

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Stroud held at Langrish Primary School on Monday the 11th of April 2016 at 7.30pm

01.16 Present: Cllr David McKinney (Chairman), Guest Speaker – Capt. Malcolm Lyne AAC of RAF Odiham and County Cllr Vaughan Clarke.

Also present: 22 members of the public including parish councillors. Mrs Elisabeth Foulston (Clerk)

Apologies: District Cllr Nick Drew, Cllr F Rogers, Mary Allen, Pam Morgan and Chris Snow.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and for the good turnout.

02.16 The approval of the minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Tuesday the 31st of March 2015 The minutes from the meeting held on the 31st of March 2015 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

03.16 Chairman's Report – Cllr David McKinney (See attached appendix).

04.16 Update from RAF Odiham

Capt. Lyne gave a presentation on RAF Odiham and the work that they do. There have been over 30 years of continuous operations from the base and they are currently stood at 5 days' notice to be deployed anywhere in the world. Their work involves UK support tasking, including counter terrorism, search and rescue and flood support, and training. They have 4 operational flying squadrons who operate from 8am to 12am in the winter and from 8am to 3am in the summer. They try to use the simulator at RAF Benson as much as possible for training and also train overseas but there is a need to train in the UK too. Low flying aircraft perform better and are a lot harder to be seen. The Chinooks used are very stable but are not subject to the same restrictions as civilian aircraft which means at some points they can be flying within 30 feet of the ground (the absolute minimum is 10 feet). They will manoeuvre away from habitation if they spot it but sometimes this can cause more noise by moving the heavy helicopter at the last moment. Capt. Lyne asked that any horseriders wear high visibility jackets as this makes them easier to be seen. If an incident such as a horse bolting occurs then they will call the emergency services and will also land within half an hour of the incident so that all information can be downloaded.

Stroud itself is affected by RAF Odiham's training exercises as the village lies directly between the base to the north and the Solent Airspace to the South. There are also some fields in the local area where landowners have given permission for their fields to be used for skills training.

RAF Odiham are aware of the noise that is caused and they are constantly monitoring this but low flying training is essential. Every effort is made to minimise the noise and they are always seeking feedback from residents. They try to change routes as much as possible and will fly considerately and try to maintain height in habited areas.

Capt. Lyne then asked for any questions. A local resident said that generally most residents enjoy seeing the Chinooks and that they are also glad to see community involvement such as the presentation this evening. It was asked whether there had ever been any damage to structures from the vibrations from the low flying aircraft and Capt. Lyne confirmed that he wasn't aware of any. Capt. Lyne also said that he would look into Open Days at RAF Odiham and also whether aircraft were ever available to attend local events as requested. It was also asked whether there were any conditions that the RAF wouldn't fly in and it was confirmed that there wasn't and that strong winds in particular were good for training.

05.16 Update on Highways and Road Safety in Stroud

Cllr Alan Burges and Mrs Angharad Snow gave a presentation on the recent work on highways and road safety issues in the village. The issues have been ongoing for many years. On the 26th of February 2016, representatives from the Parish Council's sub committee on road safety met with Ian Janes from Hampshire County Council's Highways department at a site visit in the village to discuss plans and ways to resolve the issues. Following that meeting, Ian Janes has confirmed that proposals such as additional coloured surfacing on the road and better signage has been submitted for consideration. As soon as the final proposal has been agreed further information will be put onto the Parish Council's website regarding this.

Mrs Snow confirmed that this is a big step forward as it has taken 18 months of hard work to get to this point. It is just the beginning of the process and the Parish Council will continue to work towards better improvements. Speed signs for the village are also being looked into at the moment.

Langrish Primary School is also working on a new Travel Plan.

One local resident kindly offered to help with building gated areas at the entrances to the village.

06.16 Report from District Councillor

No report available.

07.16 Report from County Councillor (see attached appendix)

Following this report the Chairman then asked whether there were any questions or comments from those present. One resident suggested that more people volunteer to undertake projects in the village rather than relying on the county, district and parish councils who may have limited resources.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Chairman: _____ Dated: _____

Clerk-E Foulston