

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, THE CLOSE, LOWER QUINTON
ON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2010 AT 8.PM**

PRESENT: MR.M.WALSBY OBE (PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN), MR. M.HOWSE (PARISH COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN), MR. D.PEREGRINE, MR. R.HARRISON, MRS. J.MOORE, MRS. S.ANGUS, MR.A.CARTER, COUNTY COUNCILLOR I.SECCOMBE, AND 1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

1. Any apologies received

MRS. A. GILLMAN, DISTRICT COUNCILLOR M.BRAIN

2. Minutes of the Previous Assembly (2009)

The Clerk circulated the minutes of the Previous Assembly which were accepted by those present as a true record of what had taken place. The CHAIRMAN signed the minutes book.

3. Any matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from the Parish Council Chairman - Mr.M.Walsby OBE

Since last year's report, I have continued publicising what the Parish Council has been doing by means of producing a regular newsletter, which is posted on the Quinton Website, in the Meon News, and on the Notice Boards around the village, including the one in the Village Hall entrance.

Council Membership: During this year, two Council members resigned (Suzi Tayara who left in May, and Gillian Pearson who left in November). One new member (Dave Peregrine) was elected in September.

Long Marston EcoTown:

There has been no decision as yet from the Government on the (so-called Middle Quinton) Eco-Town application; the latest information to hand is that a statement by the Department for Communities and Local Government will be issued in July, after this has been considered along with any proposed changes to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy by the Secretary of State.

Long Marston Estate Master Plan:

Following the outcome of the SDC Committee hearing of this application, when the committee, after hearing all the rightful protests against, voted in favour of the application by 7 votes to 6, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has decided not to intervene (again in spite of a great many requests to do so). Although not tacitly approving the proposal, the GOWM has left the decision to the local planning authority, i.e. SDC. We have now heard that that the application has been granted.

Play equipment on the Village Hall play area; this has been refurbished to meet the safety standards now required, including the provision of new seats for the childrens' and kiddies' swings. All this equipment is inspected on a regular basis, and are generally in a good and safe condition.

Youth Shelter and Adjacent Play Area:

This area always seems to be in a state of untidiness. There appears to be no way of stopping the discarding of rubbish in spite of efforts on the part of Council Members. Efforts to work with the "Positive About Young People" (PAYP) and the Youth Club to keep the Shelter and its surrounds clean and tidy have so far proved fruitless. Ray Nicholls continues to clear the area on a regular basis, and his efforts are very much appreciated.

Flood Defences: These have been improved by clearing of ditches and culverts, provision of sandbags and sand, and removal of grids which block easily with debris. This work continues on an ongoing basis.

The Fordway Play Area: The Parish Council has taken over the responsibility for the maintenance of play area and play equipment, now that the formalities have been completed with the previous owners Taylor Wimpey. The sum of £45,000 has been transferred to the Council for this, and is to be ring-fenced for the regular maintenance of the area over the next 25 years or so. The Play Equipment sub-committee has extended its coverage to include this area, and are working with local residents of The Fordway to improve and maintain the area to a decent standard.

Buses and road gritting:

A new bus route has been introduced to include Upper Quinton and Goose lane on its route. This has proved especially useful for enabling people from outside the area to get to the Medical Centre. Unfortunately, we have yet to persuade the Highways Authority to grit the route along Taylors Lane, thus preventing the bus getting through when we had the worst of the snow. We will be doing our best to get this part of the route included in the gritting schedule in future. In the meantime, two grit bins have been put in place where roads are particularly vulnerable to ice.

Village Fete:

Following the successful reinstatement of the Fete in 2009, plans are already in hand for this year, when it will be held on July 10th.

Best Village Competition:

Thanks mainly to the efforts of Sarah Angus, Quinton won 3rd prize in the Best Village Competition and 3rd Prize in the Community Buildings section also. The Certificates and Cup have been on display at Quinton Post Office.

Quinton Parish Plan, and Emergency Plan:

Both of these are currently being prepared by sub-committees of the Parish Council, and are expected to be completed within the year.

