

## PITMINSTER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting, held in the Old School Pitminster, on Thursday 18 April 2019, at 7.00PM.

### Present

Various members of public,  
Cllrs Edmondson (Chair Parish Council), Lee, Burnett, Whatmore and Threlfall  
Mr R Tyzack (Clerk to the Parish Council)  
Cllr J Thorne

### 1. Election of Chairman for the meeting

Cllr Edmondson addressed the meeting thanking everyone for attending. He went on to explain this was a meeting for the members of the parish. As he was present, law dictates that he must preside over the meeting. If he was not here it would be up to those present to elect a Chair for the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Cllr Neale  
Jim Fallon  
Duncan Meikle  
John Harrison  
Bryn Thomas

### 3. Chairman Report

Cllr Edmondson reported on his year in office. It is on file and on the website.

### 4. Reports from the following leaders

- **PCSO 9255 Jake Edwards** explained the challenging role of looking after a large area. He was asked about speeding problem through the villages. Police take this seriously and do send the police with motor cycle to check speed at various points. Adrian Whatmore went on to say that there is a Speed Watch team in Blagdon Hill however it is difficult to organise the team all together at a convenient time. He asked for volunteers to come forward so making it easier to gather a team when required. PCSO mobile number is 07701 283686.
- **Emma King – Youth Club.** SCC has withdrawn funding. Emma has number of new persons join the club. She is busy trying to raise funds to facilitate the running of the club.
- **Jeremy Crockett - Corfe, Pitminster & Trull Alms Houses Charity.** The Corfe Pitminster & Trull have had another successful year and has been further refurbishment to the 4 houses.  
The aim of the Trustees has been to improve the warmth of the houses and increase the energy rating as required by the Government directions on rented accommodation. New Composite doors to the front and back have been installed along with new heating and heated towel rails to 2 of the houses along with insulated hot water cylinders to all 4 houses.  
Regular visits and communication continue with the residents, by the Trustees along with one of the residents being invited to the Trustees meetings which take place every 3 months giving feedback to the other 3 residents and their opportunity to air any matters. We are now on the third year of the Maintenance Charge increase in accordance with the Rent Officers Fair Rent for the properties increasing the funds available after many years of

stagnant charges for the properties.

We are now looking into raising funds due to the nature of the Almshouses construction to insulate the walls the latest estimate being of £28,000.00

Christmas hampers were delivered to each resident which the Trustees enjoyed making and the residents receiving them.

- **Pam Fox – Woman’s Institute.** Pitminster WI inaugural meeting was held on 25 Apr 18 at which the present Committee was elected and the Pitminster WI was born! The first full meeting of members was on 23 May followed by an enthusiastic game of skittles. Things went from strength to strength through the summer with speakers, walk and dine and a popular trip to Otter Brewery which was not only interesting but further enhanced by a BBQ and as much Otter beer as we could drink! Other highlights were Anita Corbyn’s talk on First Women and Christmas decoration making. To balance the high points, we must also mention the low points – the making and serving of cream teas to exhausted cyclists! Well, exhausted cyclists were extinct that day and the serving wenches ended up eating numerous cream teas each to boost the coffers!  
We have kicked off the New Year well with a cosy New Year’s meal, an inspiring talk by Beth French and Charleston dancing. We were keen to garner the opinions of our members on their WI and initiated a feedback survey. The main findings within the 12 responses received were a high level of satisfaction, with expectations of the majority being fulfilled. Approval was shown for the venue with members wanting more opportunities to mingle and socialise, to explore hands on/crafty sessions and outside activities. The membership of Pitminster WI during 2018 climbed to 39 by the end of the year. Membership thus far in 2019 is 28.  
Regarding charitable activities, since its inauguration the Pitminster WI has contributed to several charitable efforts and events. These included a Macmillan coffee morning at the Vicarage, a charity bike ride, donations to the Blood Bikers, donations of equipment and clothing for a school in a Kenyan slum and Blagdon Hill Fete.  
Activities beyond the date of the AGM have been difficult to plan for due to our venue, the Queens Arms, changing hands but we are determined to provide some diverting activities for the future.
- **Revd Jim Fallon - Blackdown Benefice.** The last twelve months have seen a great deal activity at St Andrews & St Marys Pitminster.  
We completed the re heating of our church building raising £30000 in the process. The new system is completely electric and is proving to be an effective way to heat our beautiful church.  
The Parochial Church Council has been reviewing how we use our church building, with the intention of opening our church to groups for public use. For example, we were honoured to host for the second year in a row, The St Petersburg Russian Orthodox Choir which was a sell out on both occasions and we also welcomed the Castle Gresley Male Voice Choir from the midlands.  
The church is fortunate to have a robed choir which has seen an increase in its numbers under the leadership of our musical director David Yates.  
Our band of bell ringers is also going from strength to strength under the leadership of Robin Williams. Sadly, our previous bell captain Denise Whatmore died recently, his funeral was held at St Andrew and St Marys and was well attended. Denise has been inspirational in his leadership of the Bell Tower. Together with his wife they made national news in 2017 when they achieved their 150<sup>th</sup> year of bell ringing, a substantial number of these were at Pitminster.

