

# **Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly**

**Held on Wednesday, 18th April 2018 at Atworth Village Hall**

**Attending:** Councillors Effie Gale-Sides, (Chairman), Arnold Snowball, Richard Clark, Sarah Horrell, Phillipa Grey, Kathleen Hartley plus 18 members of the public.

**Apologies Received:** The Clerk reported that no apologies had been received this evening.

**CLlr Effie Gale-Sides**, Chairman of the Parish Council, formally opened the meeting and welcomed those attending.

**Minutes** The minutes of the Parish Assembly, held on 19th April, 2017 were considered.

**Resolution** The minutes were accepted by those present as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising** There were no matters arising raised.

**Parish Council Chairman's Report:** The Chairman presented her report for 2018:

## **Chairman's Report Annual Parish Assembly 2018**

I will start by thanking my fellow councillors and my Clerk for their dedicated work over the past year

I am also grateful to Phil Alford our Wiltshire Councillor who has made time in his very busy schedule to be with us at most of our meetings where he has been most useful in giving updates and help where he is able. Thanks also to Maggie Ledbury our PCSO who has provided us with monthly crime reports, keeping us well informed.

We have had a busy year with considering planning applications and also maintaining the Parish fabric.

- We have been re-establishing the boundaries on the recreation ground.
- The gearing in our Tower clock was in need of repair. In May the workings were cleaned, repaired and synchronised, which took about eight weeks in total.
- The Poor House signpost was repaired in May by Bradford on Avon *Walkers are Welcome* Group. It had disintegrated and was quite dilapidated, but looks splendid now.
- Our two enclosed bus shelters were repaired. One had a new roof and repointing, and the other was smoothed out and repainted.
- Wiltshire Council's Heritage Monuments Team had given approval for new fixings on the Clock Tower for poppy wreaths. This worked well until some of the wreaths were vandalised.
- The Council had expressed its concern over the age and efficiency of the Wiltshire Police HQ's
- IT equipment with regard to call handling. This resulted in a very forthright and useful meeting with Superintendent Minty, Head of Headquarters operations, Wiltshire Police.
- We have raised awareness on the problem of illegal fly tipping following the death of a calf at Church Farm.
- Two new benches have been installed and I am always pleased when I see them being used.
- New notice boards have been ordered to replace the current ones which are no longer fit for purpose.
- We have a new grass cutting contract with Idverde for the playing fields and some verges not covered by our Wiltshire County contractors.

What didn't go quite so well

- We still don't have a full Council.
- We are still looking for someone to repair the Clock Tower roof.
- There is continued parking on the pavements, even where residents have adequate parking facilities of their own.

I end with my thanks to Steve Clark for winding our village clock every week, and keeping it in good order; to the WI who work throughout the year in keeping Atworth litter free, and also to Steve Jordan for erecting our flags and looking after them.

My final and special thanks go to Brian Mitchell for his tremendous help in dealing with our requests to use the Church Rooms when the Village Hall was

not available for Parish Council meetings.

### **Report by County Councillor: Cllr. Phil Alford**

Wiltshire Councillor Phil Alford spoke briefly of his work during the past year.

“This was always going to be an exciting year for me; in my first year as a Wiltshire Councillor I knew I would be busy getting up to speed, pushing forward our local priorities and representing us at Wiltshire Council in both a scrutinising roll and in a quasi-judicial one.

There is so much that I could put into this report to reflect my activities this past 10 months but I will endeavour to slim it down and give as brief as possible overview of my time so far.

There is no doubt that I have joined Wiltshire Council in one of its most challenging times. Just last month we had to agree a 3% tax rise to cover our inflationary linked costs; fill some of the funding gap generated by central government withdrawing all our grant and to cover the costs of increases to the minimum wage. In addition, a 3% increase was also added to fund our extra Adult Social Care responsibilities. We have an aging population in Wiltshire and it is vital that we make sure we can provide the best possible care to ensure people are supported at home in a dignified and safe way. We also need to find a further £6.6 million of savings from our existing £327 million a year budget. This is about 2% and will not be as easy since the economy drive of the past 10 years has meant that we are already one of the leanest local authorities in the country.

