

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 25th April 2013**

Present: Cllr N. Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr A. Wellman (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mrs C. Davies, Cllr Mrs P. Rigby, Cllr N. Fisher, Cllr Mrs V. Hewer, Cllr G. Stock, Cllr B. Hulcup, Mrs Cat Crompton (Clerk), George Hudson, and 39 members of the public.

1. Resolved	Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 18th April 2012 The minutes were resolved to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting
2. 2.1	Matters Arising and not included on the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prison. The freehold is not settled but expected in next month • Last year we invited Young Gloucestershire to bring their mobile van, bid for some funding and were successful getting £1136 on two occasions. • This enabled us to do 28 sessions; we have a new service level agreement which adjusts the time and frequency.
3.	Clerk Mrs Cat Crompton gave a Planning overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of Cotswold District Council's Local Plan, the Shlaa and potential developments in Northleach were highlighted.
4. 4.1	Cllr Nick Fisher gave an update on Fortey House. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortey House was built with the needs of Northleach in mind, particularly disturbed a few years ago that it was empty. It is a credit to Northleach that it has not been damaged. • We invited Bromford to come and talk about their plans and expressed very strong views that they had fobbed us off. Cllr Fisher suggested to the Council that a small splinter group went round with George Hudson of the Farmington Trust who are interested in Fortey House. Eventually Bromford came back to us and explained that the plan is to demolish and they will submit plans in the summer. • Farmington Trust had a viable option, a mix of old and young people and a day care centre. If a number of affordable houses are put on that site then that would take pressure off other areas.
5.	Mr George Hudson of The Farmington Trust gave an update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained that the Cotswolds environment is recognizable across the world, the Farmington Trust are adamant that they will build in Cotswold stone, it is vital that they are of high quality. This aspiration is for high end properties as well as affordable housing. • In many developments the front houses are good but the ones behind are not great. There are some developments that are not sympathetic and not always to the highest standard. • Firstly if the community are showing strong support for a car park then the Farmington Trust will make land available, secondly, they hope that a joint venture can be done with Fortey House as there are real options which could be realized. Thirdly, drainage is a real issue. The Farmington Trust are going to engage a consultant for a preliminary report. • George summarized his personal commitment that anything the Farmington Trust does is to the highest standard. The Trustees are all volunteers and family members who devote time to the Charity and only want to do good work. In addition there are local family members here. There is a rare opportunity to do something rather special in Northleach.
6.	Report from the Chairman of the Town Council and Mayor – Cllr Neil Fletcher

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of our work is caretaking which includes salting roads, repairing walls and doing the grass cutting. • Now in the 3rd year of the grass contract and all the reports are now good. At first we had problems with locations this has all been ironed out. • Other jobs include the allotments and the cemetery and this committee meets every few months. Their responsibility is to identify areas for improvement and work out how to achieve this
7.	<p>Annual Report from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cllr Mrs Vicki Hewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserves were dwindling and £12k fell to £5K as the Precept request was not increased for several years. Salaries and grass cutting are biggest costs • The Westwoods is our biggest asset and new business has been brought in. As a Council we needed to re-register for VAT earlier in the year. , • The bank accounts are with Lloyds and a high interest account was established with the Co-op. Interest earned over a 9 month period from Lloyds was £19 and the Cop-op in the same time earned over £150. • Donations were made to CAB, Sue Ryder, North Cotswold Foodbank, school jubilee mugs, dog poo poster and Fosse Lions defibrillator. • Last year we were asked to pay for the cost of deicing the roads and this year CDC and the Environment Agency has requested a £3k contribution to flood schemes which the Council believed to be good value.
8.	<p>Annual Report from the Chairman of Westwoods Committee – Cllr Nick Blades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained that the centre would not function without Brian who works many more hours than paid for. Over the last few years, the committee have refurbished the floor, decorated the main hall and some other corridors, refurbished the kitchen with stainless steel which will have a longer life. • Users of the Centre include the Council, 2 large art groups, community groups, children's parties and weddings too. There are food bank drop offs and Council displays. In addition Lan gamers book as the Westwoods is one of the few places that they can use which has the technology they need. They also use the showers and the garden for camping. • Richard Wills asked if the area outside was developed as a MUGA would the facilities such as the showers and toilets be opened up? If there was a demand then this would be looked at. • Jaques Astic stated that there has been talk about the MUGA for years but nothing has been done. Cllr Hulcup explained a substantial amount of work was done in 2008, hoping to revisit it if there is a genuine need. • The area outside the Westwoods has planning permission for a MUGA and the whole issue of the MUGA needs to be reviewed
9.	<p>Annual Report from the Chairman of the King George V Playing Field Trust – Cllr Graham Stock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 will be remembered for the terrible weather conditions. • In November with saturated ground, surface water came off the field behind the school and into the Pavilion store room to a depth of 4". A ditch diverted the flood water away but with the electrics tripped and the boiler out of action many of the local community and tradesmen rallied to help Northleach Club Ltd. (NCL) and the Trust to make the building safe and to keep it operating as the temperature dropped outside. We can now make permanent improvements to prevent this recurring.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a good community support for the KGV Playing Field and the Pavilion, thanks to Alf Worsfold and Northleach Club which provides a service and funding to the local community and everyone who supports the running of an excellent organisation. The profit share that the KGV Trust receives from NCL goes back into the running costs of the facilities that are within the boundary of the KGV Playing field. These now include grass cutting and the Clerks time. It is through this that we can continue to maintain the buildings and improve the facilities. • In the last year work includes, improvements to the front store room, NCL have replaced the front doors and two metal side doors and the oil tank was replaced. • Projects for consideration over the next 2 years are to replace the cricket store roof, replace some or all of the old changing room wooden windows, refurbish the changing room showers, improve the appearance of the front entrance, a joint project between NCL and the Trust and re-paint the meeting room and kitchen. • The lease between Northleach Club and the Trust was renewed for another two years. At this moment we are finalising User Agreements with the school over the use of the playing field, as the County Council have passed on the costs to the school as part of their cost saving strategy. Another User agreement is in the final stages with the Tennis Club to provide a longer on-going term of 10 years to provide future stability. • Concern remains in the KGV car park during school drop off and collection times and this remains a priority. • Duncan Turner, will be greatly missed as he had made such an active contribution to the running and improvement of the facilities on the Playing Field, especially the pavilion.
10.	<p>Information on potential gas into Northleach – Cllr Brian Hulcup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People ask why Bourton can get gas and we can't. • According to Wales and West, the nearest connection is at Bourton, 11.8 miles. There is a 20 year scheme working on an acceptance level of 149 properties with each paying £20k with this cost being constant for 20 years. The housing survey will ask questions to gauge interest. • Stephen Chilton said the extended pipe to Rissington may reduce costs.
11.	<p>Public Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no further public questions
12.	<p>A.O.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is putting pressure on Highways to get proper signage at the Pusedown junction and the Burford Road junction as they are dangerous. Work was expected to start last Autumn. • Bollards are now protecting the memorial and new signs are up.