Looking forward, one of the priorities of our church is to consider in what ways we can serve our community more effectively and we will be focusing on this as part of our mission. I would be happy to hear from members of the community if you have any ideas to put forward.

Have a wonderful and blessed Easter.

- **Laetitia Grant – Angersleigh Church Fair.** The Church Fair in Angersleigh is the main fund-raising event held in the Village and all the money raised goes towards paying the annual church quota. The success of the Fair relies heavily on two main groups of people. The first group is the small committee who give their time and support to plan the Fair from April onwards, together with large number of extra helpers on the day, to ensure everything runs smoothly and the Fair is a successful event. The other group which is equally important are the people who come and support the Fair and many return year after year. For many years the Fair has been held in the field adjoining The Old Parsonage, by kind permission of Mike and Petra Threlfall with parking in the Glebe House field with the kind permission of John and Jackie Pollen. Each year the committee tries to think of new ideas and for the last two years there has been a Pimm's Tent which has proved popular as well as new activities for the children. However, it is also a policy to retain the ethos and atmosphere of a traditional country Fair. The Fair was traditionally on the last Saturday of July but last year it was decided to bring the date forward to the second Saturday of the month. This meant it was before the beginning of the school holidays. The day proved to be exceptionally warm and it also coincided with the football World Cup and the Ladies' Final at Wimbledon. The Fair was kindly opened by our MP, Rebecca Pow. It was well supported and raised nearly £3,000.
- **Revd Andy Wadsworth – Angersleigh Church St Michael and All Angels' Angersleigh.** It has been a year of change for the church family and parish of St Michael & All Angels', Angersleigh. After a 'relatively short illness, Jennie Aish sadly died in March. She, alongside Dick, was at the heart of everything in the community and although I didn't ever meet her, it is clear that her passing has left a big hole in the lives of many. It was a fitting tribute to her that the church was overflowing for her funeral. I am very grateful to all of those who have so wonderfully stepped up and taken on additional ministries since then. My sincere thanks to Sandra and David Jones and John and Joyce Butler in particular, but also to many others of you who serve in so many and varied ways. It is wonderful, for instance, that the church is open every day and that the Village Room is becoming increasingly used for different community gatherings.

I am also grateful for the warm welcome that we have received since my start in early September and it was lovely to see so many from Angersleigh at my licensing service. Since then it has been encouraging to see the church full on several occasions – for Harvest, for a baptism and especially at Christmas with over 160 crammed in for the carol service, much to the consternation of a resident toad who hopped across the chancel during my sermon!

Looking ahead we face two challenges in our adventure with the Lord. Practically we are about to embark on the repair and restoration of the rendering on the north side of the Tower. We are again grateful to Viridor who have given a significant grant covering approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the cost, and to Somerset Churches' Trust for their grant. We are seeking to raise further funds for the remainder with work due to start in April.

From a gospel point of view, we continue to seek imaginative and faithful ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the parish and surrounding community. The Christmas Card with the beautiful photograph of the night sky over the church was particularly attractive and our thanks go to Edward Allistone who kindly took the photograph.

- **David Jones - Angersleigh Village Room (AVR).** has now been fully operational for three years and we have settled into a manageable routine. We have two regular hires each month, the Tai Chi Group and the Pitminster P.C., plus some short-term hires and one-off parties. The Trull 12 -2 Group have their annual party at the AVR and the room is proving to be an excellent venue for the Angersleigh church bazaars and for providing teas for the annual Angersleigh church fair.

During 2018 we held eight Coffee Shops and four Pop Up Cafes. The New Year Day event is proving to be very popular. On the 1<sup>st</sup> January this year we raised £335 our best effort so far. We have received much appreciated help at these events from Diana Scholes, Rosie Sheppey and Sheila Pretty we would like to register our thanks to them for all the support they have given us. I would also like to say a special thanks to Lucy Kent, for her help as our booking secretary, also to Joyce and John Butler for their help in running the AVR.

Adrian Whatmore has been instrumental in widening our appeal by featuring upcoming events on the Pitminster news site. Thank you for that help Adrian.

With annual running costs of just under £100 per month we have built up a healthy excess of funds. We held a Charitable Quiz night in April 2018 and raised £250 which we donated to the Musgrove Scanner Appeal. We also sent £100 to the DEC Indonesian Tsunami Appeal.

At the last management committee meeting we decided that our excess funds should go to Angersleigh Church Tower Restoration Fund. To this end we have transferred £2000 to the Restoration Fund. We will continue to make contributions to Angersleigh Church funds as our finances allow.

David Jones, Chair, Angersleigh Village Room Management Committee.

- **Carolyn Grout – Village Agent.**  
Carolyn has a large area to keep an eye on. She is available to give confidential practical support for individuals and the community.
- **Bryan Thomas – Pitminster Charity.**  
Has given out a substantial amount of money to help people in the area.
- **Rosemary Hannam – Pitminster and Angersleigh Playing Fields Association.**
- **Liz Christie – Defibrillator.**
- **Jenny Fogg – Historical. And Food Bank.**

## 5. Open to Parishioners

All covered above.

## 6. Close meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2030

**Signed Chair**

**Date.** 16 May 2019