

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Guiting Power held on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7.30pm, in Guiting Power Village Hall

Chairman: Cllr Dawn Rimmer

Fifteen Parishioners present

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order and opened at 7.30pm
2. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from Nettie Ekblom, Else Ogden, Mike Edwards, Rev Scott and Roland Greenhill.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 7.30pm in Guiting Power Village Hall to be signed and approved.** These were approved and signed as a true copy.

4. Brief reports:

- **County Councillor – by Cllr Nigel Moore**

It is four years since the last county council elections. I am seeking re-election and in this report, I want to explain the budget that we have agreed for the forthcoming financial year. During the last 4 years both the Children`s Activity Budget and my Local Highways Budget has helped me deal with priorities in the parish. One of the most memorable events in my time as your county councillor was the meeting you convened initially in this hall and then in the church because of the sheer numbers of people who wished to attend to lobby for improved broadband. That was a real example of people power. The other was the opening of your wonderful play park.

Setting a budget for a county as diverse as Gloucestershire is a difficult balancing act. Political parties have different priorities and different parts of the county have different needs and expectations. The budget for adult care, public health and children and families which takes up nearly two thirds of the total revenue budget of £497.682 million is always under pressure from rising demand but these priorities need to be balanced in areas like the Cotswolds with the need of highways and flood prevention. I believe that the budget whilst protecting the most vulnerable people in our communities also provides a good basis for continuing improvements to the county`s infrastructure. The revenue budget for communities and infrastructure is £83 million and to that should be added a forward capital budget of over £200 million. I set out below some of the highlights:

- *Although the Police and Crime Commissioner has withdrawn from the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership, the county council values this service and has allocated an additional £390,00 to ensure that its valuable work continues.*
- *Additional specialists to work alongside extra social workers to improve practice including a focus on mental health and adoption - £500,000.*
- *Money to improve the process for traffic regulation orders to help keep our county moving - £100,000*
- *An additional £10,000 for every county councillor (from £20k to £30k) in the highways local scheme - £530,000.*
- *Extra investment in highways - £9 million. This will continue our programme of resurfacing rather than just filling pot holes.*
- *An additional £500,000 for the lengthsman`s scheme . This scheme which provides dedicated crews to work with town and parish councils to clear verges, clean out grips and gulleys and clean signage for example have proved very popular and there will now be a dedicated team for each of the six district areas in the county.*
- *Extra support for people with disabilities including tackling disability hate crime - £400,000*
- *Investment to improve adults` physical and mental health whilst reducing social isolation and loneliness including social prescribing - £600,000.*
- *As a result of the Fastershire project, over 78,000 homes and businesses can now access speeds of over 30 Mbps. Phase 2 of the project looks to extend this further to over 35,00 additional premises across the county. Cabinet has approved further contracts to cover the rest of the county worth £12.7m.*
- *Gloucestershire currently charges £41 per year less than the average county council, including the adult care levy, and £157 per year less than the highest charging. For an average band D household the proposed total increase would be £45.25 per year, or £3.77 per month.*

The extra investment mainly comes from additional central government grants and also an increase to the council tax rate.

- **District Councillor - Cllr Richard Keeling**

Some highlights of recent Cotswold District Council decisions:

- *CDC agreed to yet again freeze the Districts share of Council Tax. The charge is now the 16th lowest in the country.*
- *The car parking charges in the main towns (Bourton on the Water, Cirencester, Moreton in Marsh, Stow on the Wold and Tetbury) are frozen and the free after 3:00pm initiative is to be continued until the end of March 2018.*

- *An allocation of £225,000 has been made for design and planning reports for the proposed scheme to add a deck to the Waterloo car park in Cirencester.*
 - *Following a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee an additional £42,000 has been allocated to increase the Planning Team's enforcement capability.*
 - *Each District Councillor has been allocated £750 to assist with planned activities to celebrate the end of WWI.*
 - *Each District Councillor has been allocated £2,000 to assist local fund raising schemes for additional defibrillators.*
 - *CDC has allocated an additional £100K for flood relief schemes.*
 - *The Councils plans to work collaboratively with West Oxfordshire DC; Forest of Dean DC and in part Cheltenham BC is progressing and further reports relating to the 20:20 Vision will be made available in the coming weeks.*
 - *Although still not yet a signed deal it is hoped that the Tour of Britain cycle race is likely to finish in Cheltenham and transit through the Cotswolds. It is scheduled for September.*
- **Cheery Club – by Janet Boote, read by Dawn Rimmer**
The Cheery Club celebrated its 65th year in 2016. We had a variety of interesting talks including Mrs. Watson's meeting with the Queen and receiving her Maundy Money.

The Summer Outing was to the Hop Pocket Village near Ledbury. Afternoon Tea was at the Flag and Whistle, Toddington and also Batsford Garden Centre.

