

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

HELD WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY 2018 @ 6.00pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, TALBOTS END CROMHALL

The 2018 Annual Parish Assembly meeting in Cromhall took place on 9th May at the Village hall. There were 13 residents, 4 councillors and the Clerk present.

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Line who was delayed in Exeter.

Council annual report given by Cllr Daren Jeffery

The council held meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the village hall. Councillors Roland Hobbs, David White, Steve Aston, Daren Jeffery (Vice Chairman) and Mike Line (Chairman) represent the parish.

Much of the parish council time during 2017-18 was spent considering and responding to the Joint Spatial Plan and Local Plan. Although there is no major housing development in Cromhall at present, it is included in the non-strategic proposals and could be affected by development outside the settlement area. As yet there are no clear plans. However major developments are happening at Charfield, Falfield, Buckover and Thornbury which will all impact on the local area and Junction 14.

The council attended a workshop on the Buckover development proposals which is likely to proceed. These are being presented with emphasis on eco-friendly measures including the need to slow traffic on the A38 which dissects the village development. Whilst there are many thoughtful elements to the development the council feels these have been considered in isolation. The council does not believe the pressures from wider extensive developments on the parish are being considered and has raised concerns over:

- impact of increased traffic through the parish with rising pollution
- impact on local services for example doctors, dentists and schools

The council continued to upkeep of the village and is working with South Gloucestershire Council on a proposal to install 'village gates' as a speed reducing measure.

There remain two vacancies on the parish council and anyone interested should contact the clerk.

Throughout the year the council:

- Responded to parishioners' concerns raised at meetings which included footpaths, barbed wire in hedges, grass cutting, fly tipping, illuminated sign, pavements and broadband speeds.
- Reviewed and commented on numerous planning applications.
- Continued to improve its website and produced regular articles for 5Alive outlining and updating residents on council activities.
- Introduced a new grant process giving greater transparency to the process and allowing a greater range of applicants.
- Monitored footpaths throughout the parish and reported defects.
- Maintained various green areas within the parish including The Green and common land around the Royal Oak.
- Commissioned dog bin emptying and municipal grass cutting.

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

The new fruit trees (local old varieties) at Hawkers Knapp are growing well.

Looking forward the council is investigating cycle stands and new dog bins. It is also in correspondence with BT over possible options for better broadband at Bibstone. The council is building up reserves for future replacement of equipment at the play area, walls and other areas within the parish that may need repairs.

Grants made to community group:

T@3 (senior citizens	£176
St Andrews school PTFA	£500
St Peters Hospice	£100
Benefice Newsletter	£300
Tortworth Arboretum	£225
Cromhall Flower show	£300
Royal British legion	£200
Cromhall village hall	£300
Total	£2101

Reports from groups:

Cllr White introduced the Poores Allotment report.

CROMHALL POORS ALLOTMENT CHARITY

Registered Charity No: 204061

Secretary: Mrs.S.Wray
Tel: 01454 294387
E-mail: wraysue@googlemail.com

Bushrods,Fiddlers Bottom,
Cromhall, Wotton-Under-Edge,
Glos., GL12 8AW.

APA Report 2018

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 'over 65s' who have been in the village 5 years or more, near Christmas, in the way of vouchers to be used in the village shop. (If anyone is aware of individuals, not just senior citizens, 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. Unfortunately two of the trustees are resigning - Eric and Gordon - Eric has been a trustee since before 1978 and Gordon since 1992 and they will both be sorely missed, but Clive Young and Doug Collett have kindly put themselves forward for appointment by the Parish Council.

Brief presentation of Accounts 2017....

Income was generated, as usual, primarily by the Grass Keep - £1,740 and a Rural Payment Agency payment of £1,663 plus £26 - electricity wayleave.

Total income = £3,429

(It is not known how long the RPA payment will be made and, if it is 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 (£1,625, increased from £20 to £25 each, last Christmas) and £100 grant to '5Alive'

Total expenditure = £2,286

Profit over the year = £1,143

Trustees agree 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 £24,800 in the bank.

Sue Wray, Secretary 29.3.18

Village hall update - Suzie.

The committee consists of 10 people but more are welcomed. Following roof damage, the committee has been busy with the help of passionate locals with the refurbishment. There have been successful bring and share supper, coffee morning and open weekend which generated lots of ideas for encouraging more use of the facilities. There are new hiring terms and conditions and new classes starting. Future improvements include the heating, boundary wall and signage for which funds will be raised. Parish council grant was used to fund the new curtains. The committee was thanked for their hard work and everyone agreed the changes were a great improvement.

Tortworth Arboretum - Becs.

Becs provided information on the arboretum which is run by a community interest company with lots of events. The parish council grant covered March and April volunteer events with 27 volunteers of which 2/3 came from within 6 miles of the venue. Some volunteers are referred under green prescribing and work is done on team building. Old Donkey steps have been re-instated, a fallen oak tree has been cleaned up and the cuts off branches used to make natural habitats. Bamboo and rhododendrons have also been cleared. The arboretum has made contact with St Andres school. Looking to Heritage funding for mapping and archiving the woodland which will include school children.

Benefice Newsletter Financial Statement.

The Benefice Newsletter provides a regular means for organisations like Cromhall Parish Council to make relevant issues known to each household in the parish. Each month we produce some 1100

copies of the Newsletter and a copy is delivered to each household in the Benefice (Cromhall, Tytherington, Tortworth, Falfield and Rockhampton). In addition, an electronic copy is available on the Cromhall (www.cromhall.com) website.

The hard copies are produced by a local, Dursley based, printer at a cost of £360 per month, there has been a small increase in cost of £16 this year due to inflation and increasing the number of copies from 1070 to 1100. The only other cost is to cover expenses (printing receipts and postage). This cost is supported by advertising and by 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 £124 deficit for last year. For the first 4 months of 2018 our expenditure is £1750 representing 5 issues printing costs whilst income is £1621.

We aim to keep advertising rates low and competitive. Advertisers within the Benefice receive a reduction and there are discounts for paying for advertising in 6 or 12 consecutive issues. Advertising rates are reviewed each year.

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 the Church of England Benefice, articles and other contributions are welcomed from all faiths and organisations both within and outside the Benefice. Obviously, articles have to be of importance to the area consisting of the Benefice. Constraints of space may mean that some articles/contributions have to be held over to the next issue but this is rare. A typical Newsletter consists of a frontispiece normally contributed by a member of one of the religious organisations within the Benefice, articles submitted by individuals, reports from organisations within the Benefice (for example a report from Cromhall Parish Council), notification of forthcoming events together with adverts.

Cromhall.com

The information the council is supplying is being well-used by local people. In the last 12 months, Cromhall.com has served up over 38,000 pages. Over 2,000 of those views relate to the Parish Council - the feature page, minutes, events etc., plus we've put various news items on the homepage, which has been viewed over 4,700 times.

Thanks were received from the PTFA for help in securing the funding for the playground improvements and the grant for new benches.

Cllr Jeffery opened the floor to questions.

Questions raised over reducing 50mph to 40mph on the road into Cromhall from Charfield. The council believes this is likely to happen.

Speeding, council confirmed it cannot add new road signs but a VAS is being added near the Royal Oak.

Cllr Jeffery thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.45pm when refreshments were available.