

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD
1ST JUNE 2011 IN THE MEETING ROOM, PUCKLECHURCH COMMUNITY
CENTRE, ABSON ROAD.**

Present. Gail Boyle, Martin Smith, Omar Beg, Les Whittock, Cllr. Ben Stokes, Carol Humphrey, Malcolm Watson, Robert Symons, Lynne English, Malcolm Grainer, Cllr Steve Reade, Ron Morton, Elizabeth Webb, Rosalind Abbott, Dean Freestone, Vicky Freestone.

Mr. Symons presided welcoming everyone to the meeting.

NO 1. Apologies for absence. Mrs Palmer. Mr. P. Green.

Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting dated 26th May 2010 were made available. The minutes were agreed, by those who had attended last years meeting, a true record and signed by Mr. Symons.

Mr. Symons said he was delighted to be able to recognise long service and give the Parish's thanks to three Councillors who had decided to stand down after a lifetime of service to the Community. Les Whittock, Marilyn Palmer and Omar Beg did not stand for election this year and as such the Parish has lost a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Mr. Symons asked Mr. Whittock and Mr Beg (Mrs. Palmer was unable to attend) to come forward to receive a small presentation from the current Councillors of the Parish in recognition of their long service.

He said 'Mr. Whittock has served on the Council for over 30years and has been instrumental in moulding what Pucklechurch Parish Council is today. His tireless work and commitment in his younger days is an example to us all. He was 'Mr. Pucklechurch' His activities were far too many to capture here but suffice to say Pucklechurch is a better place after his input.

Mrs. Palmer somewhat younger than Les still managed 28years on the Council. She also has been involved across all areas of the Village including a vast amount of youth work when she was but a girl herself. Her knowledge, having worked at all levels of Government was extremely beneficial to the Council and her understanding of the dark science that is Planning gave a clear steer on what could and could not be done.

Mr. Beg, the younger, in terms of service on the Council, served the last 8 years as Chairman of the Parish Council; his leadership of the Council, through sometimes difficult times, has been a great example of role model behaviour, of which I hope to emulate. He also is heavily involved in other areas of the Community, the Church and Twinning spring to mind and you should check out You Tube where a video of Omar can be found leading Twinning in song in France'.

Mr. Beg and Mr Whittock thanked Mr Symons and the Council for their unexpected awards and wished them success with their work on the Council during the next four years.

No 2. Parish Council Chairman's Report. Mr. Symons gave the following report. The last year has been quite busy for the Council. There have been some major topics that have required not insignificant input.

The Oaktree Avenue Development continues through the planning application process, currently there is a review of a Village Green application which has halted proceedings. Prior to this the Council has been very involved with the Planning Department to ensure the housing numbers, appearance and all environmental issues including car parking have been fully considered. The Doctor's surgery is a focal point of the development and as such a Councillor has taken the responsibility to ensure we do everything we can to support its delivery.

The Community Plan has been adopted by the Council and we will be working with the steering committee to implement or work towards implementing the key objectives identified by the report. I would like to formally thank all those who have been involved in its delivery and look forward to working together to bring it all to fruition.

Following local consultation the Council has supported the Part Night Switch Off of the street lights in the early hours of the morning. A lot of research has been undertaken around local impacts including talking to the Police around the possibility of increased criminal activity and we are satisfied that there is no reason for us not to take part in the South Gloucestershire initiative.

The play area at St. Aldams Drive has been the centre of some concern by residents. During meetings with the residents there was some criticism of the way the Council had consulted along with concerns around the plan itself. The Council took on all comments and the plan was amended by South Gloucestershire Council taking the outputs of the meetings into consideration. The Parish Council accepts the criticism regarding consultation and will ensure the learning's will be incorporated in future projects.

You may have noticed the precept has increased this year. This is because we have considered a number of community requirements identified in the Community Plan, along with items that we believe will make the Parish a better place to live. The headline spends are:

An increase to the Pucklechurch News editions.
Supporting Heart Start with Automated External Defibrillators.
Wheelchair access.
Footpath at Oaktree Avenue.
Play area upgrades.
Village Orderly.

You would have read in Pucklechurch News that there was no need for an election this year. Unfortunately there were 9 places on the Council with only 7 applications. An advert has gone out asking for applications for co-option which I hope will entice people to step forward.

Parish Council work is a thankless task, there is no pay or benefits but I can assure you that each and every one stands as we believe we can add value to the community with no expectation of rewards. The current team all stood expecting an election and the fact that there was not, does not devalue the Council or the work it will do over the next 4 years. There has, in fact, been a huge benefit to the Parish as we have saved the cost of an election, circa £5k which will be used to enhance the community. I invite you to apply for co-option as we are entering an exciting period for Pucklechurch Parish with the challenges that change will bring.

