

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Quedgeley Community Centre on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.30pm.**

---

Cllr Pearce opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and explained Jerry Jenkinson from the Gloucester Local History Society is unfortunately unavailable to attend this evenings meeting as planned as he has been taken in hospital.

### **1) Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes were made available and as no objections were raised Cllr Pearce **PROPOSED** to adopt the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the Meeting.

Seconded                      Cllr Sims                      Vote      Unanimous

### **2) Opening Address by the Chairman including an update on the Parish Plan**

The Chairman, Cllr Pearce introduced himself and explained the meeting is an opportunity to hear from and meet Parish Councillors. Quedgeley Parish Council has a number of committees that undertake various roles from setting and managing the budget, managing play parks and arranging community events to managing and maintaining the community buildings, in addition members are consulted on planning applications. There is also a Quedgeley Youth Parish Council of 10-12 members from 13 to 18 years old they are guided by Quedgeley Parish Council but it is there meeting to discuss issues relating to them. Grants are reviewed and awarded throughout the year and it is hoped to increase the grants budget in future. The council is a not for profit organisation.

A defibrillation has been provided in Quedgeley Community Centre for the benefit of the user groups and training is currently being arranged. The Council has recently taken ownership of the Local Nature Reserve, has provided a Memorial Garden and will shortly be extending the Churchyard as the existing Churchyard is almost full. Plaques can be purchased through the Parish Office to be affixed to the one of the memorial walls in the Memorial Garden. Members are currently working hard on the bid to manage the new Community Centre in Kingsway and the Sports Pavilion. Responsibility for Dimore II field has recently passed to the Parish Council and members will continue to hold events here for the enjoyment and benefit of local residents.

This year saw members' working on the Parish Plan, development of this document has been through committees, working parties and consultation with residents. To improve public relations, Quedgeley Parish Council has joined Facebook and Twitter and the parish office is open daily until 2.00pm for the benefit of residents. The Parish Council is in a good financial position and the Clerk is currently investigating payment methods which will allow parties to be booked and paid on line.

### **Presentation on Parish & Town Councils by Kim Bedford, Chief Officer of Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils.**

Kim Bedford explained that GAPTC has been supporting parish and town councils' since 1935 there is currently 264 councils in Gloucestershire created around 1894. Previously communities were looked after by the Church or Lord of the Manor. Parish Councils are the 1<sup>st</sup> tier of Government and members are elected for a term of 4 years. Elections are due for Quedgeley Parish Council next year and is therefore an opportunity to join and influence decisions in the community, approximately £9m in spent by Parish and Town Councils in Gloucestershire. The role of GAPTC is to translate the law into English, give advice and guidance and to offer training and support to Parish and Town Councillors.

### **3) Questions from Electors (maximum 20 minutes)**

Mr Rex Vick queried the current position on the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park. Cllr G Smith advised a judicial review was heard in November last year, the judge will present the report to the Secretary of State by the end of July and a final decision will be made by 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Glosvain was the main objector to the appeal and employed an advocate to speak on their behalf. Glosvain was made up of 9 member councils and raised in excess of £30k to fight the application. Substantial donations were also received from members of the public.

Mr John Robbins queried how seriously comments by the Parish Council are taken by the planning officers at Gloucester City Council. Cllr Pearce advised Quedgeley Parish Council is a statutory consultee and comments are taken seriously but they must be within planning laws. Kim Bedford advised the Government, in an attempt to rejuvenate the current economic climate has reduced 1000's of pages of planning laws to just 52 and all planning authorities must have a Local Plan and a 5 year land bank. Mr Ken Drummond stated the City Council does not have a site inspection panel to visit sites and ensure Health and Safety is complied with. The garage on the Bristol Road is often in breach of planning laws during period of loading and off loading.

Mr Rex Vick queried what, if anything, the land adjacent to the footpath at the rear of Tesco's is for?  
Cllr Pearce advised it has been earmarked for sheltered housing.

There being no further questions the meeting concluded at 9.00pm