To date I have attended over 100 meetings and at every chance I have been championing our local priorities. At the CATG meetings I have pushed every project for the residents of Atworth to secure funding to improve pavements, roads and any other manner of minor highways investments. On the Area Board I have sought to direct investment into the all local projects as well as prioritise the issues that most affect us. The campus and highways being notable examples. Other meetings include parish meetings, conservative group meeting's, full council, flooding updates and the Neighbourhood plan steering group.

Immediately after election I sought a position on the Planning committee and in that role I have attended 11 meetings to date. We have scrutinised many planning applications across West Wilts and sought to balance planning law with local need. Evaluating the applications, interests and law to come to a balanced and legally secure position is a delicate skill and has required a thorough consideration of the law and issues in play.

Of all these meetings one group is particularly important to me as a priority and that is the CAMHS task group that I chair. Wiltshire Council and the NHS are jointly funding the Community Adolescent Mental Health Service across Wiltshire and we have recently moved to a new delivery model. I am Chairman for the task group looking into how the service is accessed, provided and overseen. I report to the Children's Select Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The intention is to make recommendations on how to improve the service for our young people and will hopefully have a crucial impact on some of the most in need people in our society.

In addition to this I have been involved in lots of local casework. These range from helping people access mental health services, challenge planning decisions, working with the police to influence traffic speed on the A350, filling numerous potholes, applications for Rights of Ways, helping with an asylum claim and hours liaising with the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council to deal with the blocking up of a tributary feeding the river Avon. This has been an eventful year for, it has thrown up new and exciting challenges to solve, opened my eyes to parts of our community I was completely unaware of, allowed me to meet an extraordinary range of fascinating people and I very much look forward to seeing what the next year brings.”

### **Presentations:**

The primary award this year was to **Kathleen (Kate) Hartley**. Her award was for innumerable contributions to the village. There is a plaque at the back of the Village Hall which shows that it was Kate that donated the land used as a car park. She has also dedicated a great deal of time to helping people in the village; she ran the 18-80 group; she ran the play group; she ran the flower show for ten years.

Kate was awarded a certificate and a large bunch of flowers. Those present thanked Kate with a round of applause.

### **Speedwatch**

Effie thanked Alan Lee, who has recently stood down, for all his hard work down the years with Community Speedwatch in the village.

### **Report from the Trustees of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground:** Richard Clark presented the report.

The village hall had a very successful year in 2017. After saving our money for the past couple of years, and receiving a grant from the Parish Council, two major projects were completed last year.

As you may have noticed, we refurbished both the ladies toilets (which is now a unisex toilet) and the disabled toilet. At the same time, we installed new doors and flooring, further enhancing this area. We also totally refurbished the kitchen with new units, two cookers, a hob, a new hot water urn and a microwave. We also installed new flooring, lights and we enlarged the serving hatch. I hope everyone is pleased with the changes that have been carried out to enhanced the facilities of the hall for both the village hall users and the people of Atworth.

Although the hall gained and subsequently lost two regular groups, we did gain a second session with the Pilates Group in the autumn. In the autumn the Art Group reduced their bookings from three to two sessions per week. This

will significantly reduce our income in 2018. We are however still receiving support from the Art Group as they are putting on regular workshops during the year. In 2017 we increased the number of parties held in the hall. This helped to maintain the total number of people who came and used the hall over many activities throughout the year.

During the year, vandals damaged the tennis court gate, destroyed a bench, broke the seats on the kiddies slide and managed to make a hole in the perimeter wall. If we continue to incur damage to equipment in 2018, we will install CCTV to identify the culprits and safeguard the equipment for the children and other users of the recreation ground.

The Five -Year rolling Plan is still in existence. The priority for 2018 will be the replacement of the tables and chairs in the hall and to install a sound system/PA System which will include a hearing loop.

In the autumn of 2017, the annual ROSPA inspection took place, which, with the exception of a couple of items, indicated that the recreation ground and play equipment was still generally in good order. The main problem being the ground work under part of the Agility Trial that was scheduled be repaired in 2017. For various reasons this could not be carried out, however this work will now be carried out in the spring of 2018.

