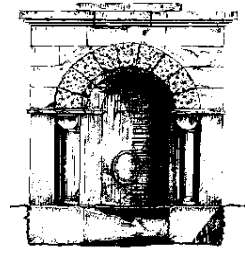


Dowdeswell Parish Council



The Annual General Meeting of Dowdeswell Parish Council held on the 25th June 2024 at 7.30 pm at Village Hall Dowdeswell

First order of business was to hold a short meeting before the AGM, to explore the options of the future of the pub, as it has been very uncertain since Jules and Kev left. The picture is clearer now that a "To Let" signs has gone up. Although there is some possibility that a new tenant will be found, many people assume that it will eventually be closed and sold, with the resultant loss of the pub as a local amenity. The Parish Council have been looking at options, in particular making it an "Asset of Community Value" (ACV). This is a process by which a pub can be registered as such with the Local Authority (CDC in our case) thereby giving a community the chance to purchase the pub and run it. The meeting was to explore this and see how much support the village has for this course of action. The process involves obtaining the support of at least 20 members of the community and completing a relatively straightforward application form.

Decisions and Actions that came from the meeting:

Action 1 Cllr Craig Graves will try to find out what is the president for people trying and failing to register an ACV. As there is no right to appeal.

Decision, It was agreed that we need to be really clear what we are asking people to commit to, as in, do they support an application to test the waters – from the information to date it was feared that people may not understand what is required of them, which is simple support in principal and that they don't have to start fund raising straight away.

Action 2 for the Parish Council to discuss the support for submitting an ACV. (Agenda Item at AGM) for the Parish Council to decide next steps.

From discussions it seems there was support for submitting an ACV. Also to be clear that at this point there is no expectation to take it further. But there is no point in submitting an ACV form if the village is not prepared to carry out fundraising.

The meeting was asked if anyone would be prepared to be on a committee – there were a number of positive responses.

Decision to include Foxcote in the committee and fundraising if that goes ahead due to their location.

Dowdeswell Annual General Meeting

Present:

C. Smyth - Chairman Parish Council

P. Banyard – Councillor

P. Evans – Councillor

C. Graves - Councillors

Sue Green (Clerk)

Parishioners present: 7 members of the public.

Apologies for absence – N. Jones – Councillors

1. Election of Chairman

Nomination of Cllr Chris Smyth by Cllr Philip Evans & Cllr Penny Banyard.

No other nominations received. Cllr Smyth accepted the post.

2. Election of Officers

Vice Chairman – Cllr Smyth suggested this should remain open for the present time.

Finance Officer - Cllr Smyth nominated Cllr Penny Banyard this was seconded by Cllr Evans. Cllr Banyard accepted the post.

3. Minutes of the last AGM (to be signed)

Cllr Smyth asked if there were any amendments to the minutes of the last AGM. The papers were signed.

4. Chairman's report

Last year the AGM was not held until November and the report covers the short period from then.

Planning - There have been no significant planning applications or issues other than the installation of two glamping pods at Castle Barn Farm with a licence from Go Explore, a camping club recognised by Natural England and recognised as a government body. The Parish Council discussed the application. Cllr Nigel Jones was not present for those discussions. The Parish Council adopted a stance of not objecting, challenged Go Explore to make sure the necessary assessment was carried out. Having received this confirmation and the licences appearing to have been approved legally the Parish Council took no further action.

Highways issues – There has been an ongoing issue with water running down the hill onto the A40. We have actively followed up on this and much work has been done. Time will tell how effective that work has been. It has been recognised as a hazard in the winter as the water freezes.

Discussions also took place at a meeting arranged by Gloucestershire County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, centred on the accidents that have happened on the road by the Kilkeny Inn and also A436 Kilkeny to Seven Springs. The results from this has been an installation of signs and cones marking the edge of the road and the soft verges. It is not clear yet, how effective this has been.

The Parish Council has also continued to provide support for the Burial Ground administered by Andoversford Parish Council and Dowdeswell Village Hall.

The Chairman – passed on his thanks to the Clerk, during this period and also his fellow councillors for all their hard work.

Reports from Councillors – Nothing to update.

5. Presentation of Accounts from 2023/2024

It was reported that the Parish Council ran a precept for this year of £1300. The Clerk updated that they have been audited by an independent internal auditor. The budget was discussed and has been increased from £1070 – £1300 this financial year. The budget costs for last year went into the Parish Councils reserves, in previous years they were held at a higher level and we used the reserves to keep the precept lower than expenditure, this has now caught up and has brought the reserves down to an acceptable level and is partly the reason why there is an overspend.

6. Annual Return

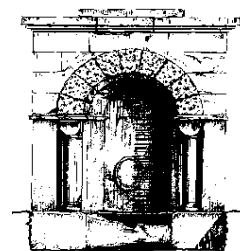
The Council went through the Annual Return agreeing the expenditure. This was agreed by all the Cllrs at the meeting. The Chairman signed the documentation.

It was therefore recorded that the Council approves the certificate of exception from the external review.

Action 1 25/06/2024 The clerk updated that she will return the signed annual return to the external auditors and a copy will be placed on the website.

Part one of the AGM meeting concludes.

Dowdeswell Parish Council



ORDINARY MEETING – 25th June 2024

Declaration of interest on items on the agenda – None

7. Minutes from the last full meetings

Cllr Smyth signed the minutes dated 19th March 2024

8. Matters Arising from the minutes –

Action 2 Relating to roadworks which are now finished, closed.

Action 3 Overtaken by events.

Action 4 Mike Payton to put on the website.

Action 5 Community Support Officer details, the Clerk updated that the nearest Police Station is Cirencester or Cheltenham. She found out who our local police contacts are and has their e-mail addresses. She has now sent them to Cllr Greaves, who will reach out to them to find out what work they doing on our behalf following some recent burglaries, i.e. warnings or advice. The Clerk will pass this information onto Mike Payton to put on the website. Closed.

9. The Kilkeney Pub – Following the meeting today it was updated that there does seem to be some support to make an application. However, Cllr Smyth said that we will need to do some more research on the following:

Research to do – downsides to a refusal, is there any right to appeal, talk to the Half way house at Kinton, set out the details on the Website so that villagers are aware of what we are asking them to do. It was also agreed that before we make a decision we should inform Foxcote what took place at the meeting tonight and see if there is any further support for this. Look to agree as a Parish Council if the ACV should be taken forward once research has taken place.

Action 2 25/06/2024 Cllr Smyth to look at and allocate responsibilities amongst Cllrs. Things to be taken forward.

10. Planning and related matters - Rosley Manor – windows, happy to leave to the plannings. Keeper's Cottage – kitchen extension no objection.

11. Finance – Insurance quote cover – discussion on 3-year long term agreement which has come to an end. Agree to take the 3-year agreement of Community first insurance - £176.69.

GAPTC membership £39.42, Clerks salary March – May 2024 £275.52, HMRC £68.88

12. Any Other Business

E-mail from Mr Mike Cuttell about a layby issue – agreed falls into Notgrove Parish Council and the clerk will pass that onto them.

13. Dates for next meeting

Action 3 25/06/2024 The Clerk will circulate some Tuesdays in November for the next meeting.

Signed by

Date

The meeting closed at 21.00.

Signed by

Date