

# FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF FULBROOK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Date:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7pm

**Venue** Parish Church of St James the Great

**Present:** Councillors Mr Gavin Beveridge GB (Chairman)  
Mr Walford Ingleby WI  
Mrs Lynn Newman LN  
Mrs Patricia Picking PP  
Mr Robert Warner RW  
Clerk Mrs Jo Glyde

County Councillor Neil Owen (NO), District Councillor Derek Cotterill (DC) and 14 electors attended

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For convenience the following abbreviations may be used in some instances in these Minutes.

FPC	Fulbrook Parish Council
MEWRRRA	Meadow End & Walnut Row Residents Association
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
WODC	West Oxfordshire District Council
ORCC	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
AONB	Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1. **Apologies:** Mr B Kay, Mrs G Kay, Mrs M Thompson, Mrs L Beveridge, Mrs P Warner

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd June 2014**

2.1 GB signed the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 as a true representation of the business conducted.

3. **Matters Arising**

3.1 PSCO Moulding had passed on anti-burglary tips to the editor of Fulbrook newsletter which had been published for the village to read.

3.2 GB informed the meeting that there had been no response from villagers to the article he had placed in Fulbrook Newsletter asking for suggestions for Community Assets. The main assets to be considered are the Carpenters Arms and the Playpark. (With the recent closure of the Carpenters Arms this has focussed the parish plans for this area, as the village now has no public house). DC stated that a successful purchase of a public house by a village had happened in Northmoor.

3.3 The Playpark – GB is setting up a meeting with Cottsway Housing (to whom FPC pay a peppercorn rent for the Playpark) to establish Cottsway’s intentions for the Playpark when the current lease expires, in 2018. GB also wondered if it might be possible to lease or purchase more land to make the Playpark larger.

3.4 The Carpenters Arms – GB stated that by registering a community asset you are giving the parish a 6 month time period in which Parishioners may make an offer to purchase the pub. Mr A Picking asked if the first move would be to object to the change of use. GB stated that this was the planning part of the process, not the community asset register.

Mr J Harrington (JH) stated that in the last 10 years no one has made a reasonable income running the pub.

RW stated that it had been a pub for a long time and it has permitted development rights.

GB suggested that it be debated at the next FPC meeting and asked if the parish would want

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

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to bid for the pub. PP stated that we were not in a position to answer that question. JH wondered if a letter could be sent out to village residents and see if people would be interested in participating in a project to purchase the pub.

- 3.5 GB also thanked Mrs S Newport with the assistance she gives FPC with wages and HMRC. JH also proposed thanks to Mr J MacAllan for the work he does communicating the Neighbourhood Watch information.  
Mr L Balbes (LB) also asked for comments from villagers as to the new format introduced by the editorial team of the Fulbrook newsletter

#### **4. Financial Statement**

- 4.1 The summary financial statement had been distributed before the meeting. The Clerk explained to the meeting that the receipts had been greater than budgeted for because of grants received from OCC (arranged by NO) for War Memorial and Highways' projects.
- 4.2 Acceptance of the financial statement was proposed by RW, seconded by JH and approved by the meeting.

#### **5. OCC Neil Owen**

- 5.1 NO then presented his report. A copy is attached with these minutes.

##### **Questions from the floor**

1. GB asked about the A361 survey. *NO stated that a number of traffic surveys have been completed by OCC and that action is needed now, not more surveying.*
2. GB explained about his problems trying to get information from OCC about the FPC road verge responsibilities in an AONB *NO will attempt to get an answer to the problem.*
3. LB asked what NO had meant in his report about the solution to the HGV problem in Burford and on the A361. *NO stated that this meant weight limit signage to discourage lorries, other than local traffic, from using Burford Bridge.*
4. There was discussion about the mini-roundabout, the filtering system and the frustration this causes for Fulbrook residents. *NO will take this to the OCC Highways steward.*
5. NO stated that the flood-spot is still on the list to be sorted.
6. JH expressed surprise that the 'Welcome to Burford' sign is actually in Fulbrook.

#### **5.2 WODC Derek Cotterill**

DC presented his report. A copy is attached with these minutes.