5. Report from the District Councillor - Mr. Brain

I am very pleased to announce that I have been selected again to represent the residents of the Quinton Ward in the forthcoming District Council Elections. I'm overwhelmed and delighted to have been selected by the Conservative Party Members to stand in the Ward again. It's been an absolute privilege and honour to represent the residents of Quinton Ward since 2002 and also to work closely with my four Parish Councils and Organisations to help make a difference to all our communities. We have done so much together and I look forward with energy, drive and enthusiasm for the opportunity to continue this work and to represent this ward for the next four years. Since my 2008/9 annual report I have been promoted to Stratford on Avon District Council Cabinet with responsibilities for 'Community Services' This is quite a diverse portfolio which encompasses : Parking Services, Community Safety, CCTV, Tourism, Grants, Sports & Leisure, Economic Development, Emergency Planning, Health & Well-being, which is just enough to keep me busy!! I also still chair The Liquor Licensing & Gambling Act Committee, The Stour Community Forum Meetings, Vice Chairman of The General Licensing Committee and Committee Member on Planning.

I continue to be the Vice Chairman of Governors at Stratford High School and member of the IEB at Quinton School, which has seen a great improvement under the temporary headship of Debbie Townsend & Deputy Head David Skelcher. The interviews for a new permanent head teacher will take place during the latter end of this month. During 2009/10 I have assisted several local families in acquiring much sought after affordable accommodation in Lower Quinton

through social landlords. This has been a great success keeping local families in the community where they were brought up, which I feel is extremely important. Following on from the wonderful success we had last year in persuading WCC to provide a new bus service through Upper Quinton to link with the new Medical Centre, which has been a great success. I'm now pleased to announce that after many years of continued canvassing by myself and other Conservative Councillors for a rural evening bus service, that a new evening bus service initiative is being launched from 6th April 2010 In partnership with Stratford District Council and bus operators a pilot scheme is being introduced which aims to promote bus travel in the evenings, Customers will be able to purchase a return ticket for £2 to travel from anywhere in Stratford District to either Stratford or Leamington Spa after 1800 hours. Additional journeys will also be provided to complement the existing evening network of services: - For us the No 23 Stratford to Shipston on Stour bus via Lower Quinton.

The project helps to meet aspirations of young people to give access to a much wider level of leisure facilities at affordable prices and will also encourage adults to be able to have a drink and leave cars at home. The project will be marketed to ensure that the experiment is successful by the relevant roadside publicity for bus stops along the routes. Funding for the experiment is being provided by Stratford District Council and it is hoped that if it proves popular and hopefully will be self financing after 12 months and then other areas of the County could be considered. The Fordway Play Area has now been adopted by this Parish Council after many years of negotiating between myself and Taylor Wimpey. We will have £45,000 in Parish Council Funds to maintain the area for many more years to come, which will benefit many young families. This is a great success for the community, although it was hard work for Mike Moody and Mike Walsby in dealing with the legal requirements. Through the Stour Community Forum, which meets quarterly under my chairmanship, several local priorities have been dealt with by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. They have included Anti Social Behaviour, Speeding & Criminal Damage, some of which have seen positive results locally, but there is always more to be done, especially with speeding and ASB. If you know of a problem, then come along to the next meeting at Ettington in June or let me know.

The saga of the 'Eco Town still rumbles on. We were to receive a formal statement regarding the Regional Spatial Strategy (Housing Numbers for the District) and 'Eco Town from the Government last year, but we've now been told, that this will now be delayed until after the General Election with a statement in July, but If we get a change of Government we believe these plans will be scrapped, although most would agree, that the 'Eco Town' is now an unlikely prospect for us, but we BARD (Better Accessible Responsible Development) are not being complacent. Instead we are faced with St Modwen's 'B' Plan their 'Master Plan' having been given permission last year. Some of this plan is sensible and may prove beneficial to the area, but the numbers of permanent residential homes is still far from acceptable, being both unsustainable and unwarranted in this rural area, although housing will bring by way of S106 agreements much needed funding for Quinton School, which will see it expand to a more acceptable level of use in the future. I see the main problem for us being transport issues with Residential Homes, Holiday Homes, Employment and Leisure use all sharing the same entrance onto the B4632 and the potential for 'Rat Runs' through our rural villages and delays on the B4632 into Stratford. During 2009 I met and negotiated funding for the third year running for local projects with the Angel Music Group (Global Gathering) which amounted to a generous donation of £16,000 of which £10,250 went towards Admington & Quinton Village Hall's Sports Facilities Project (£8500) Quinton Youth Club (£1000) and St Swithens Church (£7500) These negotiations I hope will take place again this year for the forth consecutive year, so if you know of a project please let me

know as soon as possible. Stratford on Avon District Council is now an excellent authority with the lowest council tax in Warwickshire and one of the lowest in England. It also has the best CPA(Comprehensive Performance Assessment) and provides an excellent level of services and discretionary services across the district.