Although the village hall 200 club was not as well subscribed as in 2016, it still brought in much needed funds for the village hall. It also provided prize money to shareholders.

Two groups who use the village hall, put on exhibitions in the year. One was the Atworth Camera Club. Photographers put on a large display of images which proved very successful and was well received by the viewing public. The other group was the Art Group. Artists who attend the classes in the village hall, displayed a wide variety of painting and drawings. Again, the exhibition proved very successful and received good comments from the viewing public.

I would like to thank the Atworth Parish Council for their help in supporting our projects throughout this very busy year.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees (both past and present) for all their help and support in aid of the Charity during the year.

**St Michaels & All Angels Church Rvd.** Shona Hoad read a report from St Michaels.

“Standing here last year I reported to this meeting that St Michael’s had just been closed in order to allow a complete re-decoration of the inside which required us to put scaffolding throughout the building. As we already come together with the parish of Christ Church, Shaw for services we were able to move all our Sunday morning gatherings to Shaw and our weekday services took place in the Church hall. Over the winter we have been able to

reciprocate as Christ Church has been closed from January to March as their heating system failed. We are particularly grateful to John Dunseith and Roger MacMahon who expertly carried out the re-decoration – quite an undertaking with many different colours to be used on different parts of the walls and ceiling which give the church its special qualities. Following the completion of the re-decoration we held a service of celebration as we recognised and gave thanks to God for the many different ways that people voluntarily give time to support the maintenance of the church not just as a place of worship but as a place for the whole community to enjoy. From grass cutting, flower arranging and church cleaning, to those who assist in the musical life of the church there was a long list of skills and people that we are dependent on and it was lovely to acknowledge this.

Around the community we have a small team of volunteers who are able to meet with people who are lonely or unable to get out – as always I would ask that people let us know who would like a visit as often those most in need of a friendly chat are the ones who are least able to make their needs known. You will hear from Ruth separately about the role she has in the community with different groups and businesses.

We have good links with Churchfields school as a Church of England School, and were delighted when they received good recognition of their Christian ethos during an inspection in October last year. It is wonderful to see the children developing their understanding of faith and celebrate with them at key festival times when they lead services in church and many family and friends are able to attend. Similarly Stonar school attend church for key festivals as well as providing a delightful choir that entertains us each year for an evening fundraiser.

As always, we continue to welcome many people through the door whether it be for a regular Sunday morning service, festival times such as Christmas and Easter, or for the key moments in life such as weddings, Baptisms and funerals. The church is generally open every day of the year and we are glad to provide a place of stillness for quiet reflection in what can often be a busy world. There are seats around the churchyard for people to sit and enjoy the changing seasons and watch the setting sun when weather permits. It is a truly splendid view looking across the fields from the church. The acoustics in church afford us an excellent opportunity to host musical events and we were glad to welcome the Bristol and District Organists' association as well as our own church choir putting on a superb concert as they raised funds for new choir robes.

This will be my last report to this meeting as I am moving on to a new parish in August. It has been a joy getting to know everyone here and I pray that God will continue to bless the vibrancy of this community and the shared responsibilities that so many volunteers willingly participate in.”

Shona Hoad (Vicar)

**Report from the Chaplaincy**

Reverend Ruth Gillings explained, "I am an Associate Priest with the Benefice of Atworth with Shaw and Whitely. During the past year I have been working as a Chaplain within the village of Shaw and Whitley and Atworth. My aim is to offer support to the varied businesses and Community Groups operating within this village.

"I regularly attend the Over 55's Club and have enjoyed meeting the members. I had a great time attending their Christmas meal at the White Hart and hope to join them again for this year's Christmas Meal. In the near future I will be visiting various members who are unwell at this time.

"During the year I have been invited to visit Atworth WI when they had a very interesting talk on photography. Recently I have visited the Parish Council, again as a support and listening ear. They have kindly invited me to attend their meetings, which I will be doing approximately three times a year or more if needed.

