

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL, TALBOTS END CROMHALL

The 2017 Annual Parish Assembly meeting in Cromhall took place on evening of 25th April at the Village Hall. There were 13 people present, including 4 Councillors, guests and Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2017 Annual Parish Assembly meeting. He explained this is a statutory meeting that the Council has to hold – it is a meeting for the residents and no decisions can be made at this meeting.

A minute's silence was held for all the people no longer with us in Cromhall but who have been an integral part of the community.

Council annual report given by Cllr Keith White

The council held meetings every month in the village hall on the second Wednesday of the month. A time is set aside for public participation and parishioners are welcomed to attend meetings.

Councillor Tim Johnson resigned from the council and thanks were given for all his hard work as chairman of the council. Councillors Keith White, Roland Hobbs, Dave White, Alex Gent, Steve Aston and Mike Line remained and when Daren Jeffery was co-opted to the council in September 2016 the council had a full complement of councillors.

At the first Parish Council Meeting Keith White was elected as Chairman and Mike Line as Vice Chairman.

Parish councillors were appointed as representatives for:

- South Gloucestershire Branch of ALCA – Cllrs K White and M Line
- Frome and Ladden Valley Environmental Link Group - Cllr Aston
- Safer Stronger Community Group - Cllr Hobbs
- Quarry Liaison Group - Cllr Hobbs
- Village Hall Committee – Cllr M Line
- Cromhall Poor Allotment Charity – Cllr D White

Throughout the year the council responded to numerous planning applications. A lot of time was dedicated to reviewing and responding to the implications of the Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Study thus ensuring the parish needs and concerns were registered.

During the year the council added additional information including its financial records to the parish council website to meet transparency rules. All agendas and minutes are available and councillors hope these improvements will be of interest to parishioners.

The council was able to publish the Cromhall village plan and distribute it to every household. With so much proposed development in the area, the council took steps to establish a neighbourhood plan working group with residents and support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Cromhall Parish. Cllr White advised the meeting that information on what a Neighbourhood Plan is and how to get involved were displayed in the hall and Cllr Jeffery would speak later.

Council produced regular articles for 5Alive outlining and updating residents on council activities.

Speeding remained a major issue throughout the year. The council successfully obtained funding from the Police Commissioners Fund to purchase wig wag lights which were erected on the main Bristol Road near the junction with Talbots End and Rectory Lane. It is hoped this will contribute to improved road safety in the area and help protect school children.

Concerns over parking especially around The Green were raised and addressed during the year.

The council continued to maintain various areas within the parish including The Green and common land around the Royal Oak. A new grass contractor was appointed to a three-year contract.

The council thanked Ward councillor John O'Neill for his support throughout the year and attendance at council meetings.

Cllr White opened the floor to Reports and Questions.

Ray Johnson Deputy Governor Leyhill Prison.

Ray outlined the role of an open prison in preparing prisoners for resettlement back into the community. The prison holds 515 maximum and has a good reputation with a waiting list. There are 152 staff including 42 officers. Excellent 2016 inspection report. There is now a training centre and the officers mess will be opening as a café.

Robert Moreton Tortworth Estate.

Robert spoke about the West of England call for sites and plans for Buckover Village.

He gave details about the park which is grade 11* listed and on the at-risk register. The Estate has undertaken research and is looking to reinstate some of the 17th and 18th century features. Land by the lake has been cleared and will be used as a function area.

The quartzite quarry is being restored and Cemex has done a really good job in reshaping new habitats with wildlife returning.

The Estate has land in the parish and is happy to be involved in the vision for Cromhall as community involvement is important.

Stephen Youngs from PCC

Stephen outlined improvement work undertaken and activities for fund raising. He spoke about a joint initiative with the Chapel to hold concerts. Stephen gave details of the serious problems with the roof and the need to secure grants for this expensive work. Stephen was presented with a £750 cheque for churchyard maintenance.

Patrick Martin on the community shop

Patrick has been chair of the Association for 7 years. Three years ago, they opened the new premises and the last two years has seen an increase in turnover of 25%. Community shop is run by volunteers on behalf of the community for the community and has a part time post office. The Association would like to see it grow and is always looking for new volunteers or new business. The shop is a meeting point for more elderly residents and medical prescriptions can be delivered to it, further helping the community. Patrick thanked the parish council, South Gloucestershire Council and Merlin Housing who continue to support the shop.