For your information I am delighted to have been elected as Chairman, Martin Smith has been elected as Vice Chair and all members of the Council have undertaken specific roles which cover the responsibilities of the Council. The detail will be available in the minutes of our first meeting.

NO 3. Financial Report of Audited Accounts 2009/10. The clerk confirmed the accounts for 2009/10 have been audited and that £11,893.00. was carried forward.

The accounts for 2010/11 have been prepared and will be inspected by the Internal Auditor on 13th June the Annual Return will then be completed and signed by the Parish Council.

Income including precept was £33,728.00. with expenditure of £31,323.00.

£12,846.00. is being carried forward to 2011/12 financial year.

Following the completion of the audit the accounts will be made available for inspection.

No 4. Report of Unitary Authority. Cllr. Ben Stokes advised that he and Steve Reade were the newly elected South Gloucestershire Councillors, he lives in Hinton and he gave a brief summary on behalf of S.G.C. The Councils vision is to make South Gloucestershire a great place to work and live in, so that residents can have an excellent quality of life while protecting the environment. South Gloucestershire Council will encourage healthy living, modernisation of community health, management of future development and promotion of safer stronger communities.

Mr. Watson advised he was Vice Chair of the local Safer Stronger Community; each group was represented by a Strategic Partnerships with links to various local partnerships. South Gloucestershire is largely rural but in terms of numbers urban and he would recommend that Cllrs. Stokes and Reade press South Gloucestershire to be recognised as rural.

No. 5. Report for Pucklechurch Primary School. No report was available.

No 6. Report from Local Organisations.

Community Web Site. Mr. Martin Smith reported that the web site receives 10,000 visits a month and a monthly email is sent to subscribers. Parish Council regularly receives 300 hits a month mainly people reading the minutes. The village calendar is important with most village groups being on the web site. The calendar is the one place where everyone can see what is going on it and it helps others to organise events without having to worry about dates/times clashing. Mr. Symons said it was a great web site and asked that thanks to Martin for his work was recorded.

Community Plan. Mr. Smith confirmed the Community Plan had been printed and was being delivered, it's a summary of the work undertaken by groups and the full plan is available on the web site. Volunteers put in 1000 hours and the plan is moving to implementation and we are looking for volunteers to help make things happen. We have identified there are not enough play areas for the size of the parish and this will need to be rectified and due to data from the Community Plan we have high hopes of providing a cycle path between Pucklechurch and the Avon cycle route. Some actions can be achieved through S.G.C. and some through the Steering Group and Parish Council the plan is a catalyst to get things going.

Safer Stronger Community Group. Mr. Watson advised this was his second term of office that he had initially been chairman but has relinquished the chair to Sue Jones and retained vice chair. Safer Stronger has groups across South Gloucestershire with enormous support from other agencies. Marked achievements have been made with S.G.C. replacing 'Horse Rider' signs, anti social behaviour problems at the top of Tog Hill have been dealt with and the area returned to a picnic site. Speeding is one of the biggest problems in Boyd Valley and action by local speed watch teams is thought to be the best way of dealing with it. The last meeting was held in Pucklechurch and one of the items raised was the need for a continuous pavement on Oaktree Avenue, there are only bits of pavement here and there and it's a busy bus route with lots of near misses. Speeding problems in front of the Newsagents was discussed and S.S.C.G. may ask Highways to put up signs.

Mr. Watson is also on South Glos. A.L.C.A. Management Committee and is South Glos. Representative on A.L.C.A. who are dealing with safety in South Gloucestershire which will benefit Pucklechurch and Wick and Abson. The Local Strategic Partnership and LINK are pushing for anti natal services for Pucklechurch and with the Doctors are pushing to have the surgery built.

Pucklechurch Cricket Club. Dean & Vicky Freestone advised they have 3 senior teams that play on Saturdays and they are developing on Sundays a variety of teams playing. They have a good strong 3rd side and are for the first time this year running an under 9yrs team and have re-started the under 13yrs team. The majority of 13/14yr old that are signed on are from the village. They have signed up for an under 9yrs tournament and

three of their youngsters are through to the Gloucester academy. This year they've joined with Pucklechurch Football team to raise funds. They need to raise money as they hope with Parish Council consent to extend the square on the recreation field.

