

## PITMINSTER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting, held in the Old School Pitminster, on Thursday 19 May 2016, at 7.30pm.

### **Present**

Various members of public,  
Cllrs Morgan (Chairman Parish Council), Christie, Lee, Neale (Vice Chairman Parish Council),  
Whatmore  
Mr R Tyzack (Clerk to the Parish Council)  
Cllr R Henley

### **1. Election of Chairman for the meeting**

Cllr Richard Morgan addressed the meeting thanking everyone for attending. He went on to explain this was a meeting for the members of the parish. Although he was here as a councillor it was up to the members present to elect a Chairman for the meeting. Resolved that Richard Morgan Chair the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Cllr Edmondson

### **3. Chairman Report**

Cllr Morgan read his report which is on file and will be placed on the website.

### **4. Reports from the following leaders:**

- Richard Holt Promoter Pitminster Pageant
- Jim Fallon Vicar of Pitminster
  
- Bryan Thomas Chair of Pitminster Charity  
The name has changed from Allotments for the Labouring Poor to The Pitminster Charity.  
The school was supported, the laptop was funded for the Parish Clerk, items have been purchased for the Village Green, the Taunton Deane Help Line for an aged parishioner(s) is financed.  
Funds have been given to the Playing Field, the grave stones, commemorating the local lads who were blown, were refurbished. There is a Christmas financial distribution to those brought to the attention of the Trustees, who would benefit. A student nurse was helped to purchase books required for her course.  
The income is from investments.
  
- Rosemary Hannan Chair Pitminster & Angersleigh Playing Field Association
  
- Eileen Bowles President Blagdon Hill & District Womens Institute  
The Women's Institute was founded 100yrs ago to improve the lives of country women. This is still its purpose.  
Until recently the WI seemed to be in decline but membership is now growing and the Institutes are now filling with younger members. Blagdon Hill Institute is over 60yrs old - it is one of the smaller Institutes.  
Of our 16 members a third are over 90.

We meet once a month, every second Thursday at 2pm. at Angersleigh village hall. There is a business meeting followed by a speaker. a vast range of topics is covered. The meeting is concluded with a delicious tea. Funds are raised by raffles and open events. We pay a sub of £37.50 to national WI some of which comes back to the individual Institutes. We organise pub lunches, cream teas and cultural outings but more long distance events are limited by cost and frailty of members. The HQ for the Somerset federation is in Taunton at Wilton House. Courses are held there on a variety of topics First Aid, Crafts, Cooking and so on. The main contribution to the national debate is through the "Resolutions". These are matters of national concern identified, debated and voted upon by every Institute and prioritised and approved by every member at the AGM of their own Institute. Those the members have deemed most important are the debated at the National AGM and are often taken up by the media. This year's topics are the "rights of dementia carers" and the "problems of food waste." Our own small community issue concerns inadequate parking at the Parish's various meeting venues. We would welcome a new Village Hall with plentiful parking.

- Emma King Chair Blackdown Youth Club
- Jane Knight Co-Chair Village Spirit
- John Harrison Chair Pitminster, Corfe & Trull Almshouse Charity

- Peter Bacon Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

The situation with Neighbourhood Watch is a bit depressing.

Although our scheme (250 properties) is still registered it's pretty moribund, because although the police pay lip service at PCC and national level, they no longer provide any significant local support at all.

Until last year, although support was running down, we did still have frequent contact with the police. But last year a new beat (East Taunton) was established stretching from Bishopswood to Cheddon Fitzpaine, a huge area covering 155 square miles encompassing around 20 parish councils. Due to maternity and long term sick leave this is now covered by just two PCSOs, one of whom will shortly be retiring.

It's clearly impossible for so few officers to continue the previous level of engagement with the community - they have, for example, taken a policy decision no longer to look in on Parish Council meetings and to discontinue their surgeries and monthly crime reports. Thus without any meaningful contact or support it's impossible to run the scheme as previously. It no longer operates in adjacent parishes.

Personally I think it just about worth continuing here, if only for the sake of being able to erect street signs, which must act as a deterrent, for members to be able to claim discounts on their home insurances and to continue with the email network, especially the warnings I receive from the National Fraud Office.

This is not intended as a criticism of the police. We have to recognise that we enjoy a very low level of crime, much lower than when I took this on a dozen or so years ago, and they have had to reallocate priorities

against a background of budget cuts. It is intended more as an explanation of why our Neighbourhood Watch scheme cannot continue in the same way as previously.

**5. Any other Business**

None

**6. Close meeting**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2030

**Signed...**  
**Chairman**

**Date.** 23 June 2016