Our Christmas Lunch was much enjoyed at the Hollow Bottom, this was followed a week later by a visit to the Pantomime in Tewkesbury. Our Christmas Tea was well attended by past and present members and Entertainment was provided by Andy Cole a Magician.
- **History Society – by Mike Edwards, read by David Broad**
The year 2016, was probably the History Society's, most successful year since it's inception. Numbers averaged in the mid forties, and on occasions reached the mid sixties.

The visiting speakers covered a diverse number of subjects, starting with Tim Porter on Simon de Montfort, The Romans, The Mitford's, Dymock Poets, The Boer War, WW2 Auxiliary Units, Quait & Quirky Gloucestershire, Sir Thomas Phillips, Archers in 14th & 15th Century, Land reform, Cotswold Churches and the Fighting Forties!

2017 sees another strong programme of quality speakers, starting on a high with Tim Porter, Votes for Women, Defford Airfield, Murder of Edward 2nd at Berkley Castle, House History, Just Hanging about (Angela Panrucker), Saxons

in Britain, Cotswold Thames Footpath, and a major Speaker Simon Le Fevre on the Knights Templar Medieval & Modern!

The decision by the committee to go completely indoors, at the Farmers Arms, Guiting Power, for the winter months has proved to be a popular decision. It was also felt important that we continue to hold talks in the summer months in the surrounding villages of Upper Slaughter, Naunton and Temple Guiting, despite continued pressure to base ourselves completely at The Farmers Arms.

The committee make important decisions on our behalf, which appear to be successful, mirrored by the continued level of membership and support from the society members.

My thanks to the support received from the Society Officers, Peter and Pat Weale, Debbie Roseblade and Roland Greenhill. The Committee of David Broad, Edward Boote, Janet Wright, Tim Milvain and Ian Hanks. We only have about 3 meetings a year, but the continued feedback and interaction from the committee, keeps the flow of ideas rolling. My great thanks to the whole committee for their continued commitment to the Society.

Please may I also pass on my great thanks to our loyal membership, whatever the weather they turn out, it is the continued support of the membership that drives us on!

There is a strong programme in place for 2017, again with a diverse programme, with a guided summer village walk in Stanway to look forward to.

- **Cotswold Friends – by Mike Bryant**

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We are a local charity providing friendship, support and transport to older and vulnerable people in the North Cotswolds community. We aim to combat loneliness and isolation with our voluntary services, which improve health and well being and support independent living.

The area has a higher than average proportion of retired, and therefore older people, together with an infrastructure which does not match. Given the tightness of public purse strings the present situation can only be expected to get worse in coming years.

Formed in 1978 we are financed by a number of sponsors and donors details of which can be found on our website. We aim to cover many of the gaps left by Social and Public services.

Our area is from Chipping Campden in the north to Bibury in the south, and Kingham in the east to the west edge of the Cotswold escarpment.

There are regular contacts with other charities.

PEOPLE

We have 8 part-time staff and over 150 volunteers covering a variety of activities. Overall our client numbers are circa 1,000.

ACTIVITIES

Transport to cover for the absence of buses in many areas/befriending/carers respite/community events/craft groups/a dozen lunch clubs/music, coffee and tea gatherings/ "Men in Sheds"/country walks/ "Knit and Natter" /IT help, Skype etc.

Again, details are on our website.

REQUIREMENTS

Overridingly we need more volunteers in all areas.; even a couple of hours each month can make a big difference. We need to expand in most of our geographical area. We are trying to recruit in a number of ways, by word of mouth, and people such as yourselves can help here, and a leaflet delivery programme, targeting doctors, churches, and residential homes (for new clients).

We need donations of tools etc for our craft activities.

- **Guiting Amenity Trust – read by Mary Greenhill**

The refurbishment at The Old Manor is now complete and the new tenants have settled in very well to the village. Installation of central heating to all Flats at Latimer Court is now complete along with the replacement garages and stores in Well Lane both projects providing a thankful upgrade for all tenants concerned.

We will be fitting new bathroom suites to four properties that are in need of updating over the next couple of months and we are hopeful that contractors will start work on the two new builds at Greenbank House very soon.

- **Guiting Village Hall – by Neil Rimmer**

The village hall has had good 12 months, it has required some work (particularly to the flooring) and will need some further maintenance over the next 12 months, from the simple things like decoration to the issues created by the introduction of the new pound coin (the electricity meter takes pound coins!).

Team Village Hall consists of a team of 12 villagers who work towards the goal of keeping the hall open and in good shape. The hall receives no external funding and is entirely reliant on events to support itself.

The regular users of the Hall are a wide and varied group, from Joyful Dogs, the Brownies, use as a polling station, the Parish Council, Art Classes, Jumble

sales, Cyclists and walkers, the cheery club, kick boxing, keep fit, weddings, parties and social events.

