

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012

**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 C. Hancock (District), Cllr G. Stock, Cllr B. Hulcup, Cllr P. Sanders, Cllr D. Turner, Mrs C. Braidwood (Clerk), Mrs Cat Crompton (Deputy Clerk), Phil Moore, George Hudson, Dr Waller, Cynthia Laird and 37 members of the public.

	The Chairman of the Town Council Cllr Neil Fletcher welcomes all attendees
1.	<b>Apologies</b> Cllr N. Blades, Cllr Mrs F. McKenzie (County)
2. <b>Resolved</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011</b> Unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to confirm the Minutes as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.
3. 3.1 3.2 <b>Action</b> 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6	<b>Matters Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sewers are an on-going issue which the Town Council are now taking up with our MP.</li> <li>Town Council are also liaising with Thames Water and require information from Northleach residents about drainage and sewerage issues.</li> <li>Clerk to publicise this and ask for information</li> <li>At the previous Meeting it was requested that David Neudegg attend a Town Council meeting. He attended the November meeting to speak about his role and objectives.</li> <li>Lack of progress on MUGA due to lack of funding and drive,</li> <li>Bridge over River Leach at the Water Meadow to the Surgery is in place</li> <li>A community group are looking at revamping the Play park</li> </ul>
4. 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 4.7 4.8 4.9 4.10 4.11	<b>Report of Chairman / Mayor – Cllr Neil Fletcher</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This brings me to highlight some of last year's events and issues. One of the main issues of last year, which took us all by surprise, and has yet to be resolved is the sale by the CDC of the old prison complex. I will ask Mr. Hancock our District Councillor to give us an update</li> <li>As you all probably know our present government has introduced a Localism bill, which basically asks Parish and town councils to take more responsibility for local issues. This unfortunately comes with no extra funding or power as yet. We have raised our local precept by 5%, hoping it will be enough.</li> <li>There is some concern about the Town's sewage system which was installed in the early 50's and is now creaking at the joints. We have contacted Thames Water who have given us vague replies.</li> <li>We have had a problem with dog mess around the town, but with the help of spray paint technology it seems to have improved, but we need peoples support here.</li> <li>This year there seems to have been some confusion with the bus stops and timetables, but with Caroline and Gerald's persistence there should be another one along in a minute!</li> <li>I can happily report that the Northleach Pavilion under the management of Alf Worsfold and Pat Holroyd is running at a healthy profit of which the town receives a 50% profit share. And we are just about to offer them a new lease.</li> <li>There are some new things in the pipeline. Enid and Joyce Sly are planning some new dwellings behind their property in the High Street, and are now organising the site.</li> <li>The Farmington Trust, headed by George Hudson are planning new developments around the town, which he will tell us about in a short while.</li> <li>You may have noticed some new traffic mirrors on the High Street, which we believe are more effective.</li> <li>The Town Sign in the Market square, which for some time has not been at attention, has now been repaired by Mike Thomas from Eastington and a smart job it is too. For some time now we have endeavored to construct a footpath along the River Leach to the Doctors Surgery. We are now negotiating with the surgery land lords, to plan an entry through.</li> <li>As you may or may not know, Caroline Braidwood our trusty Clerk is leaving us at the end of the month, to plan her retirement and a long and happy one we wish her to. This brings me to mention the new lady who will greet you here at the Westwoods. A very warm welcome to Catriona Crompton.</li> </ul>