DC explained to the meeting that the Burford Town sign had been positioned by Burford Town Council. He explained to the meeting that the English Heritage has two listings on the Burford bridge, 2 arches are in Fulbrook and the other two in Burford and that the bridge was reinforced by the American forces during WW2 to withstand 100 tonnes. He also stated that many people who held voluntary positions on different councils and groups were nearing the age when they would have to relinquish their responsibilities and that volunteers were needed to take their positions. This was particularly in relation to the Burford Oil Syndicate.

##### **Questions from the floor**

1. GB asked if it would be possible to place cameras at the waste site in Burford car park to dissuade fly-tippers. *DC stated there was a problem with transmission signal.*

#### **6. Annual Parish Report**

GB presented the annual parish report. A copy is attached with these minutes.

7. **Reports from Support Groups**

7.1 **Maggie Thompson (MT) Chair, Amenities Group**

MT had previously sent her apologies and her report was read by the clerk. A copy of the report is attached.

7.2 **Patricia Picking (PP), Burford and District Society**

A short and informative report was presented by PP, a copy of which is included with these minutes.

7.3 **Jacky Harrington (JYH), Fulbrook Meeting Place**

JYH presented a short report on the activities that have taken place at the Fulbrook Meeting Place over the past year and plans for the future. A copy of her report is included with these minutes.

7.4 **Joan Lilly (JL), Bio Diversity Group**

JL distributed a copy of a recent report from the Cotswold Conversation Board about managing roadside verges. She stated that overpopulation leads to a lack of bio-diversity, but that there were encouraging signs locally of individual efforts that were improving the bio-diversity in the area, developing webs for wildlife, maintaining verges and heritage meadows.

8. **AOB**

8.1 There was no formal AOB.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

9.1 A date of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016 was proposed for the Annual Parish Meeting 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015

It has been a challenging year for OCC. Apart from contending with ever diminishing funds from Central government, it has had to face severe financial pressure from an unexpected source. The child sexual exploitation scandal in Oxford City, Banbury and other towns and cities throughout England has horrified the country. Operation Bullfinch and the Kingfisher enquiries represent the efforts to address this issue. Consequently we now have to find approximately £3 million to pay for more social works and all the apparatus that goes with. However, OCC is adjusting to the new realities in the following ways.

The world of local government is changing. OCC is now an enabler, commissioner and partner with fewer services being delivered in traditional ways. We increasingly work across boundaries in the public sector and join things up to benefit residents.

Further modernisation is essential to protect front line services in the light of further likely cuts to local government funding after the General Election in May. The days of a traditional management hierarchy have gone. During the life of the next parliament we will need a new way of working, building on the partnerships we have been developing over the last few years. This means:

- More joint working in all sorts of ways – in health and social care with the NHS, with schools in our Teaching Schools Alliance, our back office partnership with Hampshire and our new Tri-County arrangements for the economy with Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.
- Going 'Digital by Default' to make things easier for the public, and streamlining processes through 'Lean' working as we have been doing in adult social care.
- Rationalising our office bases with public sector partners, and rolling out agile working across the council.
- Making the best possible use of our contracts and being more commercial in all we do.

We will be moving to a more distributed model of leadership with decision making devolved down the organisation and closer working between officers and councillors.

A £108.6m investment into Oxfordshire has been given the go ahead and will create 6000 jobs and 4000 homes across the county by 2021.

£15.7m of investment has been confirmed for the first year commencing 2015/2016 with a further £92.9m of commitment through to 2020/2021 which will be used for ten transport, infrastructure and skills projects throughout Oxfordshire and generate up to £208.5m in public private investment.

The deal includes

- Investment in substantial measures to reduce the risk of flooding, ensuring businesses continue to operate, roads and railways remain operational and people can be confident that their homes and businesses won't be damaged.

The Oxfordshire Growth Deal is part of a national £12 billion long-term programme to revitalise local economies and was announced by the Government in July 2014. The deals are significant for rebuilding the British economy and sharing the benefits locally through the network of 39 LEPs.

On 27th January, the Cabinet of the County Council approved the Local Transport Plan. It will now be sent out to further consultation between February and April.

The plan will support the ambitions for the county to 2031, before which an expected 100,000 new homes and 85,000 new jobs are likely to be created.

The plan includes the Oxford Transport Strategy, which sets out ambitious plans for transport in and around Oxford city, including looking at mass transit solutions like rapid bus services along strategic routes, integrating transport modes by transforming the park and ride network and making it easier to cycle by introducing cycle super routes across the city.