During 2009/10 recycling figures are likely to reach a consistent 60% recycling rate, making the District Council one of the best performing Councils in the Country.

As a result of public opinion and many request. I have also introduced through my portfolio, commencing 1st April, 10. 1 hour FREE parking in Bridgefoot Car Park, Stratford upon Avon together with 4 other parking incentives to help residents and businesses in Stratford upon Avon through this time of hardship. Also £50,000 funding for Events, Festivals & Business Rate Relief from the LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) fund, which I hope we will have again this year. These events and festivals have seen a growth in the local economy and an increase in footfall.

I look forward to another 4 years of working together with this Parish Council and the wider community.

6. Report from the County Councillor - Mrs.Seccombe

7. Reports from any Parish organisations

Village Hall Report - Nicolas Bond

I am pleased to be able to report that in the past 12 months the changing rooms extension has been completed with the official opening scheduled for Sunday week. It is already being used by the Quinton football team and QUADS are planning to use the facilities for their next drama production in May.

The project, started on a self-build basis thanks to the enthusiasm of Ray Nicholls and several volunteers from the football club, was finished thanks to the support of Maurice Howse, who volunteered his services to source the additional finance required and oversee its completion. Our thanks must also go to Trevor Batchelor who has worked tirelessly on the build throughout and continues to provide voluntary building and maintenance support for the hall as a whole.

Completion of the extension also meant that the office, which had become a store room for building material, could be cleared and it is thanks again to Maurice Howse for restoring it to its intended purpose - as a room which can be used for administration, small meetings and skills training, such as computer or IT courses.

Following a considerable amount of damage caused by vandalism during the building work we reluctantly conceded to the need for CCTV surveillance. Cameras have been installed and additional external lighting added to the building. There have been initial teething problems with the cameras being unable to provide satisfactory images in certain conditions but this is being addressed.

We are pleased to report that there continues to be a steady growth in demand for the use of the hall both for regular and one-off usage.

We will be holding an open day in the hall on Sunday 28th March, in conjunction with the official opening of the changing rooms extension, when the various organisations that use the hall will be promoting their activities.

As part of the on-going improvements to the facilities there are plans to build a cupboard in the small hall to house some of the chair racks and table trolleys and we are looking at improving the insulation of the main hall as well as at alternative forms of heating.

There has been growing concern in the committee about the considerable increase in heating

costs, a considerable amount of which is due to injudicious use by hirers. It has been decided that, in line with other village halls, we will have introduce charging for the heating, via pay meters. This will have the effect of reducing unnecessary usage while providing income towards covering the increased cost of the heating without having resort to raising the basic hire charges.

Quinton Ladies Circle - Heather Belcher

Quinton Ladies Circle continues to flourish! We have a membership of over 60 ladies of which an average of 25 attend each month. Our topics have varied this year ranging from flower and cookery demonstrations, making bead jewellery and greeting cards to a talk by a lady toastmaster and another by a cheese expert. We do not always arrange a speaker as some months we have discussions on current affairs and quizzes which are enjoyed by all members. Our outside visits this year have included an evening walk and a garden visit. We have also had meals out at Lapstones and at Edward Moon Restaurant. Our Christmas party was held in the Village Hall where we were entertained by a magician and we ate a buffet supper. We continue to support Samartan's Purse with Christmas Boxes. Our monthly book club is also thriving.

QUADS - Heather Belcher

April, last year, saw our two evenings of Music, Melodrama and Mirth in the form of an Old Time Music Hall. The evening consisted of two short melodramas, two slots of singing and dancing by the adults and one section of singing and movement by YoungQuads. There was also a short dramatic section which showcased the work YoungQuads have been doing with Alan Christopher. These evenings were very enjoyable and, in some people's view, the best we have ever done because of the diversity.

QUADS has been busy this year with extra performances above our usual two per year. In June 2009 we organised a Murder Mystery Evening in conjunction with St Swithin's Church. This was a very popular event with the ladies of the church providing a delicious cold supper which was eaten between scenes of the Murder Mystery play. We were able to raise over £900 for church funds.

