

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Quedgeley Community Centre on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 at 7.30pm.**

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**PRESENT** As recorded.

Cllr Miss Mozol opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending she introduced herself and Cllr G Smith as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council explaining that this was not a Council meeting but the Parish Council was required to organise it.

### **Signing of the Minutes of the Previous meeting.**

Cllr Miss Mozol **PROPOSED** to adopt the minutes dated 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 and there being no objections these were signed by the Chairman.

### **Presentation by representatives of Severn Vale School**

The Head Boy gave a view of the school, explaining that he was impressed with the teaching and has enjoyed his time at the school. He hopes to leave with 17 A\* grades in his GCSE's. As part of this he undertook a diploma in Construction & Building Environment which is equivalent to 7 GCSE's. He has been looking at securing an apprenticeship but this has proved extremely difficult in the current climate but was pleased to advise that a 3 year apprenticeship has been offered to him today from Barnwood Builders Limited followed by a possible managerial role.

The Head Girl advised that she is predicted only 13 GCSE's A\* - but she too, has received an amazing experience at Severn Vale School and enjoyed her time. The recent Ofsted report gave 'outstanding' for Care, Guidance and Support. The only disappointing point about the school is that it does not provide for sixth form education. She is hoping to take 4 A levels and then go on to university to study physics or politics.

A member of the Community Champion Team spoke in relation to work in the community and the partnership formed between the recently opened Q Club and primary schools. 2011 saw 55% of students leave the school with A\* - C grades and it is hoped this will improve next year.

Mr Page explained that the students will leave the meeting due to homework commitments, he considered the students presented themselves very well explaining how difficult it is for young people to stand in front of a public meeting and speak.

### **Presentation by Chair of the Parish Council**

Cllr Miss Mozol advised that she had been both Chair of this council and also a City councillor working hard for the benefit of Quedgeley and this has been made possible only with the help of her fellow councillors. Currently there are twelve parish councillors and during the last year, for various reasons, Harry Sykes, Emily Barrett and David Southgate resigned. Two were replaced by Roger Langston and Steve Smith both of whom have previously served as parish councillors. She expressed her sincere thanks to the three who have left us and wished them well for the future. We now have vacancies for four councillors and if anyone feels that they are able to join us then could they please contact the Parish Office and they will be most welcome. In these difficult times we are doing our best to provide value for money and are still managing with the help of our partners in the community to add to the facilities in the parish.

**Quedgeley Community Centre:** Continues to be well used by local residents of all ages who take part in the activities provided and it is also available for private parties, christenings and many other functions. We continue to try and maintain the centre to a high standard and believe that it is one of the best community centres in Gloucestershire.

**Kingsway Community Centre:** This temporary facility is well used on a regular basis by a number of local organisations and although not ideal it does help to meet a need in the area. It is disappointing that despite assurances, because of the slow down in completing new houses on the estate, work has not yet started on the promised new community centre to be built next to the school. We can only hope that this does start sooner rather than later.

**Waterwells Sports Centre:** The changing rooms and multi-use all weather games area are owned, managed and maintained by the Parish Council and have proved a great success.. For anyone who has been in this area recently they will have seen the new Sports Hall being built which is expected to be completed in September. A great deal of thanks is owed to the management group that includes representatives of the Parish Council, Quedgeley Wanderers and city councillor Debbie Llewellyn without whose help this would not have been possible. When completed it will be available for hire and anyone interested should contact the Parish Office.

**Memorial Garden:** Many local residents have expressed their appreciation of the quiet environment of the memorial garden in School Lane and there are already quite a number of plaques fixed to the memorial walls. If you would like a plaque here then please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Play Areas:** The Parish Council has three play areas, Druid's Oak, Woolstrop and Bristol Road Recreation Ground, all of which have a variety of play equipment and we are always open to suggestions for ideas for new equipment. We do our best to maintain and improve these areas to make them safe and places where local children can have a good time. We want children to make the best possible use of these playgrounds.

**Planning:** The Planning and Development Committee receives copies of all plans relating to Quedgeley that are submitted to Gloucester City Council, the local Planning Authority. We take notice of comments received on planning applications, discuss developments at our committee meetings and return our observations to the City Council. We want to apply as much local influence as possible on decisions that affect your parish. With the support of other local parish councils we are continuing to oppose the proposal to build a large incinerator right on our doorstep at Javelin Park.

**Local Support and Representation:** Every year we provide grants for various charities providing support to residents, both young and old, in our parish and this year we were able to help twelve different organisations in their efforts to provide services where needed. With limited funds, unfortunately we are unable to satisfy every request.