Cllr Daren Jeffery on Neighbourhood plans

Lots of developments proposed in the surrounding area and no guarantee there won't be ones in Cromhall. A Neighbourhood Plan is part of a formal process to influence where, how many and what development happens. It is an opportunity for the community to influence developments but must have community support. He outlined the requirements, commitment required, financing and process of developing a plan with community buy-in. Details were available in the hall, attendees can speak to councillors and leaflets in the shop.

A report was read out from Poor allotments (attached).

Cllr Line Community Governor St Andrews school.

Cllr Line outlined how the governing body was working with the school. The big priority is continuing to improve standards ready for Ofsted inspections. Challenges lie ahead with the new funding formula. Emphasis on Christian values as church school. Currently there are 60 children and there will be 10 in the new reception class which is good news. Parish council funded wig wag lights will help to protect the school children and road safety remains a priority. PTA are still raising money for the playground improvements.

Grants paid to community group:

T@3 (senior citizens)	£200
St Andrews school After School club	£500
St Peters Hospice	£100
Benefice News letter	£300
St Andrews churchyard	£750
Citizens advice	£100
Royal British legion	£200
Total	£2150

Paul Jaggard Cromhall media.

Runs Cromhall.com website. Has 3-4000 pages per month, 40000 per year. Parish council has new pages and lots of community groups are on the website. Monthly email to 15 people per month and feeds screen in Royal Oak. Also on Twitter.

Cllrs Aston and Hobbs outlined Hawkers Knapp improvements with a new orchard of local regional varieties of fruit trees.

A report was read out from 5 Alive which produces 1070 copies per month to 5 villages. The parish council does a regular update.

Sandra Carnegie 1st Woodend scouts

Obtained grants and used savings to upgrade toilets at Avening Green. Sandra outlined new equipment purchased during the year. Very long waiting list as Scouts very popular and lots of Beavers. Links to 1st Wickwar scouts. Busy timetable of activities and visits throughout the year. Looking for a new chair and scout leader for next year due to retirement.

Cllr White thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9pm

CROMHALL POORS ALLOTMENT CHARITY

Registered Charity No: 204061

Secretary: Mrs.S.Wray Bushrods,Fiddlers Bottom, Cromhall, Wotton-Under- Edge, Glos., GL12 8AW.
Tel: 01454 294387

E-mail: wraysue@googlemail.com

APA Report 2017

Brief outline of the charity.....

The object of the charity is for the relief of the poor in the parish of Cromhall. Any one can apply for help as long as they are in genuine need – in years gone by coal may have been provided for heating but now-a-days it is difficult to know if there is anyone in hardship and the income is distributed to Senior Citizens, near Christmas, in the way of vouchers to be used in the village shop. (If anyone is aware of individuals struggling financially, in the village, please make them aware of this charity and give them my details.)

The charity raises funds by the sale of 'Grass Keep' annually on land which it owns (Jubilee Lane). The land cannot be sold and only the income from the land can be used for the purpose of the charity.

The charity is run by four Parish Council appointed trustees – currently the trustees are Eric Scolding, Gordon Cornock, Caroline Massey and David White. None of the current trustees are due to be reappointed or replaced this year (2017).

Brief presentation of Accounts 2016....

Income was generated, as usual, primarily by the Grass Keep - £1,730 and a Rural Payment Agency payment of £1,550 plus £26 - electricity wayleave.

Total income = £3,306

(The RPA continued but it is not known if the payment will be made in 2017, if not, then the income will be greatly reduced and therefore the amount available for the purposes of the charity will fall.)

Expenditure included water rates, secretary fee, agent's fees and the Christmas Gifts (£1,120) and £100 grant to '5Alive'

Total expenditure = £1,905

Profit over the year = £1,401

Trustees agreed again this year that the profit should be maintained so that the value of the gift need not be reduced for some years to come, if the RPA payment is withdrawn.

The Charity holds £23,600 in the bank.

