

***Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Turville Parish Council at
Turville School on Wednesday 13th May 2010 commencing at
7.30pm***

Present: David Cairns- Chairman
Danny Fois
Steven Blake
Margaret Drage
Ray Jones

In attendance: Deirdre Hansen- Clerk.

Also attended by Robin Harman, James Vaughan, Gary Steventon

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and the public present.
2. No apologies were received.
3. The Chairman gave the following report for the year:

Six ordinary parish council meetings, one extraordinary meeting and one public meeting on the Lime Avenue (of which more later).

There have been two changes in the membership of the council. In May 2009, Valmai Pickett stepped down after 30 years as a councillor and seven years as chairman. Richard Higgin stepped down after eight years as a councillor in March 2010. Thank you, again, to both Valmai and Richard for the extensive work on the council and on behalf of the community.

In neither cases did electors demand a by-election, so the council co-opted David Cairns to replace Valmai Pickett and Ray Jones to replace Richard Higgin. In any event, there will be normal elections in 2011.

In addition to those changes, in May 2009, Michael Wicks stepped down after 12 years as parish clerk. Thank you, again, to Michael for his service to the council. He was replaced by Deirdre Hansen.

This is a report to the parish annual meeting so I must also deal with other things.

Both the Turville and Northend village associations continue to thrive and involve their communities in a range of activities – and the annual rounders match (which was not without its controversy).

The village hall remains a well-used asset for the whole of the community with a range of activities that include table tennis, pilates, drama classes, charity events, theatre in the villages and the parish Christmas party. As of 1 May, the building has been our village hall for 50 years, an event we plan to celebrate by bringing together as many of the community as possible on Saturday 5 June for children's games, the Turville v Northend rounders match, a barbecue, some music and other activities.

The cricket club also continues to thrive bringing to the parish many enthusiasts for its special form of village cricket. And, of course, the church remains a major focus of worship and activity.

Thank you to everybody who makes all these things happen.

We have been able to draw attention to many of these and other activities in the *Turville Times* which was launched at the beginning of 2009. Many have told me that it has helped create a community spirit. It has covered an eclectic mix of activities including the charitable efforts of many in our community, information on some of our history, wild life and neighbourhood concerns, a shopping guide for local produce and appeals for help. It has probably featured over 50 members of the parish.

As chairman and co-editor, I would like to thank my co-editor Lauren Fois and, now, Gail Teague who has joined the editorial team. I would also like to thank our contributors – and our team of distributors who have included Cayla Twemlow, Pam Jones, Judy Malcolmson, Valmai Pickett and Elizabeth Arnott – as well as the co-editors and their families. Last but not least I would like to thank our printers for their excellent work at a very reasonable cost.

I would like to conclude by highlighting four other things which had a significant effect in the past year. The first is the creation of our team of community responders which have been set up to help the ambulance service in cases of emergency. We are all very grateful to James McConville for his immense efforts in setting this up – and to those ten or so people who have now been trained and are acting as community responders. Thank you to James and everybody else who is involved.

The second thing is the snow. It looked spectacular but it meant that many people could not get into and out of the parish for several weeks. However, it created a wonderful community spirit in which parishioners helped one another with shopping, transport and, no doubt, a variety of other things. Thank you to everybody who helped. The county, district and parish councils are looking at what can be done better in the future but given the nature of our area, which we want to conserve, we may need to same community spirit again next year.

This takes me to the third thing: planning and similar applications. There is an increasing tension between the wishes of individuals and the wider desire to ensure that we pass on our heritage to future generations. This does not mean that we should oppose change – it does mean, however, that we have to look at applications for new buildings, changes of use, the stopping up of rights of way, the felling of trees and similar issues from the perspective of the parish as a whole and, indeed, the wider community that wants to share our heritage this year and in the future.

This leads me to the fourth thing which is the felling of one of the original lime trees in the avenue in Turville Heath. I don't want to re-debate the issues or rehearse the history. What I would like to do is ask what can we learn from that experience. We resolved that issue by talking to, and listening to, a great number of people including the owners of the avenue, the forester, other tree experts, other parishioners and non-parishioners. Some of the communication was, rightly, carried out in private. Some in a public meeting. I sensed, eventually, a great willingness to find a common solution and I am grateful for those who helped achieve that. It provides a lesson for other contentious issues. We need to talk to one another – listen to one another – and find solutions that meet the wishes of owners and the wider community. I hope we can do that.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their contributions in the past year – and our parish clerk, Deirdre Hansen, for her invaluable and untiring help and support. And 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. The Responsible Finance Officer presented the finance report for the year. There were no questions. See attached.

The Chairman.....

Date.....