Your Parish Councillors represent the parish on various outside bodies such as Quedgeley Community Trust, Glosvain, QACA, Quedgeley Village Hall etc where they are able to express your views on what is required in our area.

**Community Events:** We have continued to organise a number of community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Fun Day, Dog Show and Firework Display and have found that they are becoming more and more popular year on year. In particular the Firework Display attracted a large crowd and a number of people who attended told us that they thought it was even better than the display at The Docks. Please let us know of anything else you would like us to organise and we will do our best to do so.

**Finance and Administration:** Although the country is still in recession we managed to virtually maintain a standstill budget, (3p more on a Band D property for the whole year) however the precept is still less than it was two years ago. This next year will see us trying our best to maintain and enhance facilities and services for our community whilst ensuring best value for money for all that we do.

A great deal of thanks is owed to the members of your council who have freely given of their time over the past year to attend meetings and assist at the various events. I would also like to praise all of our staff from litter wardens, to cleaners and administrative staff, who have worked hard in providing the services required by you and the council. We are here to represent you and to “work with the community for the community” and I would like to also thank those many local people who have helped us to do this.

Copies of our Annual Report are available at the back of the room, there will be a copy posted on our website and further copies are available from the Parish Office.

**Parish Council Plan -** Cllr Kirby gave an overview of the recently completed and adopted Parish Plan. He explained that the last plan expired in 2011 and members learned from that experience. The pace of development of the community has changed and this time the consultation and questions are embedded in the plan itself.

**Quedgeley Area Conservation Association** Howard Witton explained that he has stepped into the position of Chairman as the existing chairman has taken a 6 month sabbatical. QACA involves itself in protecting and preserving open spaces in Quedgeley in particular Clearwater Drive and The Moat where the flow of water has been improved in recent years. At Green Farm there is an ancient orchard and it has some very old species of apple trees and is a haven for wildlife, there are plans to further improve the orchard. The Local Nature Reserve is the grounds and gardens of the old Quedgeley House, budget restraints have prevented any long term maintenance to protect and improve the site but recently the City and Parish Councils have been discussing the parish council taking ownership and working in partnership with QACA to improve the facilities. The pond in particular causes concern. There are 3 ponds locally one in the LNR and two in the orchard. The website is [www.qaca.org.uk](http://www.qaca.org.uk) and everyone is welcome.

### **Baptist Church**

Pastor Phil Grub is currently on a 3 month sabbatical and Clive Tockrey is standing in during his absence he advised that they have 35 regular members who attend the Sunday services. Tuesday they offer a prayer meeting and Friday evening is the Bible club. Other activities include plans for a holiday club, the school work is continuing well at Fieldcourt Infant and Beech Green Primary where they lead the assemblies. They also offer monthly services at the Lawns Nursing Home and they are looking at starting a toddler session known as 'Sparklers'. He thanked Quedgeley News for giving them the opportunity to provide a monthly article.

### **St James'**

Pam Seally explained that the induction of Father John Ward will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7pm in St James' church and everyone is welcome to attend and support, refreshments will be served following the service. The Arts and Music festival is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June at the Church, free entry and there will be entertainment, poetry and an art exhibition etc. A picnic is planned if the weather is good. They too offer Bible stories to the children at Beech Green Primary School and Fieldcourt Infant School, it gives an opportunity to hear about the Bible and this is done in a way that recognises multi faiths.

### **Kingsway Residents Association**

Cllr Kirby explained he has been the Chairman since its inception 4-5 years ago. Kingsway is growing year on year and now boasts a Tesco's, hairdressers, public house and pharmacy and these have made a big difference. More amenities are being encouraged to include a community centre, improved street lighting and sports facilities so there is a long way to go yet. The meetings are well attended and a number of guest speakers have been invited including the developers of Kingsway which gave an opportunity for them to speak face to face with the residents. The development has suffered at the hands of the local press and the reports do not reflect a true picture of Kingsway. The editor of the Citizen attended and from that point the reports improved. He further advised that they are working with a number of organisations to tackle the problem of anti social behaviour where it exists. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations went well and another event planned is The Village in Bloom.

### **Incinerator at Javelin Park**

Presentations were given for and against the proposed incinerator by Balfour Beatty and Glosvain (Sue Oppenheimer) followed by questions and answers from the audience. One concern in particular was in relation to the health issues posed by a large scale incinerator. Balfour Beatty assured those present that there were no known problems with modern incinerators.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm