



# Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

## Unadopted Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

### 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in St John's Hall, Mortimer with Cllr K Davies in the chair.

Before the commencement of the Meeting, the Chairman of the Parish Council presented the 2008 Stratfield Mortimer Community Award. This year's award was presented to Mrs Grace Butler for her services to the community.

**Present:** There were 47 people present.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Cllr P Blagden and Cllr S Clark.
- 2 **Minutes of 2007 Annual Parish Meeting:** The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007, which had been previously circulated, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

- 3 **Parish Council's Annual Report from Parish Council Chairman:** The Chairman of the Parish Council (Keith Davies) introduced the Councillors and the Clerk and welcomed all new parishioners in Mortimer. He said that the Parish Council have had another very busy year and the Parish Office continues to be well used; many residents and councillors call in or 'phone on the open mornings. In addition over the last 12 months the office has been used for 97 additional committee and many other meetings plus 12 District Councillor Saturday Surgeries. The Clerk's role as the Responsible Officer under the Local Government Act continues to be a very busy one, covering the entire administration and management of the Parish Council. Her responsibilities include:
  - i. the operation of the busy parish office and all correspondence;
  - ii. giving legal advice to the Parish Council;
  - iii. finance officer (dealing with the accounts and audit, budgets, VAT returns, insurance etc);
  - iv. responsible for agendas and minutes of all Council and Committee meetings;
  - v. Cemetery Manager;
  - vi. Fairground Manager dealing with bookings, maintenance, safety inspections etc.;
  - vii. Commons Manager/Administrator dealing with all maintenance and legal issues;
  - viii. Web site manager;
  - ix. Projects such as funding for Mortimer Link mini bus, equipment for Fairground etc;
  - x. Community Award;
  - xi. Remembrance Day Parade;
  - xii. Press Officer and Newsletter Editor;
  - xiii. Liaison with various departments at West Berkshire Council;

Dealing with the many other matters that come along during the year.

**Finances:** In the Parish Council's total budget for the year 2008/09 estimated income is marginally down by (£27 on the previous year's estimate) due to less usage of the Cemetery (obviously it is very hard to predict this). The income budget for the Fairground is generated from Fairground Lettings and will stay the same as long as we continue to attract bookings from the main income providers such as the Fun Fair, Mortimer Riding Club and tennis court users. Burnett's Fun Fair has decided not to come on this occasion which noticeably reduces SMPC's income. Estimated budgeted expenditure in total including match funded grants to local bodies is slightly down on the previous year. Items such as increased provision of (partial) funding for a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) are offset by items such as lower set-up costs for the proposed car park at Mortimer Station. Although the precept figure has increased by £2,223 overall the cost per

household of council tax for 08/09 for Band D properties has **gone down by 19p** which is due to there being more houses in Mortimer.

Planning Applications: West Berkshire Council are the Authority which determines planning applications but the Parish Council as a statutory consultee is invited to comment on all applications within the Parish. Its Planning Committee, chaired by Councillor John Morden, have met 17 times during the past 12 months to consider 74 applications. In order to press our views Cllr Morden as the Parish Council's representative has spoken on various occasions at the West Berkshire Council Eastern Area Planning Committee Meetings.

All Parish Council Planning Committee Meetings are advertised on the two Parish Council Notice Boards outside The Post Office and outside The Library 3 days in advance and parishioners are welcome to come along to meetings and observe. These are usually held in the Parish Council Office at the back of the Library. Many people take advantage of viewing current planning applications which are available to view in the Parish Office on Tuesday/Thursday mornings, although all planning applications can now be viewed on the West Berkshire Council website.

The Fairground, Trees and Amenities Committee, Chaired by Cllr Pete Blagden, has achieved a very great deal of good work and improvement during the year, notably the installation of the 'sports wall' facilities, and the youth shelter, which provide much needed - and much used - benefits for the young people of Mortimer. Pond clearance, was undertaken in October, but the amount of participation by individuals in the work was disappointing despite support and encouragement from the Pang and Kennet Valley Trust. Help was also given by the Prince's Trust and by Berkshire Scout Enterprises in the form of voluntary labour on projects such as gorse clearance which would otherwise be contracted out. It is planned, with help from West Berkshire Council, to draw up a management plan for the Fairground in the near future.

