

DRAFT

The Lee Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

held on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at the Parish Hall, The Lee at 6.30pm.

Councillors present: C. Perry (Chair)
C. Sully
R. Fowler
C. Little
A. Weir

Also present: Liz van Hullen – Clerk.
Cllr Trish Birchley – County Councillor
Cllr Nick Rose – District Councillor
Approx 16 members of the public

Apologies for absence

Cllr D Chinnery & Cllr J Ford.

Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting explaining that there was no formal agenda, the only formality would be to approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, copies of which were available.

Cllr Perry went on to introduce Cllr Sully who delivered a presentation entitled **‘Is there anything falling through the cracks?’**

In summary the presentation offered a review of Parish Council (PC) activity over the past 12 months: Listing of the War Memorial, Management of the Well, Maintenance of the allotments, playing fields and playground equipment, Lobbying for road repairs, Consideration and comment on local planning applications.

Cllr Sully went on to explain that the Parish Council had set up a task force comprising volunteers from the council and other parishioners, to carry out small tasks within the parish. In his presentation Cllr Sully then questioned whether there is more that the PC could do to facilitate works within the parish and/or communications between other groups and bodies within the parish that in turn would facilitate works.

Cllr Perry then invited questions from members of the public, during which time the following matters were raised for discussion:

HRH The Queen’s 90th Birthday:

The Parish Council had agreed to not spend precept on such celebrations and had invited other village groups to get together to organise if they so wish.

A Parish Plan/Strategy:

Following general discussion around this question, including input from Cllrs Rose and Birchley, Cllrs Perry & Sully, in summary, noted that there are some strong examples of where the Parish Council will plan (eg HS2, replacement playground equipment), but the Parish Council would tread cautiously over developing a set strategy, keen not to become too bureaucratic. The PC is there as a central hub and will work with the community to achieve a common purpose. It is important that the PC does not presume what the Parish wants, and encouraged members of the public to attend the Parish Council meetings.

Considering the various levels from parish to county council, does The Lee Parish Council have a voice:

The PC will continue to comment where it is entitled or invited to do so (eg Planning matters and Local Government Consultations). Specifically the PC will input into the review of the Local Plan, where appropriate. However a distinction needs to be made between parish matters and Parish Council matters – the PC will

wherever possible become involved and work with groups of residents on parish matters eg super fast broadband.

Flow of information to the Parish Council:

Beyond receiving briefing notes from BCC & CDC, the Parish Council strives to keep in touch with local issues through councillor representatives aligned to a range of internal and external influencing bodies (eg councillors have relationships with the village school, HS2 campaign groups, Transport for Bucks). The PC also welcomes public presence at PC meetings. It was specifically mentioned that parishioners can voice their own view on any planning matter, either direct to CDC or through the PC. It was also specifically mentioned that the PC would welcome input and the opportunity to work with groups and clubs within the village and recognises that other clubs feel the same (eg Cricket Club). The Lee Forum and Parish Council meetings are both excellent platforms for contact.

Flow of information from the Parish Council:

The Parish Council places meeting agendas, minutes and other notices on the parish noticeboards, the website and the Parish magazine. The clerk's contact details are readily available. Members of the public are welcome at Parish Council meetings.

There being no further questions, Cllr Perry brought discussions to a natural close.

Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

Cllr Perry gave a vote of thanks to the retiring Clerk, Jo Jordan for her hard work over the past 3 years.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

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Signed (Chair)

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Date