## Town and Parish AGM 2015

### WODC Councillor Report.

1. Last year I was still the Chairman of West Oxon District Council, the car park had flooded, and the Warwick Hall redevelopment had not yet started. We were urging WODC to expand the car park; they surveyed usage and wrote a business case saying the £160k was not warranted.

2. This year WODC chairmanship has passed to Norman MacRae of Carterton, the Warwick Hall redevelopment is well under way, the car park didn't flood but repairs are required, and WODC are engaging consultants to study the need for extra off street car parking throughout the District.

3. I am still a member of the WODC Development Control Committee and Uplands Planning Sub-Committee, the Finance and Management Committee and the Environment Committee, as a WODC Councillor I am appointed to the Governorship of the Burford School Foundation and the Executive Committee of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

4. During this past year we have seen the arrival of BT's superfast broadband to cabinets in Burford, Bradwell Village, Fulbrook and Swinbrook so you should be getting 35Mbit/s download and about 10Mbit/s up load.

We are still pressing for superfast broadband to be delivered to Taynton and Westwell but that will probably be delivered by Cotswold Broadband using ITS during 2016. It is planned under to WODC £1.6m contract to achieve 100% superfast broadband (>24Mbit/s) penetration in West Oxfordshire. It will be an open system so you will be able to sign up for AOL, BT, Sky or whatever service you prefer. Fibre delivery is expected but there might be some initial radio use.

5. The walkway in the car park is being studied for repair and the idea is to remove the apron which is on wooden pillars, as these have sunk, and to build a wall or raised path somewhat narrower than the present area but still wide enough for duck feeding. No suitable plans have yet arrived from WODC. A "local contribution" from the Town funds will be called for.

6. WODC has again frozen its Council Tax for about the fifth year. A Band D house is still £81.63 and we now have some town and parish rates approaching or exceeding the District rate. While you keep a Conservative Council in situ you will get low council tax and free car parking in the District. WODC has about £34m invested in commercial property which brings in a 7% average return. About £12m is invested in equity pool funds, low risk, where M&G Global and others have done well but an "Absolute Return" Scottish Widows fund performed poorly and was not "absolute". Icelandic investments have been returned in full although a small amount remains in escrow in Iceland subject to currency restrictions. Solar farms, although not popular and sometimes only permitted after a planning appeal has been allowed, do generate income through Business Rates.

Central government funding to Districts (the Rate Support Grant) gets less and less each year so it is essential WODC uses its investments wisely and makes efficiency savings. Currently all operational staff are shared between Cotswold District Council and West Oxfordshire, including the Chief Executive. Only planning is not shared. The computer system hosted in Cheltenham serves seven Councils. Further savings will be achieved by the 2020 Vision

Signed

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project which aims to share across several councils, more later as that project is in its nascent stage.

7. Waste and recycling continues to perform well and at £4m per annum is the WODC's major contract, with Kier who bought May Gurney. Food recycling did fall off before Christmas and there was a yellow sticker campaign to reinvigorate it which has succeeded. Electricity is generated from the food waste. Street Scene now ceases to be a WODC entity as it is being shared and a company called Ubico Ltd has been formed with council staff from several councils; "Economies of Scale" for more efficiency savings.

Recycling "Bring Sites" as in the Guildenford car park continue to present problems. They are not intended for fly tipping TVs and mattresses etc and I have to frequently email or phone WODC to remove such items. Our site is quite good, the worst are at the Co-Op in Carterton and in the car park at Chipping Norton.

8. The main area of contention in the District and County is the Local Plan process. Planning is currently governed in the District by the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) which presumes development and overrides any retained Local Plans or those which have not been adopted by the Secretary of State. West Oxon does not have a Local Plan which the Secretary of State has approved although one has been adopted by WODC Council and is published on the WODC website. It contains the "emerging" policies which will guide future decisions. WODC also claims to have a 5 year land supply although this does not comply with figures computed by the employment led SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment). The SHMA calls for 660 houses per annum (13,400 over the period to 2031) to be built in West Oxfordshire but owing to A40 congestion, 34% AONB, 11% flood plain and other constraints WODC maintains that 525 houses per annum is the figure which we should build (10,200 to 2031). This is an increase over the 417 per annum of the past few years. The plan does not include any allowance for Oxford City housing either. Currently the WODC Council adopted plan is in its 6 week consultation period before being sent to the Planning Inspectorate for study. Whether it will pass for approval remains to be seen and is another year away. WODC will argue 5 year land supply, emerging policies and NPPF compliance for any planning decisions made in the near future and fight appeals on those grounds.