Pucklechurch Football Club. Malcolm Grainger confirmed the teams were working together to raise funds and were holding gala type events. They play three teams on a Saturday with the 1st and 2nd teams playing on the recreation field on alternate Saturdays. The 3rd team plays at Westerleigh but ideally they would like to come back to the village. Unfortunately they are only two points from relegation, having a mixed bag of results but successful in that they can put out three teams every Saturday. The Club now has new managers who are very enthusiastic and helping with fund raising.

They have aspirations to get back up to Gloucester league level but this brings its own problems with the field and facility. They are waiting to see the result of the make-over of the Village Hall/dressing rooms.

Cllr. Watson asked if they would need a permanent fence around the pitch if they got back up and questioned if the recreation field was compatible. Mr. Grainger thought an alternative site would be helpful as they could then concentrate on building a youth team. Cllr. Watson said that within the current boundary there is nowhere available.

Girl Guiding in Pucklechurch. Mrs. R. Abbott gave the following report. "2010 was a very important year as we celebrated our centenary. We've come a long way in 100years but have managed to retain Baden-Powell's core values whilst remaining relevant and modern.

We began this report year with six village units but by the end of July 2nd Pucklechurch Brownies closed due to low numbers. Most girls were from MOD/Forces families in Emerson's Green and they moved on.

Lyn Ford had ended her term as District Commissioner earlier in the year, and Elaine Stone has taken over for one year.

One of our major centenary celebrations included planting a tree in Dyrham Park in March, birthplace of local Guiding, and forming a human 100 shape in front of the house for the photographer (not as easy as you might think!).

In June all the Units joined together for the Revel parade, wearing past and present uniforms and were delighted to win 'Best Children's Walking Entry'. We also had a display of memorabilia in a tent on the rec. Lyn Ford created a floral display for the Flower Festival in the church.

Our final joint celebration was VISION a nationwide event where all members made their Promise at 20.10 on 20/10 in 2010, and received a commemorative Promise badge. We celebrated with craft activities, glo-sticks and refreshments before the Promise ceremony.

1st Pucklechurch Rainbows made scarecrows and tried maypole dancing. Aged 5-7 years, they walked to St. Aldams farm to pick blackcurrants, which their leader Ruth made into jam and took the following week for the girls to make jam sandwiches – apparently quite a sticky challenge.

3rd Pucklechurch Rainbows worked on the Adventure 100 badges, collecting 100 points through various activities including cooking, parachute games and walking to the Guide allotment to make water bombs. Earlier this year they planted snowdrops in Dyrham Park.

1st Pucklechurch Brownies tried the Monopoly Challenge badge and made Wallace and Gromit figures from plasticine. They held a very successful centenary party with lots of previous leaders attending, who were interviewed and videoed by the Brownies for their centenary scrapbook.

2nd Pucklechurch worked on their Gardeners Badge and Adventure 100 before closing down.

1st Pucklechurch Guides said goodbye to Sue Thomas in July and Judith Harrison in December. After both had been leaders for 10 years. Ellie Myers has taken over with Lori transferring from 2nd Brownies, and Rachel Smith changing from a Mangotsfield Unit as she lives in the village. The guides had a day trip to Weston Super Mare as part of their Adventure 100 badge and joined in the county Great Guide Getaway to Bath. They also took part in the national camp out in Warwick Castle grounds where they heard ghost stories amongst many other activities. Six pro-active Guides are working at the highest level to gain their Baden-Powell Challenge badges which includes a trip to our national HQ in London.

One of our Senior Section leaders lives in Dyrham House so the girls often meet there and they had the opportunity last summer to serve teas to members of the worldwide Olave Baden-Powell Society. It was very interesting to meet people from all over the world. They recently visited the Guide allotment and made ice cream outside. Their latest venture was a private trip to LUSH in Bath to learn how cosmetics are made and to try them.

Many of the Units took part in the CLIC badge to raise funds, and learn about the Royal family through the Royal Wedding Badge, which included holding parties.

A busy year as usual. I have now taken over as District Commissioner from Elaine Stone and we thank her for her time in office”.

Pucklechurch Twinning Association. The following written report was sent by Lesley Broom. “Another year of twinning life has passed by and we are fast approaching our 25th anniversary.

We have had a range of social events including a race afternoon and a BBQ. Both well supported and saw people enjoying themselves and a twinning raffle was not in sight! The contribution to revel was a ramble, supported by the fit amongst us and our entry into the revel day procession which for the 1st time was a walking entry, and due to the colour and encompassing the whole theme we won! Our 'Café du Pringy' is now a regular on revel day, I know I look forward to the lovely fresh coffee and selection of cakes. We have had 2 quizzes and bingo for the first time, up at the top club, and it was good to see people outside of twinning coming along. Over Christmas the wine and cheese and Christmas meal saw plenty of alcohol being consumed like normal.