"I have a meeting over coffee with Effie in her role as Parish Council Chair and the facilitator to the Over 55's Club every couple of months. We discuss any needs that she feels I can help out with within my role as Chaplain.

"Over the next 12 months I am hoping to make contact with the farmers in the area, more local businesses and visiting as many Community Groups as possible.

"I like to thank you for the opportunity to join in with Village Life and hope I can offer another resource of support."

## **Atworth Youth Club**

Sarah Horrell read out a brief report from the Chairman, Chris Emberson, which spoke encouragingly of the future for this much valued village asset.

In the past 12 months Atworth Youth Club has increased its intake significantly. We have re-opened on a Wednesday evening to cater for older (secondary school) children in addition to the normal Tuesday evening session.

We now have 3 paid members of staff that run the sessions in addition to a rotating number of parent volunteers that help run the activities. Two previous members of the club who are now secondary school age assist with the running of the junior session on Tuesday as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

We have invested in new equipment at the club including a Go-Pro camera which can be used for creating action photography by the older group.

We ran a series of very successful Halloween and Christmas activities including decoration making and parties as well as a disco.

We have also funded external activities including a theatre trip to Bath during the Christmas holiday period.

We are always looking for new ideas including linking up with neighbouring villages for joint activities, especially as the weather becomes warmer into the summer months.

The Youth Club has been going for a very long time but is still up and running. They rely on grants to continue. They open on a Tuesday and a Wednesday and it's going from strength to strength. They have three paid members of staff plus parent volunteers. They have invested in new equipment. They hold discos, parties, an end of term barbeque, a theatre trip.

As far as Sarah knows they are the only youth club in the county which has their own building.

### **Atworth Camera Club (Derek Mason)**

Derek Mason gave an interesting introduction to the Camera Club and their work throughout the year. Atworth Camera Club is a group of local people that meets on the last Monday of every month in the Village Institute to help its members improve their photography, regardless of individual skill level. Everyone is welcome to join !

The subjects we cover in the club are both varied and interesting. Well, to many members at least. During the last year we have covered various subjects as either a talk or a working demonstration.

Our Membership has increased over the year, partly by word of mouth but also the fact that we now provide posters relevant to each meeting. Melksham Independent News are also pleased to publish some of the meeting reports we provide to them. At the clubs outset we saw about 12 to 15 interested members which slowly declined to a 'hard core of about 7 to 10. And sadly another of our members passed on during this last year. Nevertheless, the poster campaign and our choice of meeting content has now brought this up to approximately 25. Not all Members are from Atworth or Shaw and Whitley but come from Melksham, Seend, Bradford on Avon and even further afield. Readership of the Facebook page has also increased.

The current cost to Members is £2 per evening and this covers not just the hire of the Institute but tea / coffee and biscuits during mid evening. The "Tea break" is usually the divider between the Show and Tell and any talk or Demonstration.

Almost without fail we have a part of each evening as a "Show and tell" where members bring along their images and tell us some of the relevant information. The information is not necessarily of a technical nature but can cover composition, locations and indeed any problems that the Member encountered. Either prints or projected images can be shown. A laptop and projector are provided by Club members and these also double as a visual aide in some of the talks.

Some of the evenings we have had during year include:-

- Basic photo editing using Adobe Bridge or Lightroom  
Led by Derek Mason
- Lighting for Portraiture (practical demonstration) by myself
- Outdoor photography around the Village with David Webb
- An evening of Nature photography (Well known and Internationally respected Nature photographer with Gill Cardy F.R.P.S.
- Macro and Close-up photography - Derek Mason
- Colour Management - a talk by Fotospeed of Corsham
- Producing Panoramic prints
- Alternative Reality images by John Hoskins

Whilst some of these may look to be quite complex we try and pitch the technical level at wherever the interest lies with our Members. Our objective is to provide both fun and skills for all Members and we all have something to learn !!!

During the next year we intend to carry on with our program of skilled image making and revive one of our early successes, the Show and Tell evenings. We shall also invite Members to tell us of their photographic journey so far, with images and perhaps the off humorous anecdote or two !!!