Vandalism continues to be a problem. There is damage yet again to the tennis court fence, and it was decided as a short-term solution to bolt on to it a 'heras' fence panel; overall renewal with stronger fencing will now have to be urgently considered. A special kissing gate for convenient use by occupants of motorised wheelchairs has been installed where footpath 40 crosses the middle fence, West Berkshire Council paying for the gate and SMPC paying for its installation. For footpath users generally a Walking for Health morning instituted a couple of years ago now attracts over 40 enthusiasts.

If Burnett's Fun Fair applies to visit the Fairground again it will be restricted to the grazing area at the rear. The project for replacing the existing Fairground pavilion by a new community building is being progressed by the Community Interest Company set up by SMPC in 2006, subject to demolition of the existing building (now surrounded by 'heras' fence panels) after a compulsory newt survey has been completed. SMPC is ready to grant a sub-lease to the Community Interest Company, with the consent of the Fairground Trustees, to enable the development to go ahead.

The Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee, chaired by Councillor Tom Shorrocks, has dealt with a wide variety of matters. Mrs Hilary Swan, the sister of the late Margot Pyman who died in March 2007, has expressed a wish to present a memorial seat in her memory, and this has been cordially welcomed; details are however still under discussion and Councillor Alan Thorpe is in contact with her.

West Berkshire Council have installed 'gateway' signs on all roads into Mortimer, comprising the figure 30 and the name Mortimer. A few residents have expressed a wish to substitute some signs saying Mortimer West End; but since the purpose of the present signs is simply to make all road-users aware of entering the village of Mortimer, SMPC and WBC are agreed that to have separate signs saying Mortimer West End would only cause confusion. It would perhaps also impose an unnecessary financial burden on the council tax because if the 'Mortimer West End' signs were to be reinstated, this would have a 'knock-on' effect on other signs in the Parish. As West Berkshire Council pointed out, it would be difficult to achieve a consistent signing strategy which included Mortimer West End, Mortimer Common, Stratfield Mortimer and Mortimer, together with the 30mph speed limit signs in each case.

The use of the car park at St John's Church has caused concern, and SMPC have asked WBC to impose a 2 hour limit; a reply is still awaited.

Car parking outside St Mary's School is a contentious issue, and SMPC and the School are currently discussing the problem.

As to street lighting, the consultation exercise held last June showed a strong feeling against having additional lighting; but SMPC might consider the possibility recommending limited additional provision in a few strategically chosen locations at some time in the future.

Meanwhile the question has been raised whether a public footpath should be registered across land between Victoria Road and Leighfield, adjacent to the Surgery; this necessitates making a claim to WBC and obtaining sufficient evidence from local residents in support and this is being done. As to the proposed new station-car park, a revised planning application has been submitted to WBC and we currently await the outcome of this.

The Cemetery Committee, chaired by the Council's Vice Chairman, Steve Clark, a dramatic item of business was the flood on July 20<sup>th</sup> which devastated the Parish Council Cemetery when heavy rainfall from the storm caused water to overflow from a pond on land upstream from the Cemetery and pour into the drainage ditch, displacing soil and blowing out the drainage pipe, as well as wrecking the access path. A working party was hastily assembled and cleared as much of the damage as possible. Works have been subsequently carried out to re-surface the path and also to restore the ditch and reinstate the pipe in an improved state. Wider flooding problems have been discussed with Geoff Mayes and the agencies involved, i.e. WBC, the Environment Agency and Thames Water, giving particular attention to water flooding down from Mortimer Hill to Monkton's Brook, the Foudry Brook and the Street. Further information is awaited, concerning a general review of the Sustainable Urban Drainage System (S.U.D.S.) in the area.

Village Design Statement, Councillor Tom Shorrocks and Councillor Dudley Ives presented the completed Village Design Statement for Mortimer to WBC's Eastern Area Forum, where it was formally adopted. This includes a specific reference to the local community's desire to maintain its separate village identity within the existing settlement boundary, and also the rural Greenfield aspects of the approaches to the village. As for the Parish Plan itself, nearly all the actions are completed and the Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council strongly recommends that the Parish Plan as a whole now be reviewed and refreshed and a small Parish Council working party has been set up to take this forward.

The Communications Committee chaired by Councillor Pete Blagden continues the work of producing the Parish Council Newsletter and is aiming for publication next month.

- 4 **Presentation from PCSO Steve Innes:** PCSO Innes introduced himself and his position within the Pangbourne office of Thames Valley Police. He is a civilian member of Thames Valley Police and has restricted powers versus a Police Constable, but adequate for most day to day activities. Has dedicated support for the local community, a high visibility policing presence in the village. He regards Mortimer as his community and as a resident has a vested interest in ensuring that all can live a peaceful rural life here. A good local knowledge has been an asset. The job day to day includes

PCSO media profile close association of ASB/youth.

PCSO is a community resource and responsive to the needs/concerns of local residents.

He is involved with local schools, pre school and supports school events.

He is involved with Age Concern, Scouts, Brownies and Beavers and holds a local Police Clinic at Mortimer Surgery. Is in touch with local businesses and Neighbourhood Watch and attends Remembrance Sunday and Local Fetes. Works with Parish Council and West Berkshire Council. To achieve an effective working relationship with the community, without this 80% of his work objectives cannot be achieved. Community involvement cannot be taken for granted as he believes it has to be earned and the support he gets is proportionate to the effort put in. A strong community focus gets this job to work. The NPT approach has seen ASB incidents reduced by 24% and for the period April 2007 to February 2008 versus the previous year total crime in Mortimer is down by 10% (9.4% across TVP area). This sends a clear message that this behaviour will not be tolerated and that there is now an effective policing structure here to get results. The Neighbourhood Watch is refocusing. Looking ahead there are two new officers, Perin Bateman and Simon Easton. The refurbishment of the Police House will be open in July and 28 volunteers are needed to help staff it.

- 5 **Presentation from CiC on the new Community Building:** Mr Phil Edwards a Director of the CiC gave an overview of the current new Community Building project. The funding is now in place to make a start and it is to be a smaller building. New plans have been drawn up and Planning

Permission obtained. The project start has been held up by the protected newts and a newt fence has had to be erected. The Cricket Club are to play all fixtures away this season.

**6 District Councillor's observations:**

Cllr Keith Lock's report was as follows:

The event of the year has sadly been the flooding on 20<sup>th</sup>. July last when some 2,500 homes in the District were flooded, Pangbourne and Thatcham were hardest hit but for its size Padworth was also badly affected. We now have the final report from the Highways and Engineering Department setting out what needs to be done to improve drainage and flood defences in the District, although an end to building on flood plains might help. In the meantime the budget for the coming year includes £500,000 for drainage works etc. and another £1.5 million is planned to be spent in the following three years. In Mortimer the highway drain in The Street will be cleansed this year and ditch clearance will be carried out in Pitfield Lane, next year the highway drainage system north of the village will be improved and we are trying to get more details about this work.

West Berkshire Council has undergone yet another Government inspection and was rated good except that we were criticised for the delay in the new waste management contract, for the quality of the Youth Service and for our care services for older people. The level at which the Council helps older people is judged as at the critical need i.e. at the last opportunity. We should be helping people at an earlier stage, but of course across the whole Country people are often mainly cared for by their families with little help from Social Services.

Education was again given a good rating and one yardstick was the 65% of pupils gaining 5 "O" level passes at grades A to C.

The new waste contract with Veolia has been started and everyone will receive details of the new kerbside collection of plastic bottles, cardboard and green waste as well as what is collected now. Altogether we will have 5 containers of various types which is fine for most of us but difficult for flats and small terraced cottages. A start date is expected shortly.

Locally the scheme will include the closure later this year of the Paices Hill site, which in the meantime has re-opened after the recent problems and in 2011 the opening of the Padworth Sidings waste management site. The district councillors remain very worried about this site with its poor access and some of the extra costs likely to arise. The best hope is to ensure that the conditions for approval of the planning application include adequate noise prevention measures and road safety measures over the bridge in Padworth Lane.

Turning to planning the worry about 7,500 dwellings being built in Burghfield Parish north of the M4 all on the flood plain has not gone away because the Government Planning Inspectors when considering the South East Plan approved the idea stating that the area is in "the Reading Development Triangle". Our concern is that if this site is finally refused the Government will then decree that the extra 7,500 houses must go elsewhere in the District.