The thing we wait for every year, the visit to Pringy. The worry about who you are staying with, what clothes to take? But it all worked out well and the visit was enjoyed by all. The interesting visit to Guedelon and seeing a castle being constructed was enjoyable despite the freezing conditions! The soiree was enjoyed and took its usual form. We finished this year with a visit by the French before Easter. They only brought 30 people and this was quite evident when they got off the coach. I know many people spent an enjoyable day on Sunday with glorious weather. Our evening on Monday was successful with some good entertainment although again it was evident that numbers of people visiting were depleted. They decided to visit Weymouth and Blenheim on Monday and Tuesday.

The success of twinning is thanks to the commitment of the committee who work hard to arrange social events. Also to all the members who support the range of social events, that we have throughout the year and the Pringy visits. This strengthens our twinning and enables good friendships to be made.

However it still remains important to encourage new members to join. We have had no new members over the last few years and we desperately need to encourage new younger families to ensure that twinning continues for another 20 years.

We are looking forward to another successful year, with a range of social events like normal and maybe again a win at Revel!"

St. Thomas a Becket Church. Mrs. E. Webb reported that at the end of 2010 the Church had an average congregation of 36 adults and 14 young people. The 3 – 10 year olds have the opportunity of going out during Family Communion for a time of instruction. Youth Church which began in 2010 for 11 plus age group.

All festival services, in particular the service on Remembrance Sunday, are very full; Easter and Christmas are also well supported but due to the weather and icy roads there were fewer people for the Carol Service.

The remainder of the pews were taken out in July and these have been replaced with chairs. Two pews have been kept and these have been placed alongside the wall in the North Aisle.

Our major fund raising event of the year is the Scarecrow competition; this involves a lot of hard work but it is worth it to see the Church and village buzzing with people. This year raised £2019.00. for the restoration fund. Other fund raising activities are well supported.

In January we started opening the Church on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month for people to come in, have a look around and a time of quiet. There are refreshments and a small sales table available.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for the grant towards the maintenance of the Churchyard.

Revel Report. Mrs. Elaine Stone gave the following report. Last year's Revel was again very successful in terms of the amount of monies raised, the support of local organisations, the amount of sponsorship raised and the numbers of people who flocked to the field on Revel day. Over £5000.00. was distributed between village organisations towards projects, equipment, starting up groups etc. Plans for this year started after the AGM and are now coming together and we hope to have yet another successful Revel with the community not only raising money but coming together. The Beer Festival will as last year be at the beginning of the week with live music and a wide range of beers and ciders including our own 'Pucklechurch Cider'. Other events through the week include an art competition at school and children's event with a scavenger hunt, miniature garden making and a craft table. We also have a ramble, thanksgiving service, quiz night, junior folk dance, skittles challenge, bingo night, fancy dress pram race and two school sports days. Our new events include poetry in the garden and walking for health in South Gloucestershire with a walk starting in Pucklechurch. The theme this year is 'Forest Friends' and the parade kicks off at 12.00. led by our own majorette group.

In the arena there will be a falconry display and gymnastics display and of course sports for the children. We have tried to do more for the youth and there will be art on the rec for secondary school age children (only on Revel day) and a surf simulator. Once again we have a craft fair, fun fair, cream teas etc.

More letters than ever have been written regarding sponsorship but very few have offered us any. Thanks to the Parish Council for support. Draw tickets are available, please buy some or sell some outside the village. A leaflet containing details of Revel events is being delivered with Pucklechurch News and will be available in shops and pubs.

Besides Revel week the Revel committee put on a photography competition and exhibition and a Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Pucklechurch & Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme. The following written report was read. The scheme is still receiving calls from members of the community. We have responded to around a dozen calls, ranging from requests to help re-tune digital TV boxes and moving bins to small gardening tasks. Some of these calls result in a volunteer completing a one off task, for others this will result in providing help on a weekly basis.

Funding. They have a bank balance of £424.45. from this they can use approximately £200.00. to advertise and promote the scheme. This leaves sufficient to pay for another year's public liability insurance ensuring they can run for another year. They have been considering ideas for promoting the scheme.

They have been approached by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers to see if any of their volunteers would be interested in becoming a Breaks for Carers volunteer. The aim of Breaks for Carers is to offer support to carers to enable them to have a regular short break. The time required is usually just 2 – 3 hours per week and we will be consulting with our volunteers before making a decision.

No 7. Any Other Business. None.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their time saying he hoped to see them at next year's meeting.