In July we performed a twenty minute slot at the Village Fete. This consisted of sketches, monologues and songs which were well received. We have learnt from this however, as performing in the small hall when tea is being served from the hatches is not conducive to good acoustics! Next year we will dispense with the talking and just sing!

At the end of November our big production was the pantomime Aladdin. We performed this three times: Friday evening and then matinees on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We had a cast of over 35 which included 17 YoungQuads and our backstage team and front of house helpers numbered about 20. We played to full houses at each performance and people seemed to enjoy the spectacle even though the prompter was overworked on the Friday evening, but they tell me that's all part of the fun! Our lighting and sound effects were raised to a higher plane this year with the technical expertise of Mike Ashton who computerised everything he could lay his hands on. We also bought a proscenium arch which enabled us to do 'front of tabs' scenes and change scenery behind the curtains while these scenes were being performed. In line with our policy of investing the proceeds of our productions in hardware for the Village Hall we are now working towards the erection of a lighting bar on which to hang our stage lights.

Our YoungQuads are still enjoying their workshops with actor, Alan Christopher. He now has 23 in the class on Tuesday evenings and their confidence and stagecraft is increasing in leaps and bounds. During the summer term Alan ran workshops for adult QUADS and 12 of us benefited from and enjoyed this experience.

We have been helped greatly this year by the Quinton Charity and we extend our thanks to the trustees of this board who have given us two grants this year, firstly to help pay for the hall hire for our YoungQuads workshop sessions and secondly, later in the year, as a donation towards the

purchase of the proscenium arch.

QUADS has a nucleus of loyal members but apart from one or two younger people and our strong YoungQuads group we are all senior citizens! We are trying to attract new members preferably of the 20 to 60 age range because we need them to act and we are also concerned about who will take QUADS on in a few years time.

Our next production will be on the evenings of 7th and 8th of May where we will celebrate the 'Fabulous, Furious Forties' There will be a one act play, a short sketch, songs from the shows, popular wartime songs of the time and songs and drama by YoungQuads. It should be a fun evening's entertainment set in the forties with plenty of music and audience participation.

Youth Club - Heather Belcher

Regretfully I have to report that the Youth Club is still not running. We still have only one Youth Worker despite appointing two new Youth Workers last November. Due to the inefficiency of the County Youth Service, four months later we still cannot operate as a Youth Club as the wheels that turn internally at the County office took so long to process our appointments that either the candidates withdrew or disappeared into the ether. Maurice Howse has been chasing this up and he will tell you more about what has happened. We cannot legally operate a club with just one Youth Worker whilst we are in association with WAYc and under the present terms of county control. We also only have three committee members.

However, we have heard this week that the County Youth office has been re-organised and that the person now in charge is going to re-advertise our vacant Youth Worker position at County expense and oversee the appointment. Only time will tell if this actually happens or we continue to bang our heads against a brick wall with a Youth Office where nothing apparently gets done.

.We have been seriously considering withdrawing from County control and starting up our Youth Club on our own. We could then allow ourselves to operate with just one Youth Worker and two adult volunteers at each session. Obviously all necessary CRB checks would need to be in place on all adults concerned. We realise that finding volunteers could be difficult. We would also need to employ an accountant to set up a payroll system for our existing Youth Worker's salary.

The Committee would like to thank Mike Brain, Izzy Seccombe and Maurice Howse for their intervention and help on behalf of the Youth Club. Financially the Youth Club is sound having received a donation from the Global Gathering via Mike Brain and a youth grant from Warwickshire County Council.

Football Club - Ray Nicholls

In May 2009 Quinton FC became the Stratford upon Avon Football Alliance Aquaid Division 1 Champions for the first time in their history. Conceding only 12 goals, a record for the last 40 years, with 14 clean sheets in 22 matches which showed how strong our defence was. This season has not reached the heady heights, we have been competitive without challenging for top spot. We have won 9 games, drawn 3 and lost 5 to date. Quinton FC travelled to the Czech Republic last May being 2-1 up at half time, finally losing 4-2. This May our Czech friends are coming to Quinton and we hope to show them the same courtesy that we received in their country. In 2010-11 season it is hoped to run 2 sides in the Stratford Football Alliance. Quinton FC wish to thank all those involved in the new Changing Facility, now the best in the area.

8. Any matters raised by electors of the parish present.

The member of the public asked how she could keep up to date with the Masterplan. She was advised to consult the Stratford District Council website.

9. Closure

There being no further business, the CHAIRMAN closed the meeting at 9pm