West Berkshire Council approved the budget for the coming year and agreed an increase of 3.9% in the Council tax. The level of increase in the Government grant is less than last year and is due to taper off over the next two years. However it is still better than it was from 1997 to 2005.

Locally a grant of £30,000 was obtained for the new community building on the Fairground; this completed the finance needed for the scheme to start.

**7 Reports from local Charities:**

**a) Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need Charity:** Mr Hector Clark, the Chairman of the Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need Charity reported that the programme of gravel extraction at Burnt Common is complete, and negotiations are now taking place with Hanson with regard to the permanent reinstatement of the site, which provides for the retention of the pond and footpath. During the past year the Charity has assisted a number of local organisations, including Age Concern, Burghfield and Mortimer Friday Club and the Silver Circle. Assistance has also been provided to the British Legion, the BP Scouts and the Methodist Church. The Trustees are also supporting the community building on the Fairground and the improvements to the Football Club. Schemes under consideration include the replacement of the store building at Mortimer West End Village Hall, improvement to the heating at St Saviour's Church and a replacement organ at St John's Church. The Charity also gives support to persons/families in need and continues to provide fuel or fuel allowances. In this connection we rely on information from Health Visitors etc but welcome

applications.

**b) Clarke's Educational Foundation:** Mr John Mazillius gave a brief overview of the work of the Charity over the past year. A copy of the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts were tabled.

**c) Alfred Palmer Memorial Trust:** Mr Keith Lock's report reminded everyone that John Dell gave this report to the Annual Parish Meeting for many years but due to failing health he had to give up his work on the Ground Committee last year and we all owe him a real debt of gratitude for his hard work over many years.

When he was appointed a Trustee last year we needed another Trustee and fortunately Paul Seward agreed to fill the vacancy, we then faced the fact that the Ground Committee had resigned en bloc. Fortunately David Grimwade agreed to continue and was joined by Adie Keep, John Mazillius and Derek Seward, with John Mazillius acting as Chairman/Secretary.

In recent years the Ground Committee has enjoyed an annual grant of £1,600 from the Parish Council but the Parish Council has only given the Trust £850 this year so we are seeking funding elsewhere to meet the costs of running the ground and covering our public liability insurance.

The principal users of the Alfred Palmer Ground are of course Mortimer Football Club who run 3 sides in the Reading and District League and have 4 Junior Teams, they have also just started football for the under 8's both boys and girls Monday is training night for the youngsters and often there are over 40 present. The Girl Guides also use the ground for summer events and overall I believe the village must never lose sight of the fact that the Palmer Field is a key village amenity.

**d) Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Trust and formal nomination and election of a Parish Meeting Trustee for the Fairground Trust:** Mr John Bull, Chairman of the Trust's report was as follows:

The Trustees have met several times in the last year but to date they have not received any applications for distribution of the accruing funds. They were pleased to agree to the Parish Council's request for the Stratfield Mortimer Community Centre CIC to commence work on the new building that will greatly enhance the appearance of the Fairground. Work is still ongoing to get the area registered with Land Registration. Details for applying for a grant from the charity are available from the trustees or the Parish Council.

**Election of a Parish Meeting Trustee for the Fairground Trust:** Mr John Bull did not wish to stand again and two candidates were put forward, Mr Geoff Mayes and Mr Paul Carless. Both candidates gave a short presentation about what they could bring to the Trust and this was put to a paper ballot by the parishioners present and the results of which were Paul Carless 17 and Geoff Mayes 18. Geoff Mayes was therefore elected as the Parish Meeting Trustee of the Fairground Trust.

## **8 Statements by School Governors:**

**Mortimer St John's Church of England Infant School:** No Report.

**Mortimer St Mary's Church of England VA Junior School:** Mrs Jane Carpenter's report said: There are currently 244 pupils on roll, 131 girls and 113 boys. They are organised into eight class groups across 4 years. The School is oversubscribed for the September 2008 intake and will be attending appeals for 2 students who were not offered a place. Artis has been working with our children during the last three terms; they provide an inspiring curriculum that fuses music, drama and movement. In addition to this regular programme of teaching at St Mary's they were able to spend two days in school offering dance workshops to each year group. Mark Foster, County Cricket Coach, has been in school on Tuesdays to support our Year 6 pupils in developing their "Kwik Cricket" skills.