5. 5.1	<b>Report from Cotswold District Council (CDC) – Cllr Chris Hancock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on the Old Prison. Initially there were 8 bidders, Cllr Hancock put forward a motion asking CDC to recognise the local petition to retain public access and maintain access to the collection. In addition Cllr Hancock asked to join bidding panel. Four bidders are still in the frame. These bidders have been asked to consider how they will deal with collection which has to remain in Gloucestershire. No final decision will be made before the end of April.</li> </ul>
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage is still an issue following 2006 and 2007 floods. So far £20k has been put aside to deal with culvert issues. Proposals include a balancing pond at All Alone and to release pressure at the Wellings.</li> </ul>
6. 6.1 6.2	<b>County Councilor's Report – Cllr Fiona McKenzie</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies as unable to attend but has sent a report</li> <li>Main points include fixed libraries which are subject to a call in and will be reviewed soon. Mobile Libraries are costly so being reviewed. These may be combined with NHS and police vans and include internet access. They are looking to Town and Parish councils to suggest locations.</li> </ul>
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the 12 Conservative Achievements of Gloucestershire County Council</li> </ul>
7. 7.1	<b>Mr. George Hudson and Dr. Ralph Waller, Farmington Trust</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared some historical information about the Farmington Trust which was started in 1964 by Robert Wills and the purpose of Trust is to fund charitable causes.</li> </ul>
7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great liquid assets and he endowed it very generously. Some physical assets which include offices at the college in Oxford and also land surrounding town of Northleach,</li> </ul>
7.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A large area surrounding Northleach is owned by Farmington Trust and they have major developmental interest in the land</li> </ul>
7.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The County Council own a small area around Northleach as well</li> </ul>
7.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmington Trust wants to assist Northleach. To work out what the Town wants and would like to be considered positively in regards future development in Northleach. They are looking for widespread support in conjunction with what the people of Northleach want their town to look like in the future.</li> </ul>
7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmington Trust have organised liaison meetings which are open to Town Council and other people to discuss what future may look like. They want to look at areas step by step and at what residents want</li> </ul>
7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Farmington Trust wants to look at long term planning for the future and are therefore willing to find and provide an architect to look at the different elements professionally.</li> </ul>
7.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believe that developments in the future should be beautiful to look at and of the highest standard.</li> </ul>
7.9 7.10 7.11	Dr. Waller <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expressed that it is a real pleasure to be here as he has long admired Northleach,</li> <li>Recounted personal stories of Robert who decided to invest in making people's lives better</li> <li>Invested in RE teachers as they are often alone in departments, so they could have time out for reflection and self-development,</li> <li>Farmington Trust has given over 600 fellowships to teachers, enabling them to remain in the profession and also given head teachers the opportunity to meet in common groups and share best practise</li> <li>Given support to people in leadership positions including senior members of the armed forces and in addition schools use offices in the college for training and development</li> </ul>
7.12	
7.13	
7.14	<p><b>Public Questions included</b></p> <p>1) <u>What are the Trust's intentions and can we have some specifics?</u></p> <p>Our intentions do not go beyond the intentions of what the Town and Town Council want. We have discussed different plots of land and what residents may want. For example the field at Eastern end of town may be the most suitable for residential development. The frontage of the Fire station frontage could do with some improvement and perhaps there could be some development around Ferrari garage. There is perhaps some opportunity for development of employment at the West End of town. There has also been discussion about provision of additional parking and that perhaps the field by the cemetery could be looked at. We should not be reticent in putting forward ideas so that people can consider what is</p>

	<p>needed. We are open to suggestions and want to do some blue sky thinking. For example there are 3 corners of the cross-roads at the traffic lights developed – why not have all 4 developed? This is not about us putting forward ideas and expecting them to be accepted. We want complete transparency and not to be doing this behind closed doors. George Hudson does not personally want to be involved in anything that does not have the general backing of the residents. If people decide an idea is a good idea then the Trust believe they should be involved till the very end and not just hand things over to a third party developer.</p>
<b>7.15</b>	<p>2) <u>If any of the ambitious plans to go forward what the Trust would be looking to sell on land to developers or are you going to do the development yourself?</u>  No we want to retain control as it is close to our hearts.</p>
<b>7.16</b>	<p>3) <u>If the Church has a car park how would you access it?</u>  People have suggested that access may come up from Bettenson Rise.</p>
<b>7.17</b>	<p>4) <u>When are we going to see these plans?</u>  Some of the Town Council have seen some of these plans, but we need a topographical Plan so the architect can make educated decisions and draw up plans so people can review them.</p>
<b>7.18</b>	<p>5) <u>The development at Church Farm, when will it be available?</u>  The first property will be available at the end of next month.</p>
<b>7.19</b>	<p>6) <u>How many local people have been involved at Church Farm development?</u>  Nigel Hanks, Gary Hanks, Glen Hedges among others and a local scaffolding company.</p>
	<p><b><u>Resident comments included</u></b></p>
<b>7.20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roy Mustoe applauded what the Farmington Trust are proposing, saying that town needs new houses.</li> </ul>
<b>7.21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen Chilton asked what plans are there for generating employment. Also what is the demand for housing as there seems to be a number of houses not selling at the moment and affordable houses exist at Fortey but no-one is in them.</li> </ul>
<b>7.22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George Hudson believes there is a demand and there has been a lot of interest Church Farm.</li> </ul>
<b>7.23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Mustoe stated that if houses were developed then would they be filled but also that school is bursting at the seams with this year's reception class oversubscribed. Are GCC prepared to release the land at Bassett Road?</li> </ul>
<b>7.24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gerald Green said CDC owned the land at Jubilee Row and had it on the market for 4 years and no-one was interested until he asked Bob Houghton to consider it for development.</li> </ul>
<b>7.25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are developments going to be in keeping with Cotswold way as we are in area of AONB? Yes Trust wants to respect the conservation area. The resident asking the question stated that the Trust was not knowledgeable about extent of AONB.</li> </ul>
<b>7.26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmington Trust were thanked for the new avenue of trees on left hand side leading to traffic lights to celebrate Diamond Jubilee. These are to match those on the opposite side which were planted at a previous Jubilee.</li> </ul>
<b>7.27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When will field at Church Farm be returned to previous state? Work to finish shortly and then this will be addressed and some more work to go on at the field to alleviate water discharge down to Market Place. A soak away will be created.</li> </ul>
<b>7.28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cllr Hancock stated that there is a new planning framework and Northleach is lucky to have a major landowner surrounding us who is sympathetic. It appears that local people will be able to have opinions regarding potential developments.</li> </ul>
<b>7.29</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who will have the main voice – CDC or local people? Probably CDC as they decide how many houses the Cotswolds' needs. If we are in a position of knowing what we want in terms of development then that will be more powerful.</li> </ul>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Phil Moore, Northleach Town Plan</b>
<b>8.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents the town plan which is all detailed on the town website</li> </ul>
<b>8.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was concluded 18 months ago and passed on to the Town Council</li> </ul>
<b>8.3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioned in 2007 amidst wide local consultation,</li> </ul>
<b>8.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 surveys were completed. One for all households including Eastington and one for youths</li> </ul>
<b>8.5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the questions on the town plan was in relation to affordable houses. It was not</li> </ul>