For the Burford – Charlbury segment of the District, the plan calls for 800 houses between now and 2031. Most of the segment is AONB and of the 800, 400 houses will have to be "windfall", ie unidentified sites suitable for development.

Carterton has about 1300 allocated houses at present from a total of 2600 required over the life of the plan.

There are no suitable sites anywhere; the plan is based upon using the "least unacceptable" sites. No one could claim that the 700 houses to be built in Carterton East next to Brize Norton village will be on a "suitable site". No one could claim that Witney north will be suitable for 1,000 houses. Cherwell have an application for 1500 houses at Woodstock which has been submitted by Blenheim Estates. WODC are mainly consultees for that application.

The plan also deals with employment land, most is around Witney and Chipping Norton. More is required around Carterton as, at present, net commuting is outwards from Carterton to work in other towns, etc. The same is true of Upper Rissington which puts an estimated extra 3,000 car movements through Burford each day; as that site is in CDC we were only consultees and it was allowed at appeal.

Care Housing in West Oxfordshire is well below the County and National figures and Cottsway are currently building blocks of flats in Witney and Milton under Wychwood for "extra care housing, ie independent living but supported by a restaurant, laundry and care facilities.

Also, we desperately need affordable housing; there are couples in the Burford ward subjected to overcrowding, eviction and housing benefit assistance for renting private properties. I have had families living in conservatories over the winter months.

9. As mentioned earlier, being a District Councillor gets me appointed as a trustee, or governor, of the Burford School Foundation along with one other District Councillor, County and Town Councillors, members of the church and others. The School Foundation owns flats, houses and a shop and contributes about £60 – 100k per annum into the Burford Pre-School, Primary School and “top” school for educational equipment, projects and student support. From last July the Foundation also became the owner of the boarding houses when the “top” school became an academy.

It has been suggested the Foundation should redevelop the boarding houses and build a new boarding block on the school site. The school is against this proposal claiming that housing pupils in Tudor premises is a sales advantage and having the premises remote from the school gets the pupils away from academia during rest and recreational time. Furthermore, the Foundation did not own and could not develop the premises when it started the Shilton Road project.

The School Foundation and the Burford Charity have owned 6.5ha (17 acres) of land on the Shilton Road for many decades and it has been no use to either entity; it is low grade agricultural land, Cotswold brash. It could not be developed under the 2006 -2011 WODC Local Plan because it was “out of policy” by extending Burford into open countryside. Those policies are now defunct, superseded by the NPPF and also the emerging Local Plan which allows the envelope of communities to be extended.

As those of you who have served a Freedom of Information request upon the Charity Commission will already know, the two charities are obligated to use “professionals” and to get the best possible price for the sale of the land. Having interviewed companies to find suitable professionals, Strutt and Parker were selected; their advice was to use a promotion company to get the best price, Hallam Land were selected. That process took several months. The two charities gave Hallam Land a set of criteria which would not conflict the Charity Commission ruling to get the best price but which would derive benefits for the local community. Hallam Land agreed to these objectives in broad outline. They were that there should be a care home, freehold extra care housing supported by the care home, residential housing with the attendant affordable requirement, a coach park and, at least, a traffic light controlled crossing for the A40. An enlargement of the town car park was seen as a planning requirement to be addressed with WODC and, should it not be possible to pay for that under S106 obligations, dialogue with the Charity Commission provided clearance to meet the costs from the proceeds of the land sale should that be required. These negotiations took about 7 months.

The Shilton Road residents say that they should have been consulted on the development of the land. Not possible as that would have involved them in contract negotiations which were private between the landowners, Hallam, Strutt and Parker and their legal entities. When the contracts were agreed the residents were consulted by the professionals as the landowners no longer had any right to do so due to the confidentiality clauses in the contracts. They were given a voice at the Hallam exhibition in the church and they will have a voice when WODC brings the application to committee. That is more than the landowners get as, being WODC councillors we are prejudiced by the planning rules.