The Widening Opportunities programme is funded by the local authority and provides children with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Year 4 children have been provided with a half hour session during school time, which is taught by qualified staff from Berkshire Maestros, learning either the viola or cello. from parents.

The Year 5 residential visit to Kilve Court once again proved very successful. The pupils' behaviour was excellent. There was a steel band workshop for all pupils on 5 March.

On 7 March the Fresh Air Theatre Company performed "A Need For Speed" at the school. This performance has been arranged by West Berkshire Council in recognition of an improvement in the percentage of our pupils walking to school.

A team of Year 3/Year 4 pupils participated in a Rugby Tournament at Crosfields School on 7 March. Also in March, the school choir was part of the Junior Music Festival at The Anvil and they also performed at the Network Willink Concert. The Easter Service took place in St Mary's Church. On 28 March our pupils saw a performance by "Sixth Sense Theatre For young People" of "The Rime of The Ancient Mariner". The production has a strong literacy emphasis but will also incorporate art, music, dance and PSHE.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March our Year 6 pupils went on their residential visit to Avon Tyrrell in the New Forest. Activities are focused on the outdoor adventurous pursuits element of the PE curriculum and include canoeing, raft building, archery, high ropes course and a New Forest Walk.

We continue to have a wide range of clubs and after school activities available to our pupils and we are very grateful to staff, parents and members of the local community who give up their time to support the school in this way. The current range of activities include:

Choir, Gardening, Needlework, Maths Games, Pottery, Netball, Music, Recorder, Soccer, Internet, Singing, Chess, Computer Xplorers, Rugby, Judo and Arts Academy.

Three of our pupils have been selected to play for the Newbury District Soccer Team, namely Christopher Langford, Christopher Bell and Giles Andrews.

St Mary's has been awarded the "Activemark" which rewards exceptional delivery of the National School Sports Strategy. The award lasts for twelve months and we will be re-assessed in one years time. Following these two inspections and the inevitable stress and strain that it places on all staff particularly the Senior Leaders I would like to publicly thank the Headteacher Mr Roger Green, the Deputy Head Miss Sarah Theaker and all the staff for the work that they do to support, educate and encourage the children of Mortimer and the surrounding area.

Work is underway for the new all-weather pitch which will greatly enhance the sporting facilities available to students throughout the year. Last summer we re-surfaced the area around the pool and put in some much needed shading. These facilities will be used during the summer term by students and by the PTA swimming club during the summer holidays.

The Governing body is at full strength comprising 18 Governors representing, Staff, Parents, the parish, the diocese and the local authority. I am delighted with this situation which reflects the desire of the local community to be involved in our school. This is particularly pertinent at a time when many schools are short of Governors. I would like to publicly thank all members of the Governing body for their continued support and enthusiasm for our school.

The work of the staff and Governors is supported by a continuously enthusiastic and committed Parent Teacher Association and by many charities and organisations in the area. We are all most grateful for their support and look forward to continue working with them over the coming years.

**9 Report from Parish Council's Representative on St John's Hall:** Cllr Shorrocks reported other than routine maintenance the trustees and management committee have not had to cope with any major items of expenditure this year and so have been able to maintain their financial reserve in line with their established policy. The committee was also able to purchase a new fridge/freezer, a new chair trolley, and 'spacer bars' for the new chairs (the cost of the 'spacer bars' was shared with Mortimer Dramatic Society).

The trustees are mindful that, with regard to the maintenance of the fabric of the building this situation will, inevitably, change, and that major items are on the horizon, in particular the state of the roof. With this in mind the committee has spent a lot of time discussing extending and refurbishing the building, and has had an accurate plan professionally prepared in order to help them toward this end. In the coming year it is the trustees' intention to come up with various proposals and appropriate costs/benefits that will ensure the Hall remains a major amenity and benefit to the community for the future.

As ever, thanks are due to all of the Committee for their efforts, in particular Lawrence Picking, Hall Committee Chairman; Sandra Waller, Treasurer; John Bull, Bookings Secretary; and Mari Fleming, Secretary. Thanks are also due to Kerrie, our cleaner and Harry Smith for auditing the accounts.

