

Notes on the Moggerhanger Parish Annual Open Meeting held on

Wednesday 18th March 2015 in the Village Hall.

Twenty one members of the public, Central Beds Councillor Mrs Turner, the and Parish Clerk were present, Mr Bashford took the Chair,

The Chairmans Report.

Mr Bashford gave the report in the absence of the Chairman due his resignation.

Paul Petrie who had been Chairman resigned in January, Mr Bashford will officiate until the election in May. The council spent a great deal of time throughout the year commenting upon planning applications including those for the land to the rear of The Guinea and White Gables Farm. Peter Dean continued to act on behalf of the council in meeting with CBC Highways engineers which had brought results in improvements in getting potholes etc. repaired. Mr Dean also had the responsibility for the care of the playing field and the Playarea. Mr Anderson discontinued to cutting the grass in the field, a contractor was hired to continue the work.

A number of training and information meetings were attended by some council members including the Ivel Forum which is organised by Mrs Turner. The Speed Watch Team carried out a number of checks , the information gathered was useful in support of the councils request to CBC for a speed camera on the A 603.

Financial Report.

The Clerk gave a short report on the way the council runs its finances during the year. An Internal Auditor and Government External Auditors monitor the council adherence to the regulations. Both gave good reports. A budget was set for 2014/15 with the Precept remaining at £15000, 3 donations were made £1000 towards the cost of purchasing the land for the Village Hall Car park, £100 to Link a ride and £50 to the PCC. The mower was sold for £600.00 to go towards the cost of cutting the grass. £4000 was set aside towards the cost of putting in an All Weather surface in the Play area. The Clerk and Mr Petrie negotiated with CBC for a Speed Camera to be erected on the A 603 at a cost of £3000 contribution from the Parish Council. The council agreed to increase the Precept for 2015/16 by £1000 to assist with paying for the camera. The council would have to keep a tight control of its expenditure in the next 3 years.

Central Beds Council report.

Mrs Turner gave a full comprehensive report on the councils difficulties after setting up a new council having inherited considerable debt. There were increased costs by demands

on services with decreasing Central Government support. Council Tax had not been increased for 5 years but savings still had to be made efficiencies in having fewer offices, contract management and delivering services differently had been made, but there was an expected increase in population between 2011 and 2021 of 12.4%. Planned Living independent schemes and building new social housing across the whole of Central Beds, working to deliver better healthcare, railway travel and Anglian Water are some of the partners in delivering better services. She also gave details of a number of schemes the council will be delivering in the next years programme by working with other bodies and authorities.

Village Hall report.

Mr Bashford the Village Hall Chairman gave a long report on the progress the VHMC had made during the year in holding many activities for residents and regular lettings to outside organizations.

Fund raising had made it possible to purchase a piece of land adjacent to the Hall for additional car parking. Gates and Fencing were now in place with hedging being planted to give natural border to the new patio area. Various remedial works had been carried out with the roof being retiled and felted to match the roof angle.

The Website continues to keep everyone informed and includes a Google Calendar. Thanks were given to Mrs Turner for her supporting the Trustees on their dealing with CBC re the purchase of the field, to residents who had given generous donations which had covered the majority of the purchase costs of the land and the Parish Council for their donation of £1000.

Residents were then given time to make any comments and to ask questions . Before the meeting finally closed Mr Bashford presented Mrs Turner with a shrub planted in a pot in recognition of the support she had given to the residents and the Parish Council over a number of years , her attendance at meetings and advice given were much appreciated. He wished her well on her retirement.

The meeting closed.