

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Turville Parish Council
at Turville School on Wednesday 18th May 2011 commencing at
7.30pm**

Present: David Cairns- Chairman
Margaret Drage
Ray Jones
Barbara Phillips
Veronica Ramsay

In attendance: Deirdre Hansen- Clerk.

Also attended by James Vaughan, Garry Steventon, Steve Blake, Valmai Pickett, Sarah Evans, Pam Harper and Ian Thompson.

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and the public present and introduced the council.
2. No apologies were received.
3. The Chairman gave the following report for the year:
The past year was the last for the outgoing council. At the meeting in March 2011, Danny Fois announced that he would be stepping down as councillor after 12 years. Steve Blake also did not seek re-election after four years as a councillor. Thank you to both Danny and Steve for the extensive work that they have carried out on the council and on behalf of the community. I am sure that both will continue to serve the community in other ways.

Six candidates were nominated for election in May but one of the six withdrew her nomination with the result that the five candidates were elected unopposed: David Cairns; Margaret Drage; Ray Jones; Barbara Phillips and Veronica Ramsay.

Parish activities

Both the Turville and Northend village associations continue to thrive and involve their communities in a range of activities. The village hall remains a well-used asset for the whole of the community with a range of activities. The cricket club continues to thrive. The church remains a major focus for worship and activity. The Turville branch of the British Legion and the new book club have become more active.

Highlights of the year included the fiftieth anniversary of the village hall, an event which brought together approximately 100 members of the community for children's games, the annual rounders match, a barbeque, some music and other activities. Another highlight was the Turville village fete which raised over £4,000 for two charities. Thank you to everybody who makes these and other things happen.

Parish council activities

The past year has been an extremely busy year for the parish council. Six ordinary meetings and two extraordinary meetings were held. The year was dominated by two things: the proposed move of Garsington Opera to the Wormsley Estate and the proposed stopping up of that part of Dolesden Lane that leads to Turville Court.

While its new site at Wormsley lies outside the parish, Garsington Opera consulted the council early in its planning process. At an initial meeting, I told Garsington that traffic would be the major concern. From that meeting

onwards, Garsington made clear that all traffic, with two exceptions, would use the Ibstone Road gate. This has proved to be the reality with, as planned, all construction and service vehicles and opera patrons using the Ibstone Road gate. Furthermore, the Wormsley Estate facilitated the removal of one of the two exceptions by allowing two-way traffic within the estate at those times at which opera patrons would be arriving. This means that a small number of taxis which would have had to exit the Wormsley Estate via Holloway Lane will now leave through the Ibstone Road gate. The second, planned exception was for Garsington employees and performers residing in Turville who would have also used the Holloway Lane gate. As a result of the planning condition banning the use of Holloway Lane, they now have to make the six mile journey via the Ibstone Road gate rather than the two mile journey via the Holloway Lane gate.

Following approval of the plans, the council was consulted on the traffic plan and the traffic management plan and has continued to have an excellent and open working relationship with Garsington Opera. The arrival of Garsington Opera has had various benefits for the parish. A Northend resident is arranging accommodation for Garsington staff and performers, often within the parish. Many parishioners will be attending opera performances and participating in Garsington's educational and community events.

The proposed stopping up of that part of Dolesden Lane that leads to Turville Court has a long history which is summarised on the council's website. In 2005, the then parish council approved a draft agreement with the then owners of the Turville Court estate for the stopping up of the lane and the creation of related bridleways. The new owners had hoped that the council would reach a similar agreement with them. In the latter part of 2010, the council agreed to hold, for the first time, a public consultation on this issue. As a result of that consultation, the council rejected the proposed stopping up of the lane leading to Turville Court and the creation of the associated bridleways. It also rejected an alternative proposal for the creation of the bridleways without the stopping up of the lane.

In my report last year, I referred to the felling of one of the original lime trees in the avenue on Turville Heath in September 2009. Again, the council has established good lines of communication. It has also set up an advisory group which has recently had two meetings with representatives of the owners of the avenue. Proposals for the maintenance and conservation of the avenue are likely to be considered later in 2011.

The Turville Times has continued to be well received. Lauren Fois and Gail Teague have helped with the editorial efforts over the past year although both have now stepped down. I would also like to thank all the contributors, the team of distributors and the printers for their excellent work at a very reasonable cost.

It would be remiss of me if, in this report, I did not deal with the substantial increase in the council tax (precept) demanded by the parish council for the year beginning 1 April 2011. For the last five years, the council had kept council tax payments artificially low by using prior surpluses and, as a result, reducing its bank balances. Between 2006/7 and 2009/10, council tax represented just over 60% of the council's actual expenditure and the council reduced its bank balances from £7,810 in April 2006 to £2,323 in March 2011. The council could not prudently continue with this policy. Therefore it agreed in November that the precept should cover the council's budgeted net expenditure for 2011/2012, hence the 30% increase.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their contributions in the past year – and our parish clerk, Deidre Hansen, for her invaluable and untiring help and support in a very demanding year. Not least, I would like to thank all those parishioners and others who have helped make this parish what it is – and encourage them and others to continue with their efforts in the coming year and beyond.

4. He thanked Danny Fois and Steve Blake for all their work over the years.
5. The Responsible Financial Officer gave the finance report see attached.

The meeting closed 7.54pm

The Chairman.....

Date.....