<b>8.6</b>	considered a priority then but this may have changed. • Phil Moore ran through the completed, in progress and outstanding action points.
<b>9.</b> <b>9.1</b> <b>9.2</b> <b>9.3</b> <b>9.4</b>	<b>Cynthia Laird, Community Village Agent</b> • Community agent for Northleach with Eastington and is CRB checked • Supports people over 50 by giving them information to remain happy and healthy. • Employed by GRCC and funded by NHS and GCC, • Usually conducts home visits, plus visits other clubs, works with social services, the police and there are specialist agents for people diagnosed with cancer over the age of 18
<b>10.</b> <b>10.1</b> <b>10.2</b> <b>10.3</b> <b>10.4</b> <b>10.5</b> <b>10.6</b> <b>10.7</b> <b>10.8</b>	<b>Local Community Groups / PCSO / Brian Hulcup</b> <b>Sgt Martin Jones</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gloucestershire crime is down 4%, Cotswolds crime is down too. There are reductions in violent crime and in vehicle crime.</li> <li>Northleach itself for the period April 2010 – March 2011 = 55 crimes, April 2011 – March 2012 = 42 crimes. There was some vehicle damage which was not resolved, no house burglaries which in current financial state is unusual. Theft from farms is most common i.e. metal theft,</li> <li>Lots of background work being done on Jubilee, Championships and Olympics. Most police staff will be committed elsewhere for next few months bar 24 hour emergency response.</li> <li>In November can vote for a police commissioner whose role will be to see how we are policed locally.</li> <li>Neighbour Hood watch are looking for more members. It's the largest voluntary group in Europe, if interested contact PCSO Brian Stagg.</li> <li>101 is new emergency number</li> </ul> <b>Cllr Hulcup regards Youth Provision</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applied for grant from CDC. Successful and contacted Youth Glos and they have arranged to come for 12 weeks over the winter,</li> <li>The Youth Van was available to view tonight</li> </ul>
<b>11.</b> <b>11.1</b>  <b>Action</b> <b>11.2</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town Plan presentation mentioned no suitable place to site Tourist information point but currently staff at Mechanical Museum deal with many tourist queries as they are open 7 days a week.</li> <li>Clerk to investigate further with CDC what plans are in place for local Tourist information points</li> <li>What is happening with mobile phone services – signals are terrible and its hampering business. Cllr Rigby responded that currently looking at broadband and not mobile coverage. People need to be lean on CDC to ensure we have no gap in services.</li> </ul> <p><b>There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.15 pm</b></p>