and rescue service and the voluntary sector, that so often supports our public services in ways they never used to, our communities would not have the quality of services that we do. Frontline service providers go above and beyond what is expected of them often on a daily basis. Nobody goes into public service who doesn't want to help people and to make a difference and to these people I would like to say thank you.

It's a busy time in Wiltshire Council, and local services continue to run and to plan for the future. Our special schools in the county face a changing future with a super school at Rowdeford being an option suggested to be the best one for children needing special education services. People have until 6 May to have their say on the proposals and I would encourage everyone to do so. Details of the consultation can be found on Wiltshire Council's website or at the library in Devizes.

At the next Wiltshire Council elections in 2021 Potterne will be in a new division made after recommendations from the electoral commission so that each electoral area in Wiltshire has roughly the same number of voters. So next time we won't be in with Bromham and Rowde but with Poulshot, Seend, Worton, Erlstoke and Marston. The Devizes area board will continue to bring together all of the divisions in our area and will be expanded slightly to take in villages currently overseen by other area boards.

Potterne continues to do really well with funding from the area board - at the last meeting funding was approved for the youth centre and for other activities that Steve Dewer runs for our young people. We have a real asset in our village in Steve and the role model he is particularly to our teenagers.

I want to close by thanking the parish council councillors and to Liz our Clerk for their continued hard work and dedication to supporting the village.

Reports from Local Groups and Organisations:

Social Club:

Jerry Wilmott said that last year he reported that they had received £5,000 from Devizes Area Board; one of the conditions was for 50% match funding. The roof of the skittle alley was replaced and the social club contributed significant income toward this.

The social club is dependant on the sheer hard work and skill of the committee. The community doesn't use the club as the committee would like them to. Parish Council assistance is needed with indicating where the social club is – not just for vehicles but also with highlighting the footpath.

Royal British Legion – Potterne Branch:

John Mann, President of the branch reported that 2018 was the centenary of the Armistice at the end of the First World War, and we at the British Legion wanted to make it special – not only from a National point of view, but especially because so many people from Potterne took part in that War – in many different ways – and a number of them paid the ultimate sacrifice, never to return to their families here. On our own, we could never have done justice to this event, so we are indebted to the Parish Council for providing the platform for the Centenary Remembrance and Celebration, by organising the Tree-Planting, the Ryleaze afternoon event, and the Armistice Celebration Dinner. All of these, together with our own Remembrance Service in St Mary's Church, made this a most memorable week.

However, this is not all we have done over the past year. We planted a tree of remembrance in the Community Garden. We held a Garden Party for the village in John Chandler's marquee. Last August we sent two delegates to GP90 – Grand Pilgrimage 90 – in Ypres, to join thousands of members and representatives of The Royal British Legion who helped recreate the 1928 Battlefields Pilgrimage. At Christmas, we held an excellent Annual Dinner in the George & Dragon.

But these headline events are not what the Potterne branch of the RBL is about, most of the time. What we do month-to-month can be listed under 4 main aims:

First: Ensuring that we remember those who lost their lives in the First World War and subsequent wars.

Second: In company with the Royal British Legion national charity, looking after ex-servicemen who need assistance – of any type.

Third: Providing a local club where like-minded people – from varying backgrounds, but all of whom support the first 2 aims I've just mentioned – can meet, discuss the Legion, and have a general social chat.

Fourth: Reaching out to the community in Potterne, and helping in whatever ways we can. We see the Village as being composed of people, not bricks and mortar – and we aim to play a useful part in providing assistance wherever possible.

In the coming year, we aim to work according to the aims I've just mentioned. We hope to attract new members, and we have various ideas to make Legion membership more attractive to those perhaps slightly younger than many present members. One of these – social outings, not just for Legion members, but for any member of the community – starts next week, when we are all going to Lacock for the day.

None of what we do would be possible without the support of the officers of the Legion, all of whom I thank, but especially our Chairman, John Chandler, who keeps everything ticking over and everyone on their toes.

I also thank others in the village who have helped us over the past year including the Committee and staff of the Social Club who always look after us well at our meetings.

One final thank you, though, to someone who has now left Potterne but is still very much in our minds: General Sir Bob Pascoe, from whom I took over as President last year. He was an excellent President, and a hard act to follow.

And finally, a quick advert. Please do come and join us – we meet at 8pm on every second Monday of the month, at the Social Club, and it only costs seventeen pounds, all of which goes to the Royal British Legion. If you would prefer to join more privately, simply go to

britishlegion.org.uk, and join online. If you join us, you haven't got to come to all the meetings - but you will know, in your heart, that you are helping a very good cause.

Potterne Youth Centre:

John Chandler introduced himself as the chair and a trustee of the Potterne Youth Centre committee. Constitution of the Youth Centre committee has been revamped; the committee maintains the building, pays the bills and oversees delivery of the youth service. Main partner is Youth for Christ (YFC) and tribute was paid to youth worker Steve Dewar.