Last year the club held an Exhibition of Work in the Village Hall. This was very well attended and appreciated by most who called in to see us. We learned a few lessons from the experience and intend to repeat the Exhibition this year on May 12<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 and 12:00. In fact, I've brought along a poster to give you all a preview and advanced invitation !!!

There's no bias towards one camera type or another or the subject matter we review. Of course we have amongst us some very skilled photographers who specialize but equally we are more than pleased to have several Members who prefer a more relaxed attitude.

And we are certainly not gender or racially biased, the ladies are very good in fact !! (Ladies, in general, have a better conception of colour and form than the Gents)

So, if you're a photographer or interested in the art or you're quite happy to just come along and enjoy seeing what it's all about with good companionship....

We're more than happy to see you.

**Report from the Over 55's Afternoon Tea:** Sylvie Roberts presented a report on behalf of a very active Over 55s group

Over 55s Afternoon Tea meet together monthly for a pleasant afternoon of tea, coffee, cakes and jolly good company.

We have an organising team of seven people, plus a regular driver for those who require transport.

We have no membership fees. Instead, we support ourselves by contributions towards hire of the hall, and by having a small monthly raffle.

We also have sponsorship in the form of donation of cakes. So far we have been fortunate to have had Waitrose, Whitehall Garden Centre and Neston Park Farm Shop. We continued to receive this support from local businesses: Leafield Marine and Oliveford.

Asda have very generously provided us with a super, cheerful helper and have donated cakes and also given a grant towards refreshments. This has been hugely appreciated.

We enjoyed splendid entertainment from the Stonar School Chamber Choir who will be with us again soon with a new programme.

Twenty four of us met together at the the Westbrook for a lovely Summer lunch, and thirty at The White Hart for an excellent Christmas dinner.

The group is thriving with thirty five members ranging from 56 years to 93 years. Of these twenty four to thirty people attend regularly, still enjoying going out for an afternoon, meeting with friends.

Anyone aged over 55 who would like to come along and join us would be most welcome.

## **Brownies**

Bridget Sawyer presented a report on behalf of the flourishing Atworth Brownies.

### **ATWORTH BROWNIES REPORT FOR PARISH ASSEMBLY 2018**

Atworth Brownies continue to flourish. We currently have 17 girls in the pack and two leaders. In January we welcomed three new brownies to the unit, two were brand new to Guiding and one transferred to us from elsewhere. One of our brownies transferred to Bradford on Avon due to a house move. Two brownies will be moving on to Guides after Easter.

We are now running a waiting list for the unit which seems to have suddenly become very popular. One girl joins and tells her friends and it snowballs. Over the past year we have covered various themes including in the Autumn term a very popular Craft and Science based set of activities loosely based around 'Harry Potter'. This included finding out about animals both real and imaginary, building structures using marshmallows and cocktail sticks, making fairy gardens and playing Quidditch. We also investigated sinking and floating as part of a potions evening where we made mini lava lamps, volcanoes and tested substances for acidity. We investigated chromatography using Skittles sweets and also made our own sherbet and

tried to guess the flavours of jelly beans. We finished the term with the 'Yule Ball' which was a good opportunity to dress up on the theme and catch fairies in lanterns to take home.

Some of our brownies attended a Division fun day last Summer in Bradford on Avon where they took part in activities based around colour.

Last October we held our second Autumn Antics activity day where some of the girls spent 10 hours doing crafts, cooking together, eating together, clearing up and generally having fun. This time we managed our walk to the church and back almost without getting wet, just a few spots as we returned to the hall. Activities were based around the countries involved in a trip on the Orient Express and teatime involved cake stands with scones, sandwiches and little cakes. We finished the evening with mocktails and singing surrounded by oriental lanterns that the girls had made earlier in the day. We are currently following a theme about brownies around the world and have celebrated Chinese New Year, had a chocolate fondue and held a Brownie version of the Eurovision Song Contest.

On the last Friday before Easter we held a joint fundraising event with the Guides when we once again had our Chocolate Bingo evening. This was well attended and raised some funds for both units and was enjoyed by all who took part.