The largest customer by far is the Guiting Power Social Group, from primarily the Fete and the Pantomime, our second largest single event customer is the Guiting Festival who have the hall for 14 days each July, The hall by using the work of volunteers largely, is predicted to make a small profit to put into reserves for the second year running.

There has been a noticeable increase in the village hall as a venue from both within and out with the Parish, this wider base has allowed us to leave the charging rates unchanged for the last 5 years' whilst increasing the resilience and maintenance of the hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the members of "Team Village Hall" who have done an amazing job keeping the hall alive.

- **Guiting Social Group – by Neil Rimmer**

Well, what a year for the social group, more events than ever before put on for the village, and unbounding enthusiasm for the task from all its members. I really must take the opportunity to thank absolutely everyone involved from the residents of this fantastic village and their friends who attend each and every event to the volunteers and of course, to the awesome group of people who put far more hard work and effort into the Guiting Power Social Group than you could imagine.

I will just do a quick roundup of the past 12 months. The year, started off last March with a very well attended Bingo night at the village hall, followed by a music evening by the amazing Abbey Inez who performed to a full house.

We quickly then arrived in June at the first of the Social Groups signature events, the village fete. In 2016, we were lucky enough to secure the services of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight who did a low level fly over with a Spitfire and a Hurricane much to the delight of the nearly 1,000 people who attended. The stall holders had a great day, the fun dog show, as always, was extremely popular as were the traditional games and the pig roast! (the bar was also particularly busy that day!)

We then had the rest of the summer off until the second (again very well attended) village bingo night, which neatly led into the second signature event of the year, the village bonfire night. This year funded fully by the social group, (thanks to the Parish Council for providing the insurances!). A dry night helped the crowd of over 300 to watch a great display and share a drink and food in the village hall.

The Social group also provides bar running services to the occasional event it doesn't organise, last year to the Grange Shoot, a wedding and Naunton Downs Golf club.

The final signature event of the last 12 months was the village Pantomime (Oh, yes it was!), this is an enormous amount of effort by all concerned, from organising lighting and sound, to making all the props, working on the script, all the back of stage help and of course the cast. It's a huge team effort by nearly 30 people!

This year we did Aladdin, the first show is a cut down version for the Children's party in December, attended by over 40 children and their parents. In addition to the Panto the kids have great fun with games, the actual Father Christmas and they get fed too!

Then the hard work for cast and crew began. We added a matinee performance because last year sold out very quickly. This year the 4 performances were seen by over 450 people, each of the 3 main shows were completely sold out.

Planning for the next 12 months is already underway with the Fete (and YES, we have secured another flyover by the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight) there will be a barn dance more musical events, bonfire night, the children's Christmas Party and no doubt the odd quiz and bingo to keep us all amused, and of course discussions about another a Panto are underway.

We all would like to thank this wonderful village once more for its great support, please keep coming along! If you have any ideas, or want to help in any way at all just let us know.

- **Guiting Power Playgroup – by Becky Roseblade**

Another great year at the Pre-school. I am happy to report that we are full and registrations for next September are coming along nicely.

After much hard work Jenny Inness has passed her Level 3 Diploma in Children's learning and Development. I have passed my Level 5 in Leadership and Management in the Early Years.

We had our annual Ofsted inspection in October. We were classed as Good In all 4 key areas. Here are a couple of quotations from the report:

- *"The staff team is passionate about and committed to providing very good standards of care and learning. The knowledgeable and skilled manager effectively leads them."*
- *"Partnerships with parents are very good. Staff take their views into account and provide them with a good range of information about their children's development."*

We had a small set back in our plans to build an outside shelter, as the costs came in significantly higher than anticipated. We have adjusted the design and by the end of March 2017 we hope to have a more affordable solution so we can apply for lottery funding and hopefully commence construction in late spring.

In September 2017, the Government is changing the free childcare funding from 15 hours to 30 hours. The final details of the scheme is being worked out by Central Government. We anticipate informing parents over the summer term.

Finally, I would just like to thank Guiting Manor Amenity Trust for their ongoing help and support along with our voluntary committee and our wonderful Staff.