Phased developments and the Burford Town Plan have also been mentioned as matters which should have been considered. The Burford Town Plan called for 5 homes per year development but carries no weight. So if people are thinking in terms of 10 houses every two

years to a maximum of 50..... no way as that is below the threshold for affordable housing and S106 payments. One hit gets the most for the community.

What could local discussion contribute? Do we have local experts who know what size care home is required and how many extra care houses it would support, do they know about C2 and C3 categorisation, do they know about SUDS? This development proposal has been the subject of Bridge articles since at least October 2011 and there have been adverts for new Foundation Governors but I'm afraid no one has volunteered to help. No one has answered the question as to how the Foundation can get a return from the land other than by developing it. As grazing land it brings in £4,500 per annum.

The planning discussions continue with regard to this development and I do not expect the final application requirement to be known before June or July. It could come before committee in June at the earliest but more likely July or August.

In the meantime Uplands Planning has other more contentious schemes to deal with at Milton under Wychwood, Long Hanborough and Woodstock; all with their Action Groups.

10. The work involved in administering local matters, planning, charities, council precepts, etc, is considerable. The Burford Oil Syndicate, Cottsway conceived, the various charities and the town council are all staffed by unpaid volunteers and we are getting older with many in their 70s and 80s. Burford Oil Syndicate needs people now in order to continue and most other organisations require people from now or from the 2018 election year. Yes, your community needs you.

Derek Cotterill  
26 April 2015

## **FULBROOK ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015**

Your Parish Councillors for the period covered by the report are Gavin Beveridge (Chairman), Lynn Newland, Tricia Picking, Bob Warner and Wally Ingleby. Our Parish Clerk is Jo Glyde.

These are some of the achievements of the Parish Council in the last year from May 2014 until now:

- Successful lobbying of Oxfordshire Highways has resulted in a number of potholes in the village being repaired. Please remember that potholes need to be reported by residents to Oxfordshire Highways and they will be logged and dealt with. This can be done on the website ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)) or by phone (0845 310 3111).
- The first phase repair work to the war memorial has been completed, with the replacement of the steps.
- The play park in Meadow End is being continually maintained and upgraded.
- A total of eight planning applications or appeals have been dealt with on behalf of the local community. These can be reviewed on the Website.
- A new notice board has been sited at the junction of the A361 and Walnut Row.
- The Defibrillator has been installed on the wall of The Carpenter's Arms

In addition, the Amenities Group has again been very active this year, including:

- Raising funds via the annual plant sale
- Organising the village clean ups
- Arranging the summer dance at Bob Warner's farm which raised over £800
- The laying of new gravel to the millennium steps
- Arranging the village carol singing event
- The Bake Day organised by Wally and Polly Ingleby which raised over £600 for Comic Relief.

Plans for 2015/2016 include:

- The second phase of refurbishment work to the war memorial, namely the replacement of the damaged copings beneath the posts and chains around the perimeter. This work should be completed by May 2015.
- The Council shall also be seeking specifications and estimates of cost for the remaining refurbishment work to the war memorial.
- The Council is in the process of preparing the list of local assets which are considered important to our community's well-being. Suggestions so far include The Carpenter's Arms, the play park in Meadow End, the Church and the FMP. Please let me have any further suggestions by the end of May 2015 so all reasonable suggestions can be included on the Nomination Form

These plans are of course subject to the availability of funds.

The Precept has been set for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 at £4,200.00. The Council maintains careful control of spending and there has been no increase on 2014/2015. The full financial statement will be available at the meeting for discussion and is available on the Website from mid April.

As mentioned above the Amenities Group, chaired by Maggie Thompson, does great work for the village. The Parish Council would like to thank the members for all their efforts during the past year, The last village clean-up was held on the 18th April, with the plant sale to be held on the 23rd May at Woodgrove House (by kind permission of Sue and Richard

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

Newport). Please come along to the next meeting to find out more about this or ring Maggie (824852) for more information.

The Editorial Team of the Fulbrook Newsletter deserve a vote of thanks. With the increasing number of groups and activities and with the regular use of the Fulbrook Meeting Place (FMP) they help to keep us up to date. There is a diary of events for the FMP on their new notice board and all information is now available on the Website. This has proved to be a valuable resource for improving communication. Do have a look. Any suggestions or comments will be welcome. ([www.fulbrookvillage.net](http://www.fulbrookvillage.net)).

