

Noted on the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Moggerhanger held on Wednesday 19th March 2014 in the Village Hall, when 16 members of the public, Central Beds Councillor Mrs Turner and the Clerk were present.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013 were read out by the Clerk and accepted by those present.

Mr Mease the Chairman gave a full report on the activities of the Parish Council over the last year. More planning applications had been received than in previous years including a number on White Gables farm haulage business. Details were given on the Central Beds Council Gypsy and Traveller Plan, which did not include the Blunham Road proposed site. The Plan had been out for consultation prior to it being submitted to the Government Inspector. A report is expected in the summer.

The Chairman paid tribute to Mrs Barrance who had given service to the village as a councillor prior to her retirement. Paul Petrie had been co opted onto the council. Highway matters are still monitored by Peter Dean, and the village website now receives copy of Parish council reports.

The Chairman thanked his colleagues and the Clerk for their support.

The Clerk gave the Financial report which included details of the contract costs for grass cutting and lighting, these had shown very minimal increases in costs. The council gave a Grant of £1000 to the Village Hall Committee towards the cost of purchasing the land alongside the Hall, and £5 per month towards the running costs of the website. The notice boards, seats and bus shelters had all been refurbished during the year. The council had set the budget to include the cost of replacing a number of street lights and safety work in the Playarea.

Mrs Turner reported that Central Beds had carried out a Leisure Strategy for sport improvement and a Joint Well Being Strategy with the vision for improving health and well being and health inequalities in Central Beds. Funding had been secured for the central phase of East/West Rail.

A medium term budget had been agreed recommending more than £186m investment for next year for diverse services including roads, libraries and social care. £63m is going on Social Care health and housing. The Central Government Grant received was reduced to just over £38m which included £1m for freezing council tax. Total planned spent would be £200m which included savings of £17m without cutting services. £60m had been saved off annual running costs due to changing the way services are delivered.

A Playing field report was given by Mr Dean, thanking Mr Key for his assistance with looking after the play area and to Mr Anderson for allowing the use of his tractor to cut the field. The tractor would not be available for the coming year.

A Moggerhanger United Football Club had been formed. It was hoped a second team would be formed for next season. The Club was thanked for keeping the Pavilion clean. Dog fouling seems to be under control, but parishioners were thanked for keeping in touch with any problems that arose.

A very comprehensive Village Hall report was given by the Chairman Mr Bashford, giving details of the increased use of the hall which had now become a well established community asset. The hall now has a licensed bar which attracts outside organizations requesting use of the hall. Many activities are held in the hall including Whist Drives, Bingo and monthly Folk Sessions. A website has been set up and a Google calendar. The major problem for the hall has been the lack of Parking facilities, with assistance from Mrs Turner and the Grant from the Parish Council 1 acre of land adjacent to the hall is being purchased.

Thanks were expressed to the village community which has donated thousands of pounds to assist with the funding.

The AGM will be held on 29th April followed by a social and buffet.

The meeting closed after the public had expressed their concerns about the Gypsy and Traveller Plan, White Gables Farm and highway repairs.

A short Parish Council meeting followed when a number of planning applications were reported including the application for 17 apartment conversion at White

Gables Farm. A number of highway matters to follow up, and the usual invoice payments.

Information and costs of purchasing a tractor would be followed up by Mr Smith.
The meeting closed .

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 21st May 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.