The youth centre is a magnificent facility (now has a mobility ramp) which is primarily used for the youth of the village; the toddler group are also in most days. Help is needed to keep the building clean and tidy and with maintenance. Building not used to its full potential.

Youth Centre committee hold funds for the Community Garden and the Youth Club.

John introduced Oscar Curtis to the meeting – a young person of the village who has had considerable input into the Community Garden. The Parish Council and Royal British Legion have been supportive to the Youth Centre/Club as well.

John then handed over to Steve Dewar who introduced himself as the team leader for Wiltshire YFC, a Christian, youth based charity and has been in post for 8 years at the Youth Centre.

The youth club takes place on a Friday evening, open to all young people, no charge and no need to sign up. Also meet on a Wednesday afternoon at the Community Garden – anyone welcome to join for a chat. Aim to get young people involved in community.

Steve is also involved with schools' work at both Lavington and Devizes; he has links with chaplains, padres and vicars across the area; runs a Pop-Up Café on the green in Devizes. Grateful to Devizes Area Board for grants for the youth centre and Pop-Up Café.

There is a struggle for volunteers – Steve would encourage anyone to support the youth work in the village, either financially, practically or just by saying "Hello" to a young person. Grateful to the Parish Council for their support and encouragement.

Steve updated on various events in the Youth Club diary. Speak to Steve if you have any ideas concerning the youth work or wish to help. Better to have a lot of people doing a little than a few people doing a lot.

Presentation of the Alan Mead Memorial Award:

This award is in recognition of services to the village and youth of Potterne, by a young person from the village. Founded and paid for through a legacy from a former Potterne resident. The recipient will have their name engraved on the shield and receive a cash prize of £100 to use as they see fit.

This year the award goes to **Oscar Curtis**.

Oscar was nominated by Steve Dewar and John Chandler who said:

Oscar is an excellent member of the Potterne Youth Club; he is an extremely hard worker, polite, reliable and keen to always help. He is normally the first to arrive and last to leave. He helps out at any event and just enjoys getting involved. He has taken on the role of the Youth Club representative for the Potterne Community Garden under the direction of Steve Dewar. Oscar's volunteer work is a credit to his family and our community and to add to that he is a credit to Devizes Army Cadets.

Steve added, "I have known him since he was at Five Lanes Primary School and he has grown up to become a fantastic young person in the village with a great future ahead of him. I think this award would help with encouragement and show appreciation for who he is and what he does to help others."

St Mary's Church:

John Starling, one of the two Churchwardens, reported that Reverend Ali Bridewell had now been in post for 18 months. Also new in post is the associate priest, Reverend Joshva John and benefice administrator, Sarah Leckie.

Services on held on Sundays at 11am and most weeks also at 8am. Thanks go to Ali, retired priest Renée Coulson and licensed lay minster Liz Starling for leading the services.

Other activities:

- midweek house groups on a Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening
- Open the Book events into both Potterne and Worton sites of Five Lanes School
- Messy Church – aimed at younger children with 30-40 attending every other month in the village hall
- Organise annual village fete (this year on 15 June)
- Take part in Christmas Market

Potterne Mummers:

Andy Gover, treasurer of the Mummers, reporting.

The mummers get together in the week before Christmas to perform their play to audiences in and around Devizes, ending up on Christmas Eve in the George and Dragon.

The mummers do what they do for the following reasons:

1. Maintain tradition of mumming. Lots of history on the internet, Facebook and the Potterne Mummers website.
2. Fun – both to perform and to watch
3. Opportunity to make serious money.

Last year 31 performances raised just under £2000 which will benefit the following organisations:

Wiltshire Air Ambulance	£100	Caenhill Countryside Centre	£100
Julia's House	£150	Potterne Youth Centre	£300
Devizes OpenDoors	£250		

Plus £100 each to local charities in Pewsey and Lavington.

Thank you to everyone for your donations. Look out for us at Christmas. New Mummers always welcome.

Community Speedwatch:

Graham Watts unable to attend but had emailed the following report.

Young or old, few of us will have failed to notice speeding vehicles, along with thoughtless and discourteous, if not dangerous, drivers on the roads into and through our village. Most of us will have noticed Speedwatch in other nearby areas.

Most drivers will know from experience that the occasional presence of Speedwatch does modify their behaviour: slowing them down and making them think a bit more about what they are doing, at places where Speedwatch has been previously seen.

Speedwatch is a National scheme and operates in conjunction with local police forces, who will take action against drivers who drive at excessive speed or who are regular offenders; regardless of where the offence takes place. Speedwatch is considered to be a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community. Speedwatch has 4 principal objectives:

- To reduce death and injury on the roads
- To improve the quality of life for local residents
- To reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limits
- To increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

As a community activity Speedwatch is run by volunteers. Crucially, the roadside monitoring takes place at times of their choosing. Volunteers can do as little, or as much, roadside monitoring as suits them; and only at times that suit them. It is a data collection activity and not 'front-line' or confrontational. Data collected is submitted to the Police and then collated with that from other Groups. Results, and the Police follow up outcomes, are available on a National website to which each Group has access.