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all the councillors, and to our clerk, for their hard work and commitment during the past year. We are a small team and everybody has been involved and pulled their weight. We look forward to seeing you at the Parish Meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm.

Gavin Beveridge (Chairman 824353)

## **Fulbrook Amenities Group**

### **2014 Annual Report**

The Fulbrook Amenities Group is a small group of people that arranges several activities and events throughout the year to enhance the Village for the enjoyment of all residents, their families, friends and of course visitors too.

Much of our work depends on help and support from the community and therefore we would like to thank those of you who have supported us throughout last year by giving your time to help clean-up the village, attended the 2014 Plant Sale and joined our Summer Dance and Carol Singing.

2014 has been a successful year and we raised in excess of £800 from the Dance held at Bob Warner's Barn last summer. Thank you Bob and Pauline for hosting this event. As a result we were able to contribute funds towards the defribulator now located outside the Carpenters Arms and also the new notice board situated in Walnut Row.

In addition funds were contributed towards providing over a tonne of gravel for the ground surrounding the Millennium Steps: which was laid by a team headed up by Sue and Richard Newport and Lynne and Dean Newland, to whom we owe a special Thank You.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> April this year we held a very successful Village Clean-up and the next Plant Sale is to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Woodgrove House, Fulbrook and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are hoping to increase our membership and would be delighted to welcome new members to the group, so please come along to the next meeting this Thursday at 7pm which will be held in the FMP. Alternatively to find out more you can ring Maggie Thompson (on 824852) for more information.

Tel: 01993 822287

**Plovers, Westhall Hill,  
Fulbrook, Burford,  
Oxfordshire, OX18 4BJ**

21 April 2016

**BURFORD & DISTRICT SOCIETY REPORT for  
FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 27th APRIL, 2015.**

I am pleased to represent Fulbrook on the Burford and District Society Committee, the Society has supported us when we have had planning concerns and we have received several donations for projects in Fulbrook. They hold approximately four committee meetings a year.

The Society was originally formed to encourage the building of a By Pass and now aims to support the historic character of the built environment through the planning system and promote local cultural interests. There is a programme of talks, one in September, is to be an insight into The Royal Armouries and another on 24<sup>th</sup> November, is to be about developing the successful business that is Blenheim Palace by the Chief Executive Mr. John Hoy these are to be held in the evening at the Methodist Church. A light lunch with a talk by Richard Martin from Cotswold Woollen Weavers is planned for 20<sup>th</sup> October; details are published in The Bridge. The annual subscription to join the Burford and District Society is only £5.  
Tricia Picking, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

## Fulbrook Annual Parish Meeting – Monday, 27th April 2015

### Report on the Fulbrook Meeting Place

The Fulbrook Meeting Place has been going now for some 9 years and the regular bookings continue with the Fitness Group each week, and every month we have the Fulbrook Fellowship, Lunch Club, WI and Coffee Morning, and then the quarterly Afternoon of Bridge.

The five special events held in 2014 were all very well received. We had a Quiz and Quiche Night in March, Open Gardens in June, a Valuation Day in August, Easy Entertaining in September and our finale was Brian Kay's concert in December. Interestingly, we have this year raised quite a good sum from private rentals of the FMP, be it personal parties or AGMs etc. Together with our quarterly Bridge Afternoons, Keep Fit and the other regular events held in the FMP, a net figure of around £6,760 was raised. From this sum, a donation was given of £600 to Kate's Home Nursing and £480 was contributed to our church's sound system appeal. The balance goes towards the upkeep of St James, our beautiful village church.

It is good to be able to report no changes on the committee. Everything has been working well but, when Jenny Lloyd has to leave us, we shall surely miss her initiatives and dedication that she has given us in the past. I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank Jenny for her brilliant efforts. We shall therefore be looking for new recruits for our committee this year.

We are delighted to have Michael Bochmann bringing us a violin concert this week. Future events for 2015 are still in the planning stage, particularly as we have fewer organisers taking part. It is hoped that local people will approach the committee in the coming months with their ideas of events they can organise at the Fulbrook Meeting Place, as indeed some already have.

Thanks go to the committee members, organisers and helpers and all those who contributed in one way or another to make 2014's events so successful. Also we thank the clergy and all those who attended the events for their support throughout the year.

Jacky Harrington  
27th April 2015