Sue Wray,
Secretary 4.4.17

5 Alive Report 2016 – 17 for Cromhall Parish Council

5 Alive continues to provides a regular means for organisations like Cromhall Parish Council to make relevant issues known to each household in the parish and beyond. A small survey done on

Nextdoor Cromhall, indicated that 79% read 5 Alive every month, whilst 15% glance at it occasionally, with 6% consigning it to the recycling straight away.

Every month some 1,070 copies of the Newsletter are produced and a copy is delivered to each household in the 5 villages of Cromhall, Tytherington, Tortworth, Falfield and Rockhampton, which make up this benefice. As more houses are built, our circulation increases too. Some copies are also left in village shops and churches and at Thornbury Library. In addition, an electronic copy is available on the Cromhall (www.cromhall.com) and Falfield (falfield.org.uk) websites but we do not know how many view it online.

The hard copies are produced by a local, Dursley-based, printer at a cost of £334 per month. The only other cost is to cover expenses (mainly postage). This cost is supported by advertising and donations. Last year printing represented 99.5% of our costs with only 0.5% due to expenses whilst advertising represented 55% of our income with donations representing 45%. Unfortunately, costs versus income do not always balance and we had a small £76 (2%) deficit for last year. For the first 3 months of 2017 our expenditure is £1,336 representing 4 issues printing costs whilst income is £904 (£100 donations and £804 advertising).

Enquiries about advertising take place all year round and we do our best to accommodate advertisers as and when they make an enquiry, so renewals and new advertisements are dealt with on a rolling basis, according to the advertisers' requirements.

We aim to keep advertising rates low and competitive. Advertisers within the benefice receive a reduction because of the donations made by parish councils; there are also discounts for paying in advance in 6 or 12 consecutive issues. Advertising rates are reviewed each year. Every effort is made to accommodate items sent before the deadline each month, although fitting some 50 – 60 items into 20 pages can be demanding at times. On occasion, we may run to 24 pages but as printing arrangements require that we operate in multiples of 4 pages, this is rare. Preparation of each issue, delivery to every house in the benefice and monitoring of the finances are all undertaken on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

Although the Newsletter is organised by people who are members of the Church of England, it is a community newsletter and no-one is precluded from sending articles for publication; there has been a recent increase in the copy from Cromhall Chapel.

Obviously, articles should be of relevance to the villages in which 5 Alive circulates but events in a wider area are often of interest to our readers, especially as many children attend schools in Stone, Thornbury, Alveston and Wotton-under-Edge and residents of our parishes attend and are involved in organisations and events further afield. We hope that 5 Alive will continue to keep our communities informed about what is happening locally and provide a means of communication with each other for the foreseeable future.

Kay Rea, April 2017

Cromhall Village Shop and Post Office Association

1 Lygon Court, Townwell, Cromhall, Wotton under Edge, South Glos. GL12
8AQ. Telephone no. 01454 299262

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL – APRIL 2017.

Since the last report that we gave two years ago the shop and post office has continued to thrive in our purpose built new premises. At the end of June this year we will have completed three full years in our new shop.

FINANCIAL REVEIW

The shop's financial year commences on the 1st of July each year and our last year ending the 30th of June 2016 was the second best year for sales for the village shop with sales revenue of £60.4K. The first two full years we have seen a 25% increase in our revenue and this year we are on course to do better.

Unfortunately we had a break- in in May 2016, the damage to the shop was extensive, the good news there was no goods lost only a tremendous mess to clear up. The bad news was that we lost a little trade over the next five to six weeks while we were waiting for the front door to be replaced.

Despite this setback, the new shop and post office has continued to be a tremendous success in its second full year in our new premises.

As you are all aware the Village shop is run by a very loyal band of volunteers for the local residents of the community. We are always looking for new blood to help us run the shop so that it can continue to support the village for many years to come. If you know of anyone who would like to give a few hours a week please let us know.

October this year will be the twenty second anniversary of the association; we would all like to think that the village shop and post office will still be here in Cromwell for many years to come. We do need the support of the all the local residents to keep the shop open.

Members of the association's committee would like to thank Cromhall Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council and Merlin Housing Society for all their continued support and generosity .

Patrick Martin.

Chair of the Association.