None of this can work without a body of volunteers. As ever, a large number of people doing a little each is much more likely to be sustainable than a few trying to do a lot.

The Parish Council will be delighted to take note of any of you who may be interested in participating. Please speak to Liz Starling at the end of the meeting.

Once we have enough volunteers, we can quickly complete the small amount of training and get on to the roadside to start making a difference.

(You can see more at: www.communityspeedwatch.org)

Potterne Cricket Club:

No representative from the cricket club but the following report had been received.

Potterne Cricket Club would like to thank the Parish Council for allowing us the opportunity to report on our activities over the past year.

On the pitch, the highlight was the 2nd XI winning Division One of the Wiltshire County Cricket League, and in the process ensuring that next season they will be playing Premier League cricket, in the West of England Premier League: Wiltshire Division in 2019. Added to this, the club were again crowned Wilts Wallop T20 champions following success on Finals Day, winning the trophy for the third time.

Our Ladies team continued to develop, including securing victory in their first ever fixture in the Women's National 20-over competition. As for our junior section, we were lucky to have around 150 juniors training at the club every week, across all age groups; hopefully this bodes well for the future of the club as we continue to invest in the next generation of players. This was reflected in the results of our Under 15 side, who won their 20-over competition, and finished runners-up in their 40-over league.

Off the pitch we held a number of social and fundraising events, which were in support of our three chosen charities, those being: Julia's House Children's Hospice, Dorothy House Hospice and Canon's House Day and Care Centre. In total, just over £15,000 was raised for the three groups, an achievement of which the club was extremely proud. As in recent years, we held our Beer Festival on the August Bank Holiday weekend, this being the primary fundraising event for the club. Despite the typically inclement Bank Holiday weather, the event was still well attended and enabled us to raise in the region of £8,000 for club funds.

As in 2018, we have a number of events planned, which, in addition to those that have already been held, will help us as we attempt to surpass our fundraising efforts of last year. This year we will be raising money for Julia's House Children's Hospice, Wiltshire Mind and Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group; three charities which all have some meaning to some of our members. In addition to this, we are also in the process of raising funds to install a defibrillator at The Grove, and we would like to express our gratitude to the Parish Council for their kind donation to this cause.

With the 2019 season now underway, it promises to be another busy season both on and off the pitch, as we continue to offer cricket to so many people of different ages and abilities. Should we be invited to provide a similar update next year, hopefully we will be able to provide an equally, if not more, positive report.

George and Dragon public house:

Louise Watson introduced herself as the landlady at the George and Dragon. It is a great pub, a great community asset and needs your support. A regular quiz night is held to raise money for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, also bingo nights and a Sunday carvery. Open Tuesday to Sunday every week and open on bank holidays. Facilities include pool, darts team and a rifle range.

Welcome all to come along.

Presentation of the Jubilee Cup:

The Jubilee Cup is presented to an individual or an organisation from the village that has given their services to the community in the past year.

This year the Cup is awarded to the licensees of the George and Dragon, **Louise Watson** and her aunt **Clair Mortimer** who were nominated by John Chandler. Both Louise and Clair

go far beyond the ordinary commercial running of the much-valued public house in Potterne and have proved their worth over the years. They are ambassadors for the village raising money for local charities as well as ambassadors when visitors come to Potterne. Louise is also a volunteer for the Pantomime Group. John says that he believes they should be the recipients of this year's Jubilee Cup for their tireless effort they put in as representatives of our Village.

Potterne Parish Magazine:

Report from Nesta Pudney editor:

The Parish Magazine is produced monthly and we put together 415 copies a month. Deliveries are made to approx. 375 households in Potterne.

There are six volunteers on the printing team rota, two a month. Printing takes anything from two and a half hours, on a good day, to four hours, on a bad day, each month. Six permanent helpers a month make up the mags in the vestry which takes approx one and a half hours. There are eighteen people who deliver the magazines each month in all weathers and the magazine is also available in the Church and the Village Shop. Editing the magazine usually takes between 8 and 10 hours.

The content each month varies slightly, but there are regular contributions from village groups including the Village Hall, Cricket Club, The Social Club, British Legion, Parish Council, Springers, Rainbows, the School, Gardening Club etc. We also print a Pastoral letter, details of church services, the registers for St Mary's and the floodlights sponsors. There is a letters page and we are trying to introduce items of local historical interest. Each month, various local groups submit one off items for publication, eg details of traffic watch.

Local events are advertised for free as are any charity events. Local businesses advertise at a cost. Each year we pay £1,000 to St Mary's for stationery and make a donation to the Church of approx £1,500. At the end of 2017 there was approx. £3,000 in the Parish Mag account, earmarked for eventual replacement of the copier.

Village Hall:

Good year for fundraising. No big projects carried out this year. Have taken down the back hedge and replaced with a fence.

Have a small committee and need more members. No fundraising until August. Next film show will be at the end of August.

Cllr Balls summed up the reports saying that we are incredibly blessed with the diversity and richness of the different organisations in the village. All groups need volunteers to help and people to use their facilities etc.

He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.