

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 30th May 2013 at 7.30pm in the
Quedgeley Community Centre**

PRESENT 7 Quedgeley Parish Councillors,
The Mayor – Chris Chatterton
Gloucester City Councillors, Cllr Andy Lewis and Cllr Mrs Deb Llewellyn
Gloucestershire County Councillor, Cllr Mark Hawthorne and Cllr Barry Kirby

4 members of the public

Presentations were made by:
Police & Crime Commissioner – Martin Surl
Gloucester City Council – Local Plan, Claire Haslam

Representations were made by:
GKR Karate
Quedgeley Active Pensioners
Quedgeley Village Hall
Quedgeley Community Trust
Quedgeley News
Yoga @ Quedgeley Community Centre
Art Class @ Quedgeley Community Centre
Sandais Dog Training
Bumpz 2 Tots

1) Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Pearce **PROPOSED** to adopt the minutes dated 31st May 2012, there being no objections these were signed by the Chairman.

2) Opening Address by the Chairman

Cllr Pearce opened the meeting introduced himself as Chairman of the Parish Council, he welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He explained this is not a parish council meeting but is an opportunity for groups and organisations operating within the Parish to inform the electorate of local issues which may affect them.

He gave a brief overview on progress of the Parish Plan highlighting Services, Economy, Governance, Social Identity, Environment, Housing and how the council can progress these matters.

He further reported that Quedgeley Parish Council works hard to engage with other Community organisations, in helping to work together for the people of Quedgeley. Councillors attend various outside bodies to help support these aims. This will continue into the future and will hopefully expand to include a Youth Council as a further resource to help the community.

Question & Answer Session provided by Martin Surl Police Crime Commissioner he advised he is a Police Commissioner and not a police Officer he sets the budget, strategy and direction for police, he covers the whole county including dozens of Parish Councils, he is unable to attend every parish council meeting but does provide a leaflet at their headquarters at Waterwells of work undertaken and the direction the police are going. He has set priority areas and investigated how best to deliver those priorities, experts have been approached for solutions. There is an aging population who must be offered safe access to the police.

The question was raised if there is to be a custody suite in Quedgeley? Martin Surl advised the current custody cells at Gloucester are not fit for purpose, an independent review was conducted on the previous plans and they appeared to be within budget however, more questions were posed, many of them financial. The procedure was hugely scrutinised and the auditors called back in to confirm if it was affordable. Exact decision not yet made but this is expected on Monday, the discussion will be broadcast live via the web cast and he encouraged everyone to listen. He understood that many of the local concerns were in relation to the release of offenders but he assured members there is very little risk to residents as most just want to get home as soon as possible.

The Constabulary costs £123m annually this has dropped by £25m due to the recent cuts, it is anticipated that a further £8m will have to be found in the coming months. The custody suite will cost many millions of pounds and is an important decision.

A further question raised the idea of private policing and how this was viewed by the Commissioner? Martin Surl advised the manifesto was clear, there are no immediate plans to privatise the core police work. There is a place for the private sector, policing not just done by the police it is very broad but the main branches of the police will remain public.

He went on to explain that young peoples' issues are very relevant and many of them are concerned with safety, under the Policing Plan 5 priorities have been identified and around £5m has been adopted to help. Safety and crime prevention are core and therefore the Police have part funded a youth worker for Kingsway. Young people are influencing policing at local level, the money is tight but Gloucestershire in a good position to get through the tough times ahead. A further question queried if he was performance related? He advised he will not receive a bonus as Police Commissioner, he holds the police to account and a panel hold him to account. He is accountable to the public who have the opportunity to vote him out at the next election.

The subject of overseas sex workers in Gloucestershire was raised, Martin Surl advised that this is always a big issue and one which must be dealt with however, compared with areas such as Birmingham, this is not to trivialise it as it is always a big deal for the person and families affect but is not a problem in Gloucestershire.

He went on to question the statement that the Quedgeley station will be closing in 2 years time. He confirmed that Quedgeley is a large parish and there are no plans to close the station. Officers are better out on the streets, paperwork is continual draw down on their time, but a station in Quedgeley will be required. A full review of the IT system will be undertaken to assist. If the Chancellor does his worst then it is likely approximately £8m will have to be saved but he believed Gloucestershire was in a good position to cope in such an event.

Presentation by Gloucester City Council - "Local Plan" – Shaping the future of Gloucester, it's assets, future and possible development sites – Clearwater Drive and open space opportunities.

Claire Haslam introduced herself and advised she is the Neighbourhood Planning Officer, currently the Local Plan is out for consultation and this shapes the future development of Gloucester until 2031. They have arranged various road shows and the next local event is 2nd June at the Big Lunch at Kingsway park and 22nd June at Kingsway Community Centre. The City Council is trying to implement planning with a 'bottom up' process. The Joint Core Strategy identified that 35,000 new homes are required for the future housing needs of the city and possible development sites are now being sought. Gloucester has a good supply of housing and is in a better position than Tewkesbury or Cheltenham but more are still needed.

Developers put in suggested sites, the City Council subsequently started a long process to decide if the sites were appropriate. There are a number of local sites in Quedgeley i.e. Clearwater Drive and Waterwells she urged everyone to comment and advised the dead line is 12th July 2013.

3) Questions from Electors (maximum 20 minutes)

Cllr Pearce gave an opportunity for members of the public to pose any questions,

There being no further questions an opportunity was offered for local organisations to speak on behalf of those organisations and to provide information on what they do and details of how to join groups, including dates of events etc.

Meeting Closed : 9.00pm