

# **SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** **24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

### **PRESENT**

**Cllrs.** J Hall (Chairman), A Painter, Mrs M Painter, Mrs A Prosser, A Pugh,  
Mrs M. Turner, Mrs A Wagstaff;  
Rev Jennifer McKenzie;  
Clerk to the Council, R Cowley;  
1 member of the public.

**Cllr Hall opened the meeting at 7.50pm as Chairman and welcomed all those present.**

### **Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Good evening and welcome to Siddington Annual Parish Meeting

The purpose of the evening is to give you an overview of what has been going on in Siddington over the last year.

#### **Members of the Parish Council are:**

John Hall (Chairman)

Neil Selby (Vice Chairman)

Nigel Deller

Alistair Painter

Mary Painter

Ann Prosser

Marcia Turner

John Hayward

Tony Pugh

Ellie Jones

Alison Wagstaff

District and County Councillor Shaun Parsons

Clerk Robert Cowley

A month after I took office we unfortunately lost Chris Rumble who had been on the Parish Council for many years. Chris had a wealth of local knowledge especially regarding footpaths, hedges, ditches, and any matter regarding the land and ownership in the surrounding area. He is sadly missed by all.

In July 2016 Brian Barnes tendered his resignation due to poor health. He also contributed much with his knowledge of flooding within Cirencester and surrounding area. However, I am pleased to say that the Parish now has a full complement of members. In November 2016 we co-opted John Hayward and Tony Pugh onto the Council to replace members lost earlier in the year.

#### **Planning**

Never an easy subject for the Parish Council. We have limited influence on planning decisions, but we do what we can when it is appropriate to present the views of the residents. The Bloor Homes development has now been completed with the exception of the completion of the footpath from the south of the estate to the old canal path. This is ongoing between Bloor and the Bathurst Estate who

own the land on which the new footpath will cross. It is hoped this will be completed by the end of the summer.

As yet no final decision has been made on the proposed development planned for Severalls Field, apparently this has been deferred until after the general election in June of this year.

The proposed Chesterton development is ongoing and we anticipate that the CDC will start to meet in November 2017 regarding decision making on this proposal. The documents associated with this proposal are vast and very complex, major alterations to the road infrastructure need to be considered before any final decision is made. If it is approved it is anticipated the development will take in excess of 15 years to complete.

### **Playing Field**

The new Woodland Climber in the children's play area was finished in June 2016. The Council monitor the play equipment on a regular basis and have recently had repairs carried out to the aerial slide. In 2016 we received a grant of £2,550 from Gloucestershire County Council's Active Together Fund to make improvements to the playing field for all residents in the Parish. We decided to create a woodland area by planting over 400 saplings and install two picnic benches with a disabled facility. These along with three new benches and new litter bins were completed in April this year. Unfortunately some local youths took pleasure in damaging over a hundred of the saplings and we plan to replace these in the future. The football club continue to use the playing field throughout the winter and we understand they have had a very successful year. We have been discussing the possibility of having a tennis court in the area close to the children's play park. These discussions are in the early stages so there is no anticipated date as to when and how it will be funded.

### **Gigaclear**

In October 2016 Gigaclear started to lay fibre optic cable throughout the village giving every resident the opportunity to be connected to broadband via fibre optic. This work is ongoing and is anticipated to be completed by the end of June 2017. There has been much disruption and traffic lights slowing vehicles through the village. This is a government sponsored scheme being carried throughout the entire country where BT broadband is not available.

### **Parish Council Website**

In June 2016 Siddington Parish Council's website finally became live. It was necessary for the Council to have its own website to conform to rules and regulations regarding transparency relating to meetings and financial decisions. The Clerk keeps the web site up to date on a regular basis.

### **Defibrillator**

The village has one defibrillator located outside the village hall there are possible funds available from the County to have a second one installed in the Parish. Cllr Deller is looking into the possibility of locating a second one in the west end of the Parish possibility in the vicinity of Wildwood Park. The defibrillator needs power to heat the cabinet so the old telephone box in Wildwood Park would be most suitable.