As mentioned last year the programme for brownies and guides is currently being reviewed with the new schemes being rolled out at the end of 2018, early 2019. Some information has been released but much of the information is yet to come so we wait to see what changes are in store.

## **Neighbourhood Watch report**

Effie Gale-Sides reported

My thanks to both Anne Diamond and Rosemary Ward who were my predecessors in this role.

Neighbourhood Watch is the largest crime prevention movement in England and Wales with 2.3 million members.

In Atworth we have schemes in Godwins Close, Clock Tower View, Parts of the Bath Road and Nursery Close with about 75 members in total.

Many of us receive the Community Messaging Action Fraud updates which are issued regularly. Also we have Community Messaging crime updates in our local area by the Wiltshire Police.

However Neighbourhood Watch is about more than crime and fraud.

Our aim is to bring neighbours together to create strong, friendly, active communities where crime and anti-social behaviour is less likely to happen.

Our vision is that of a caring society that is focused on trust and respect in which people are safe from crime and enjoy a good quality of life.

Neighbourhood Watch is about making sure that fewer people feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live.

If you would like to know about setting up a scheme in your area please let me know.

Effie Gale-Sides

Co-ordinator for Atworth

**Report from Atworth History Group:** Arnold Snowball presented the report on behalf of Atworth History Group. They have a flourishing membership of around 50 persons. They meet monthly, and have an interesting selection of talks, with speakers on a wide range of topics as wide as field names around Atworth and the history of Great and Little Chalfield.

**Report from Atworth Independent Church:** This was read by Rodney Price:

“Dear friends and neighbours of Atworth

I have the duty and pleasure as long time Secretary to Atworth Independent Church (affectionately known to us as the Chapel by the Clock).

It is a pleasure to bring this report because:-

- a) it means we are still here and
- b) to let you know of the purpose for its existence and activities that take place.

It is sadness that it is me addressing you, as our Pastor of three years left during 2017.

As a small chapel in a village situation we have to thank God in His provision for us to continue when over the years, just like village shops, many places of worship have closed. The aim of any Church is to continue the commission given by its founder to share the love of God with those around us. This we do mainly through the Sunday services which continue each week where invited speakers come from other local, like minded Churches and share the Word of God as found in scripture. In a hostile, post Christian era we seek to maintain traditional biblical values. The usual Sunday morning worship is supplemented by a third Sunday afternoon meeting followed by tea and a Songs of Praise held several times during the year when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. These commence at 3.15 p.m.

We are pleased to share the love of God in the monthly Friday activities of Coffee Stop, alternating with a Soup Lunch, through music and testimony, sometimes including a visit from a Missionary currently in the UK, and are encouraged with the support of many from the village - we can make room for more!

At the chapel we have an old photograph of a Harvest Thanksgiving service from the early 1900's. Times have changed somewhat, but we still have a Harvest Thanksgiving Service in September when we celebrated the abundant provision that Our Lord has blessed us with during the past year. This blessing enabled us to give food hampers of fresh and tinned food to Alabere Help Centre, Devizes, a food and clothing centre for those in need. Monetary gifts from our Harvest were given to a young family we became aware of who

were starting out on overseas Missionary service.

It is a joy to share with Shona and the folks from St Michael's at the annual joint Memorial Service beginning at the Queen Victoria Memorial Clock and then continuing at either Atworth Independent Church or at St. Michael's. We look forward to hosting this again in November beginning at 10.50 a.m. at the memorial and continuing in the Chapel.

Please come along as we celebrate and remember those who have given their lives for Atworth and our country.

The Good Friday morning service which was introduced a couple of years ago in joint association with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Melksham was held at Atworth and we were greatly encouraged by the good number of their congregation supporting this. This is an ongoing event and next year Lord willing it will be held at Melksham.

May the Lord be with all of us this year as we endeavour to do His work, live according to His commandments and help each other.

Thank you

Rodney Price - Secretary.

### **Churchfields School (Lynne Spencer)**

Lynne Spencer explained that the school had received a recent Ofsted inspection which graded the school as "Good", which was a tribute to a wonderful head teacher and staff. The atmosphere is wonderful and the children receive a great education. It's a privilege to be a foundation governor there.