**10 Report from Tennis Club:** Mr Nick West, Chairman of the Mortimer Tennis Club reported that this season the Club experienced a net reduction to membership numbers both Adult and Junior. The consequence has been a small financial loss which fortunately can be set against the reserve fund. There are no sensible economies that can be initiated so the only solution is to embark upon a new recruitment drive. Increasing fees has been discussed but there is concern this will be self

defeating and the best way to generate income has to be adding to the membership. Many ideas were suggested at the AGM in November most of which are to be implemented including distribution locally of pamphlets promoting the Club. Two thousand of these are now being printed, paid for by a private donation. There is general agreement that competition from other Clubs is the main reason for the recruitment problem - facilities at Mortimer are very poor compared with most in the locality. Use of the new Pavilion would be hugely beneficial.

On the competitive side, the Club again fielded 4 teams in the Basingstoke League. The results were not an unmitigated success but those participating greatly enjoyed the challenge.

Once again Rachel Hill regularly came along to the Courts on Thursdays testing the fitness of members and valiantly tried to teach some of our 'old dogs new tricks'. She is a very busy lady and we are most grateful to her for giving us her time.

The Club is very fortunate to have an excellent working group managing its affairs and thank John Crisp for his hard work as Secretary of the Club which he has undertaken with great expertise as usual; Moss Mossakowski our Treasurer who does so much for the Club despite the pressures of his job making such demands upon his time; Mark Eastwood for his much valued work as Match Secretary and the Captains for bringing together the 4 teams to play in the Basingstoke leagues; Kasia Mossakowski for arranging the very successful Club dinner and for persevering with the Court Socials despite the poor weather.

Finally the Peter Tait Trophy was awarded this year to the Captain of the mixed doubles 'A' team, Andrew Richardson. This Trophy is a silver plate cup named in memory of Peter Tait who was Chairman of the Club for many years until 1997. He is missed greatly.

- 11 **Report from Cricket Club:** Mr Simon Beard, Treasurer of the Mortimer Cricket Club reported that the Cricket Club had a mixed season due to the torrential rain leading to cancellation of games. There was another increase of vandalism to the pitch and current pavilion, as it stands waiting for demolition, to give way for the new Community Building. The Cricket Club has given up the building which they have used for over 25 years, plus the previous 108 years. They will be playing all of their games away this season which starts on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. Due to the impending demolition of the current pavilion they have had to store all their equipment away from the ground, this has cost the club in storage fees as well as outsourcing the ground maintenance of the square to keep the playing surface in good condition for the 2009 season. The Cricket Club has battled to maintain the up keep over the past years, allowing other community groups, sports clubs and the village schools to use the facilities free of charge. The Cricket Club are now looking forward to the opportunity to develop a youth side and progressing with their existing membership to coincide with using the New Community Building next spring.

12 **Open Forum:**

- Cllr Ian Titman-Reade reported that the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Plan was completed in early 2004 and adopted by West Berkshire Council in April 2004. Since then the Parish Council have achieved the majority of the outstanding actions set out in the Action Plan. Some of the objectives in the plan unfortunately could not be achieved due to circumstances beyond our control.

There has been a lot of change in the village since 2004 and so the Parish Council has decided to review and refresh the plan. A new Parish Council Working Party has been set up. They will be sending out a parish wide questionnaire and hope to hold Saturday workshops so they can capture as many views as possible for the new Parish Plan. So please look out for and complete and return our questionnaire later in the year and try to attend the workshops. There is no age limit either, so we would welcome serious ideas from the younger generation. One objective that came out of the 2004 plan was the youth shelter and the multi-purpose sportswalls on the Fairground. Both of these as you know have been achieved.

The Parish Council are also starting work on developing an Emergency Plan for the village, which will be based on the West Berkshire Template. We will assess all the various scenarios such as flooding etc that can affect the village. More information on this will be given at a later date.

- Mr J Dell asked if a public address system could be considered.
- A question was asked why the fair was moved to the back area of the Fairground. The

Chairman replied that at a meeting of the Parish Council it felt that it should move the amenity for environment reasons.

- Cllr I Titman Reade, on behalf of the Parish Council, offered a vote of thanks to Cllr Davies for all his work as Chairman of the Parish Council (as he is to stand down as Chairman in May).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 at 7:30 p.m.