### **New Rector of the Churnside Benefice**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May saw the Institution and Induction of the Rev Jennifer McKenzie as Rector of the Churnside Benefice. Jennifer will be serving the Parishes of South Cerney (including Cerney Wick), Siddington and Preston. I am pleased to say that Jennifer is here this evening and will introduce herself to you all.

### **Village News**

The monthly news is supported and sponsored by various groups within the Parish and is produced by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who willingly give

up many hours of their time to ensure all residents are kept up to date with what is going on in the Parish. Approximately 650 are printed every month and delivered to every household in the Parish by the dedicated team.

### **Police Report – PC 2071 Weedon**

**Date – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

#### **Summary**

This report covers the period of **01<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**. During this period there were **38** crimes. This compares with **37** in the same period last year

There has been an **INCREASE** of **1** crime or **2.70%**

Below shows previous years:	2015/2016	<b>37</b>
	2014/2015	<b>77</b>
	2013/2014	<b>87</b>
	2012/2013	<b>55</b>
	2011/2012	<b>39</b>
	2010/2011	<b>48</b>
	2009/2010	<b>37</b>

#### **Crime Breakdown**

Burglary Dwelling - 6

Burglary non dwelling – 4 (includes 1 attempt)

Theft - 9

Criminal damage - 5

Violence - 12

Drugs - 0

Other notifiable offences - 2

#### **Information**

As reported above there has been the increase of just 1 crime for the period reported on. There have been increases and reductions in the crime categories. The noticeable increase has been of 3 burglary dwelling offences and 2 burglary non dwelling offences. There was also an increase of 3 violence recorded offences. But, there has been a reduction of 3 theft related offences and reduction of 5 criminal damage offences. Overall crime for the Cirencester Rural South area, which PC Weedon and PCSO Owen cover has dropped by a total 27 crimes, from 201 to 174. We were receiving reports of youths gathering in the blocks of flats in Parkway, Siddington. These were dealt with robustly and they have now ceased and are no longer using them as a hang-out area. Reports were also received of youths acting anti-socially around the new nature area on the playing field. My colleagues from Cirencester caught up with these youths on one evening and they were moved on and advised of their behaviour. To my knowledge there have been no further issues.

I would like to thank all the support received from the Parish Council, local groups and most importantly the residents in helping us tackle Crime in Siddington and look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Cirencester Rural South local Policing Team  
PC 2071 Mark Weedon  
PCSO 9216 Mike Owen

### **Village Hall Update**

**Trustees** – Denys Young (Chairman), Phil Vickers (Secretary), Alison Wagstaff (Treasurer), Mary Deller (Bookings secretary), Nigel Deller, Georgie Hayward and Alister Painter.

Property advice provided by John Hayward.

The hall is run independently of the Parish Council and is funded through hall hiring and any grants received for major work.

**Recent improvements:**

- **New kitchen** in 2016, partially funded by the Parish Council, which contributed half of the cost (£3,500).
- **New floor in the main hall** in 2016 – funded from the S106 money given to the village hall as part of the planning permission agreement for the new Bloor estate on Siddington Road (£32,516).
- **New heating system** in the main hall in 2016 – funded with a grant of £9,300 from the Lottery Fund. In the year since this has been installed the hall has seen a reduction of approximately two thirds in electricity bills. This has also been helped by the insulation of the roof that took place in 2015.

**Planned for 2017:**

- **New heating system for the remainder of the hall** – partially funded by a grant of £6,000 from the Summerfield Trust.
- **A porch on the front of the hall** – providing a secure, attractive and up-to-date new entrance. As part of this project the existing double doors will be replaced. Because this will provide improved exits it will mean that the capacity of the hall for events can be increased. This will use up the remainder of the S106 funding.

Planning permission has already been granted and we're in the process of getting quotes for the work. Thanks to John Hayward, who has put a lot of time into getting this project off the ground. We have vacancies for trustees!

**Rev Jennifer McKenzie**

Rev McKenzie introduced herself and reported that she had already met children at the school and was very much looking forward to meeting the rest of the village in the coming months, and becoming involved the life of the village.

**Public Questions**

There were no questions from those present. The Chairman thanked all those present for attending and the meeting closed at 8.12pm