**Report from Atworth WI:** Helen Snowball presented a report from a very active WI group in the Village.

"In the past year the 32 members of Atworth WI have attended eleven meetings in our well-appointed Village Hall with its beautiful new kitchen. This amenity is especially beneficial for its convenience and accessibility.

Our monthly programme is a mix of topics on a wide variety of subjects from Alexander Technique to a fascinating evening learning about 'automata' and a wide-ranging discussion of plastic soup in our oceans.

Our outings included a very enjoyable day at Fussells Fine Foods in Rode, several trips to the Wiltshire Music Centre to see live-streamed ballet and opera, attendance at a Christmas Carol Service in Corsham and our regular afternoon crafts and walks. Members have also attended Wiltshire Federation events which included practical skills workshops, lectures and coach trips with a variety to suit all comers.

The WI appreciates the opportunity to give both practical and financial help where possible, from offering the Youth Club a free table at our Autumn Fair to making a donation towards the costs of the new Village Hall kitchen. Playing our part in the local community is very important to us and we are fortunate to have a mutually beneficial agreement with our Parish Council to act as the Village Caretaker. This involves individual work plus monthly group litter-picks which means that we help others while enjoying a bit of fresh air and we can socialise while earning much-needed funds for our annual programme.

We look forward to being involved in village life far into the future.

### **Parish Boundary Walk**

David Webb, the honorary freeman of the village, explained that when David Humphries of New House Farm told him he was going to walk the Parish Boundary immediately before he retired and moved to Devon, David Webb had accompanied him. Afterwards David thought it would be a good idea to organise a walk for anyone else who wanted to walk the Parish Boundary, so he talked to the Chairman of Atworth History Group, Prof. Bunny Dowdeswell, and they arranged for a car to be at points where the boundary is crossed by a road so that anyone who did not want to walk the whole boundary could be ferried back to the village. Permission was obtained from landowners, there is no insurance, so everyone walks at their own risk. The following year a boundary stone was erected to mark the occasion. They have continued to organise a walk every four or five years or so, and the History Group are planning, subject to obtaining permission from land-owners and the farmers, to organise a walk next year. It would be appreciated if people who are interested could let David have their contact details. Jim Gooding, Chairman of Atworth History Group and his team have taken on the task of organising it.

**Chalfield Manor.** Robert Floyd gave the meeting a brief update.

Robert mentioned that Great Chalfield now receives about 20,000 visitors a year compared with 3,500 pa when Patsy and himself returned from London 34 years ago. They have a Plant fair coming up on 6th May to raise funds for our garden fund and for Jamies' Farm, which is an excellent charity working with young people based in Box, and now near Hereford also. Youngsters who have issues and are at risk of exclusion from schools in London and elsewhere spend 5 days on the farm with teaching assistants. They have one on one sessions with adults who encourage them and the course sets out to establish some confidence and respect, this produces good results, and the great majority of youngsters who can attend these residential courses are subsequently not excluded from their schools.

Their neighbours Steve & Debbie Carnie at Lenton Farm have supported Jamie's

Farm for years and host the enjoyable Cock & Bull Festival.

As well as the Plant fair taking place on 6th May, two months later Bath Opera will present Puccini's 'La Bohème' sung in English at Great Chalfield on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th July. This production is set in post WW2 Paris. It is in four Acts, with Julia O'Connor in the role of Mimi and Luke Daniel as Rodolfo.

### **Police report**

The Clerk stated that he had spoken with PCSO Maggie Ledbury, who unfortunately couldn't be with us this evening, and agreed that it wasn't best use of her time to collate a report of all of the crimes which had taken place in the parish during the past year for an annual report to the council, since these were routinely reported on the monthly Parish Council meeting minutes in any case. Maggie was warmly thanked for all her tremendous support to the parish.

**Any Other Business:** There was no AOB reported this evening.

Madam Chairman very warmly thanked everyone for their input which made this such a successful meeting. She invited those attending to remain after the meeting's closure to enjoy the refreshments provided.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

**Phil McMullen**  
Minute Taker

23/04/2018