

DRAFT Minutes of Grafton Parish Annual Parish Meeting held at the Coronation Hall

on Monday 18 May 2015 at 1915 hours

Item	Topic and Actions
1	<p>Attendees: Mr Hyslop (Chair), Mr Hosier, Mrs Dudney, Ms Bullock, Mrs Whitcher, Mr Lemon, Mr Herrod-Taylor, Mrs Parkin (Clerk)</p> <p>Members of the Public: 10 members of the public in attendance: Grafton Parish organisation representatives, Mrs Comyn, Ms Trainer, Mr Harling, Mr Clemence</p>
2	<p>Apologies: No apologies</p>
3	<p>Parish Reviews</p> <p>Grafton Parish Council – Mr Hyslop reported on an eventful year for the parish. George Hosier and Annie Whitcher had joined the parish council, which ensured that all hamlets are represented. Susie Brew and Jamie Pearson had stepped down, both of whom had contributed greatly over a number of years. Mr Hyslop thanked both Councillor Stuart Wheeler for his continued support and guidance with Wiltshire Council and PC Teresa Herbert and her colleagues for their diligence during the year. Mr Hyslop also noted that PC Teresa Herbert had been nominated for Police Officer of the Year award, duly recognised as very appropriate by the parish council and parishioners in attendance. Other important parish activities during the year included the WWI commemorations, for which Mr Hyslop on behalf of the parish council whole-heartedly thanked Major-General Michael Walsh and his team. 350 people had attended the church service with £3,425.00 raised in support of The Rifles charity “Care for Casualties”. Mr Hyslop also thanked owners of The Green who had ensured the area was well-presented for the occasion. Extensive drainage and resurfacing works had been completed in Wilton. Speed initiatives in the parish were ongoing through wheelie bin stickers, a current application for a 40 mph speed limit in Marten and Speed Watch training towards roadside speed gun sessions and Mr Hyslop invited and encouraged more residents volunteer for Speed Watch. Looking ahead, the parish council is working towards setting up various youth activities, making use of community assets such as the playing fields and the Coronation Hall.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council – Councillor Stuart Wheeler reported that Wiltshire Council (WC) had had to make a number of decisions during the year to meet the required reduction in budget. He was pleased that working together across WC and with the parish council the Wilton road resurfacing and drainage work had been completed to a high standard. He commended the parish council for its work over the past year and also added his thanks to PC Teresa Herbert for her contribution to security in the region. He explained that the focus for budget spend was towards vulnerable adults, children at risk and elderly people, referencing particularly the seriousness with which WC takes child sexual exploitation where, although Wiltshire has a low incidence in comparison to other parts of the country, there are even so 400 children recognised as being ‘at risk’ and 40 cases which are being monitored through the police.</p> <p>Wiltshire Police – Mr Lemon presented the report on behalf of PC Teresa Herbert. Grafton Parish had not been victim to the recent spate of non-dwelling burglaries to the extent of neighbouring Burbage, however the Police encouraged everyone to take additional security precautions with garages, outbuildings and stores. A number of crimes in the Parish had been investigated over the course of the</p>

year including theft of garden/grounds maintenance equipment in Wilton and Wexcombe, theft of property from a vehicle in East Grafton, damage to farmland in Wilton and a successful prosecution and fine for hare coursing in Marten. Initiatives during the year included a rural crime day in partnership with volunteers from the communities and a road safety day staging speed-guns throughout the area. Residents are encouraged to sign up for the free Community Messaging system, a development from the Neighbourhood Watch system, to receive email, text and voicemail messages as appropriate in relation to policing and crime in the area. Please visit www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

Coronation Hall Committee – Mrs June Pearson reported a positive year for the Hall with a variety of activities and events for all ages and that it had been particularly well used for children-related events and as a venue for fund-raising events for the Church. A new accounts package had been introduced during the year to improve financial management and telephone enquiries were now handled by mobile phone for flexibility. The caretaker and bookings clerk, Rob Walford, now had a full-time role in addition to his Hall role, so Mrs Pearson and Mr Bill Clemence were providing supplementary support relating to the website. Nu-Nu Hogarth had recently stepped down as Events Secretary from the Hall Committee so new volunteers to join the Committee were being sought. The hourly hire charge had been increased, with a parish and non-parish rate still in place. A buildings and fire assessment had been undertaken and recommended changes were being implemented. Children were no longer allowed access to the stairs leading to the upstairs meeting room. A simpler sound system had been installed. In terms of specific events, a junior disco had recently been held and proved very popular, with 75 children attending. Proceeds from the event had funded additional disco-style lighting and a 'glitter ball' now available for use. In addition to further discos, the Hall would host a production of Beauty and the Beast in February 2015. Various items of kitchen equipment had gone missing and an appeal for their return had been made via the Community News.

Mr Hyslop thanked the Hall Committee on behalf of the parish council for their hard work during the year managing such an important community asset.

