

Croughton Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly 2019

Minutes of Croughton Annual Parish Assembly
Held Monday 15th APRIL 2019 at 7.30 pm in Croughton Village Hall

Attendance: 19 people signed the Register.

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Chairman, Cllr Penny Forbes:

Cllr Forbes welcomed everyone to the Assembly.

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Chris Fox, Croughton Parish Council

Mrs Helen Goulder, Headteacher, Croughton All Saints C.E. Primary School

Mrs Kathleen Bartlett, Croughton Painting and Drawing Class

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2018:

(Published on the website. Copies available at the Meeting. Copy held on file.)

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr James to Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2018.

4. Chairman's Annual Report 2018/2019:

(Copies of Receipts and Payments Accounts for YE 31st March 2019 -available at the Meeting.

Copies of the Chairman's Annual Report to be inserted in the May 2019 issue of Croughton News. Copies held on file.)

Cllr Forbes spoke to her Report.

7. Cllr Rebecca Breese, NCC:

(Report published on the website. Copies available at the Assembly)

Cllr Breese spoke to her report.

i) Services;

The spotlight was on services. For example, Children's Services on average had cost £160,000 per child in Northamptonshire in comparison to £120,000 per child in other counties. Work has been done to reduce costs this year. One area under scrutiny was contracts and whether they provide value for money. There has been a tightening up on costs. Last year the deficit was £38million. This year there was an underspend of £100million. Quality levels are 'up to scratch'.

ii) Finance:

The Government gave special dispensation to the County Council to charge an additional 2% on top of the 2.99% increase in Council tax in 2018/2019 without a referendum being required. In addition, the Government permitted the County Council to fund its revenue deficit using the £10million capital receipts from the sale of One Angel Square.

iii) Local Government Reorganisation:

Cllr Breese is the representative for SNC on the Joint Management Committee, a body comprising representatives of the Authorities that will become West Northamptonshire Council.

The decision of the Secretary of State is expected after the Easter recess but work was proceeding on the basis that 2 Unitary Authorities will be created.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Breese for her Report. Cllr Breese withdrew.

5. RAF Croughton: Update on Planning Development and Community Engagement: Colonel Bridget McNamara, 422 Air Base Group Commander & Squadron Leader Paul Atherton:

Also present were Lt. Col. Robert Heil of the Medical Centre, and PC Mark Keightley, MOD Police, RAF Croughton.

Planning Development: Col. McNamara provided an update on 3 areas.

- i) Joint Intelligence Analysis Centre (JIAC)
- ii) Communications Facility (SatCom)
- iii) Main Gate.

i) JIAC: The new facility would cost \$900 million. There had been a strategic pause and the project had been re-evaluated with the result that in October 2018 the US Department for Defense had ruled that RAF Molesworth, rather than RAF Croughton was the better location for JIAC. The population base at Croughton would not alter as a result of this decision.

ii) SatCom (Golf Balls): Work had been set back 5-10 years due to the collapse of the main Contractor.

iii) Main Gate: An area of 5 acres of land off the A43 had been purchased by the MOD. Construction would start in 2 years' time.

Community Engagement: The British American Committee was fostering good community relations and developing more involvement with the local community. e.g. Evenley cricket match; Aynho litter pick.

There was a close partnership with the MOD Police.

PC 3622 Keightley, Beat Officer for Caversfield represented the British Police on the Base. His area of duty included the MOD estate. Members of the public were asked to report any suspicious activity in the vicinity of the Base by calling 07773 971 924. Patrols occurred 24/7.

Signage re. the use of drones over the Base and the no fly zone had been erected.

The Chairman thanked Col. McNamara for the update.

6. Cllr John Townsend, SNC:

Cllr Townsend gave a verbal report.

i) Local Government Reorganisation: Cllr Townsend felt it was a huge mistake not to create one single unitary authority. One single County Transport Department and one single County Social Services Department would be better for Northamptonshire. The West Northamptonshire Council comprising SNC Daventry DC and Northampton Borough Councils would not be an easy fit. Northampton Borough Council's population was more than the combined populations of its partner Councils.

Croughton was 25 miles from Northampton where decisions would be taken. Parish Councils needed to be strong and work together. The Little Brook Ward was important.

Cllr Townsend had represented Croughton at SNC for 32 years. SNC had been very successful. It would probably be another 2 years before the new Unitary came into being and SNC ceased to

exist. The next elected representative should be someone with a strong understanding of finances and the challenges the new Unitary would face.

ii) SNC Local Plan: It will be the guiding Plan for the next 2-3 years until the new Unitary can produce its own Plan. The potential spread out from Northampton towards the villages was worrying. SNC has preserved its villages and population increase had been well controlled. The Design Policy set high local standards.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Townsend for his Report.

The Annual Parish Assembly was adjourned for 15 minutes.

-----Interval for light Refreshments-----

The Annual Parish Assembly re-commenced.

8. Community Reports and Questions from the Floor:

8.1 Astwick Benefice: The Rev. Suzanne Cooper:

The Chairman welcomed Rev. Cooper to the Assembly. Rev. Cooper had been installed as Rector of Croughton All Saints Church on 30th March 2019 and said how much she was looking forward to meeting everyone and to working in Croughton and the Benefice.

Cllr Forbes thanked Rev. Cooper for taking the time to come along during Holy Week.

8.2 Croughton All Saints C.E. Primary School: Cllr Trevor Davies, Chairman, Governing Body:

(Cllr Davies spoke to the Headteacher's Report. Copy held on file.)

The Chairman thanked Cllr Davies for presenting Mrs Goulder's Report.

8.3 Questions:

There were no Questions from the floor.

8.4 Report Packs:

Report packs were available at the Meeting and included the following reports:

- i) County Councillor (Cllr Breese, NCC)
- ii) Croughton All Saints C.E. Primary School (Helen Goulder, Headteacher)
- iii) Croughton Cinema (Keith Ramsay, Chairman, Croughton Film Society)
- iv) Croughton Drawing and Painting Class (Kathleen Bartlett, Tutor)
- v) Parish Footpaths (Cllr Chris Fox, Footpaths Warden)
- vi) Croughton Newsletter (Georgina Lucas, Editor)
- vii) Police Report (Brackley Neighbourhood Policing Team, Northants Police)
- viii) Portway Pocket Park History and Report (Friends of Portway Pocket Park)
- ix) Croughton W.I. (Valerie Smith, President)
- x) Croughton Wine appreciation Group (Beccy Naylor, Secretary)

Chairman's Closing Remarks:

Cllr Forbes thanked everyone for attending.

Cllr Forbes thanked all Councillors for their hard work.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.