- **St Michaels & All Angels Church – by Rev Katrina Scott**

Your local church community has had a good year over the last year, enjoying lots of activities and taking part in the wider community. We continue to strive towards the things we are called to do - worship God, serve our neighbours in the community, develop our life for future generations and pray for those in need. In particular, this year we would like to highlight:

- *Dorothy Watson was made our Churchwarden Emeritus! Dorothy has served the church so well as churchwarden over the years, and we wanted to celebrate this by giving her the role for life, whilst also relieving her of some of the responsibilities! David Broad has joined Mike Edwards as a full Churchwarden.*
- *We are wanting to build up the work we do in the community with children and families, and on top of our links with the local school and pre-school, we have offered some fun activities. Our coach trip to the beach in Weston was great fun and we enjoyed Christmas crafts in the village hall before the Carol Service.*
- *The village was wonderful on Open Gardens day, with so many people visiting some amazing gardens on a beautiful summer's afternoon. Many thanks to all who took part.*
- *We have seen an increase in wedding bookings for this year, which is lovely – couples who feel a special connection to this church being married here.*
- *Plans for the Village Toilet within the Churchyard are taking shape. An archaeological survey has now been done and we are awaiting permission for the next steps to be taken.*

One piece of sad news during the year, was the diagnosis of our Associate Minister, Sue Cox, with Cancer. She has been receiving treatment since the summer, and is doing well – she is very positive and faithful and is doing all that she can to get well.

Thank you all for your support and please do let us know what we can do to support the wider community too.

- **Guiting Watch – by Nettie Ekblom and read by Dawn Rimmer**

A neighbourhood watch for the village, is being set up tentatively called Guiting Watch but all suggestions of a better name will be gratefully received!

With input from local police and a network of other neighbourhood watches the alerted to any unusual activity in the vicinity and also, will be able to watch will be alert others of anything suspicious. Everyone who wishes to be part of the new scheme will have their emails registered on a database and any alerts will be passed on. For those who don't use the internet there will still be notices put up on the Parish notice board.

Details of how to take part will be in the next newsletter, meanwhile if you have any questions or suggestions please contact Nettie Ekblom.

- **Constable's Piece Trust – by 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. No applications were received within the time frame for 2016/17 so we would be pleased if those present could read the eligibility criteria and promote the fund in the local area.

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

- **Update on the Church Toilet Plans – from Roland Greenhill and read by Pete Wheale**

Work started last July and an archaeological survey took place last November on the site. The designs and plans are currently with the planning officers at Cotswold District Council and we are awaiting their decision.

If the plans are permitted, then the project will source materials from local suppliers. Stone will be from the local quarries and local trades will be used where possible.

Sunday the 24th June is the Village Garden Party and funds raised from this will go towards the project. Volunteers should contact Mike Edwards or Roland Greenhill for more information on how they can help.

Finally the History Society held a WWI exhibition to mark the start of the War and will be marking the end with a commemorative event.

5. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council - Dawn Rimmer

We have again had a busy year in the Parish.

We recently produced our budget for the financial year 2017/18. After discussion confirming that the precept has not been raised for a number of years, it was decided that this Parish will raise the precept by 4% to maintain parish finances in line with current financial requirements. This equates to approximately £1 per household per year.

We continue to work closely with the Highways department to ensure roads & footpaths are maintained to the highest level. 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.

Cllr Ogden has continued to maintain a comprehensive WELCOME PACK for newcomers to the village which is available online at the [guitingevents website](http://guitingevents.com). Please contact Else with any updates required.

We obtained an additional salt-bin this year which has been positioned in the bunker by the bakery to reduce the salt damage caused to the building. We have successfully appealed against BTs attempts to remove the payphone in the Square which will now remain in situ.

We are also in negotiation with the Highways Agency regarding the restriction of HGVs through the village and surrounding areas. It has been agreed that restrictions need to be in place but we are attempting to allow "access only" signs to reduce the impact on local businesses.

Queens 90th Birthday Street Party was held in the village hall with around 50 villagers attending. Great fun was had by all!

The Village Fete & Dog Show raised over £3500 for local good causes. Many thanks go to everyone who volunteered at these village events. The fete is on Saturday 17th June this year. Open gardens was a great success on a beautiful day so thanks to Roland Greenhill & his team of volunteers for the Organisation & to all of you who opened their gardens to the public. This year's event is to be on Sunday 4th June. June is a busy month this year with Open Farm Sunday on Sunday 11th June as well!

Congratulations to the social group on all their hard work in providing entertainment in the village! The pantomime was an outstanding success again with over 400

tickets sold for the 3 performances. Watch out for news of the next adventure! The social group & parish council worked closely together on the bonfire party which was well supported once again! £300 was raised in donations to RABI. This year's event will be held on Sunday 5th Nov.

The Parish Council & the Social Group have joined together to purchase a memorial bench to be placed near the playground. The bench will host plaques in memory of Guiting Power residents the first of which will be Ray Sheasby. In the coming years, if anyone would like to donate a plaque for inclusion, contact the Parish Council.

I would like to thank our Clerk for all the help and guidance she has given us as we continue to adapt to new legal requirements and thank you to my fellow councillors for their support and hard work.

6. Questions from the floor to be answered by Councillors

The meeting may discuss any matter affecting local affairs and pass resolutions. Members of the general public are welcome to attend, parishioners are encouraged to attend, but only persons registered as Local Government Electors from the Parish of Guiting Power are entitled to vote.

No questions were raised. The Chair thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 8.25pm.