Sunflowers at Grafton – Mrs Sue England reported that Sunflowers was now in its fourth year of operation and continuing to flourish. It has become a thriving, sustainable business and is operating at close to capacity - for example it is almost fully booked from September 2015 to August 2016 – providing jobs for 24 people in the parish and surrounding villages. From a community contribution perspective, the Sunflowers minibus is made available for hire for half or a full day. It has been successful in securing funding for a second minibus from the Department of Transport Community Transport fund which will help consolidate and extend breakfast and after school club provision. The grounds and gardens are open to the community when Sunflowers is closed. Mrs England thanked the community for its support for the children through local visits and individuals coming into Sunflowers to provide activities. Sunflowers is conscious of the impact of traffic on the Green and provides leaflets to parents to encourage safe driving and considerate parking.

Grafton Goslings – Mrs England reported a good year for Goslings. Between 18-26 toddlers and babies regularly attend on a Thursday at the Hall. The children enjoy the arts and crafts activities and recently had a visit from some lambs.

Mr Hyslop commended Sunflowers and Goslings for the great achievement in three years and for the contribution to the community.

Horticultural Society – Mrs Marijke Craig reported a successful year, with 5 new members joining bringing the total membership to 36. The members enjoy visits to private gardens coupled with friendly pub lunches, evening lectures at the Hall four times a year, and buffet suppers. Recently trophies from the days when the Society ran an annual show were unearthed, and where possible those which had been donated by people in the parish have been returned to them.

Wilton Cricket Club – Mr Andy Pack reported that the 2014 season had been on par with 2013. 8 coaching sessions had been held with 20-30 children attending. For 2015 a further 8 sessions are being held with 3 remaining and some 25 children attend including 8 girls. The Club is grateful for the support it receives from parents and also from the Lemon's who allow training to take place in one of their barns in wet weather conditions. There have been four fixtures so far with two good wins. Unfortunately another two fixtures had to be cancelled as there were not enough players available.

Wilton Windmill Society – Mr Pack presented on behalf of Mr Peter Lemon advising that 2014 had been a successful year with milling taking place on 14 occasions and a total of 8 local outlets plus the Windmill shop now selling its flour. A number of events are planned for this year, including the upcoming Wind in the Willows-themed country fair on 13 June. Wiltshire Council continues to own the Windmill and the Society is constantly encouraging WC to keep up the necessary annual maintenance of the sails and fantail. Peter Lemon has been successful in getting agreement for some urgent work required to maintain the sails. The Society is always looking for more volunteers to be millers, guides or work in the shop, so if interested please contact Peter Lemon or Susie Brew.

Grafton PCC – Mr Peter Horne reported that St. Nicholas' Church funds ended the year just over £8,000, although this was thanks to £10,000, the first instalment of a bequest totalling £32,000, otherwise it would have been a loss. Income was £27,000 (including the bequest) and outgoings £19,000. The number of gift aid covenants had increased. Mr Horne clarified that the recent item in the Community News stating that the amount the Church has to contribute to the diocese was £5,500 was incorrect and that the correct figure was £10,000. The major expense for 2015 is the roof repairs which total £35,000. Thanks to the second two bequest instalments work has now begun – vital in being able to keep the Church open. However, further funds need to be raised to make up the deficit and increase general funds to be used to cover annual costs which have averaged £21,000 a year over the past three years. Funding raising events such as Burns Night Supper, Wexcombe Farm Open Day and Harvest Supper had been popular and successful. A new funding raising event had taken place on St. George's day with the supper raising almost £3,000. A classical concert will take place in the Church on 12 September.

Bedwyn and Grafton Link Scheme – Mr Hyslop presented the report on behalf of Mr Mike Fleckney. 2014 had been a busy year and had seen the introduction and refinement of the new co-ordination system - instead of one person being on the end of a phone facilitating driver allocation a mobile phone and laptop had been introduced which was passed between volunteers. With the pressure on social service budgets, the Scheme cannot be certain of the level of financial support it may receive from Wiltshire Council and therefore thanked Grafton Parish, along with other parishes, for its donation. The Scheme is looking to attract more volunteers both for driving and visiting as well as co-ordinating. Currently Mr Fleckney is the only volunteer in Grafton Parish, therefore if anyone may be able to help please contact the Link number: 07717 7006787.

Wiltshire Good Neighbours – Mrs Parkin reported on behalf of the organisation explaining that WGN role is to ensure that the most vulnerable older residents across rural Wiltshire are able to access the services, support and information they need in order to live safe, comfortable, fulfilling and independent lives. In the past year WGN has contributed to developing and facilitating new initiatives such as pub lunch clubs, dementia friendly groups and tea parties. Mary Soellner had stepped down from her area-coordinator role during the year and Community First had advised that due to Wiltshire Council's further budget cuts and re-evaluation of the service, no recruitment for a replacement had yet commenced. In the meantime Community First is re-organising its existing pool of co-ordinators to ensure all areas are covered including Grafton and will advise the named coordinator in due course.

It was questioned whether there was any opportunity to link with parish initiatives such as Winter Warmer Lunches, which had proved very popular with residents. It was advised that this was not possible because of the confidential nature of WGN, and indeed of other similar organisations. This felt like a lost opportunity and worthy of a comment to Wiltshire Council as to how it provided support to older residents across Wiltshire.

Meeting closed at 2000 hrs with all contributors being thanked by Mr Hyslop