

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CAMELEY PARISH
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.
IN TEMPLE CLOUD VILLAGE HALL**

The meeting was attended by Parish Councillors, Tony Dando, Gwenda Harvey, Pete Hutchinson, Tony Hooper, Natalie Parfitt and Clive Welsford. Apologies were received from Councillors Kate Atkinson Ian Gough, Tom Hemmings and Ward Councillor Tim Warren. Tony Hooper chaired the meeting. Minutes were taken by the Parish Clerk. There were nine members of the public present.

PARISH COUNCIL – Chairman’s Annual Report 2013/14

“I would like to start by thanking you all for taking the time and trouble to attend this evening and then to thank all my fellow Councillors for giving up hours of their time without reward for the good of the Community. In particular, I would like to thank Natalie who continues to guide the Village Hall and Playing Fields. This year the Village Hall has taken great strides forward under her leadership and assisted by Ian Gough and the cheque book of the Parish Council with the introduction of a proper heating system, suspended ceilings and redecoration plus the refurbishment of the kitchen has made the space desirable and more bookings have followed as a consequence. I would also like to highlight the rise of volunteers within our community. I welcome the formation of the Residents Association and hope they will take an active part in all sections of the Parish. I hope they will see themselves as complimentary to and not in competition with the Parish Council as together we all aim to improve our village for all it’s residents. Something close to my heart has been the sterling efforts of Sandra Blair and her helpers who have started the transformation of our village with the introduction of planters and plans to enter us into the Britain in Bloom competition. I really hope this is something we can all support and enter into the spirit of when transforming our own gardens. We must then give thanks to Pete Hutchinson who has again fought hurricane force winds and rain to erect and maintain the Village Christmas tree. Special thanks in this respect are also due to Nancy and John Hampson of the Old Court who generously supplied the electricity for free for the tree lights. Other volunteers have come forward to join the Community Speed Watch Scheme which following our recent training will take to the streets we anticipate in April. And talking of streets, a special thank you to Andy Chick and Kelvin Parfitt who have quietly gone about keeping our streets cleaner than otherwise they would have been and maintaining the grass verges. I would like to turn now to challenges we have faced and will continue to face in 2014 and beyond. I find it regrettable that still there is no Core Strategy in place. This is the planning framework which sets out the policies that BANES will be guided by in determining the sort of environment we will live in between 2011 and 2026. You will understand immediately that we are nearly 3 years out of date and in that vacuum some developers are trying to drive a coach and horses through the will of local people and in so doing will only succeed in making our lives intolerable.

As a village most people have supported small and sustainable development that is sympathetic to the existing environment. We need to assimilate both new villagers their vehicles and their aspirations. I would hope all developers remember that when bringing forward their schemes. Along with new homes there will be new villagers and I hope that whoever they are they are treated with warmth and kindness by us. And talking of new villagers I would like to greet our new Rector and his family to Cameley and Temple Cloud. So welcome Mark, Juliet and Sophia. Cooler than you are used to but the warmth of the welcome should make up for that!. And so to farewells. We say goodbye to Cathy Gray who has given many years sterling service to not only the Parish Council but also the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee. We also say good bye to the insane idea of burying asbestos in Stowey Quarry directly above the source of our drinking water. We say Hello to free broadband here in the Village Hall and Goodbye to the swings in the playground which were finally condemned. And Hello to their replacements! And finally a sincere thank you to Nigel Scutt who has manfully carried on his duties as our Parish Clerk with quiet and effective efficiency. Which leaves me only to thank you, the valiant and loyal villagers who turn up to all our meetings, always looking keen, always with good questions and always with the good of the community at heart.”

Tony Hooper

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

“Firstly I apologise for not being at the meeting tonight but this week I have had another hip replaced. And if I'm not still in hospital, I will only just have returned home. That is what happens when you break things and ignore it. This has been a mixed year for me. After a hard fought contest, I was delighted to be elected as the Conservative group leader in May, which creates opportunities but also gives me a lot more responsibility - and work! I have been to a reception at no 10 which was something I never expected would happen a few years ago. Nice house - and wine! That is the 'upside' of being leader, but as I said earlier, there is a huge amount of responsibility and when anything goes wrong, the buck stops with me. But up to now I have enjoyed the challenge, and feel very honoured to have the position. The challenge this year on the council has been the lack of a core strategy and consequently a number of controversial planning applications coming forward throughout the Authority, which is something I don't have to tell anyone here. The application on the field next door will be decided by the time you read out this report, but at the time of writing it is still up in the air. Along with the application for the redevelopment of Temple Inn, I requested it be decided by the full development control committee, so at least it gave everyone a chance to put forward their case, and that it wouldn't be decided by just one person. I know a lot of you are hanging on the result. The government continue to challenge the Council to perform in a more streamline manner and run services better with less money. This is a policy that I agree with. Every penny that is spent, comes from us, the taxpayer, so money should not be thrown around, we work too hard for that to happen. I'm going to finish off by thanking the Parish Council for their help and support last year and pledging that I continue trying my best for everyone in the forthcoming one”. **Tim Warren**

TEMPLE CLOUD VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

“It has been another year which seems to have gone by quickly – we have nearly completed everything that we wanted to do in the hall with just a few finishing touches to complete the job which are all in hand. I would like to say a big thank you to Tim Warren who made it possible for us to have a new kitchen and I think everybody would agree that it has made a brilliant finishing to all the other work that we were trying to complete and without the grant we would not have been able to do the kitchen this year. I think everybody that uses the hall will agree how much nicer it has been this Winter to be warm and has made a difference to the coffee morning and Bingo who’s numbers have stayed up despite the cold weather. Bookings are starting to pick up for children’s parties but it would be nice to get some more groups which would run in the day or evenings. Cameley Youth football teams will be coming to an end this year as we do not have any more age groups to follow the under 16’s so this just leaves the two senior teams and I am not sure if there will be 2 next season. The pitches have stood up very well this year even though the amount of rain has stopped a lot of teams from playing and we have missed the least amount of league games which in part is thanks to our volunteer groundsman who cares for both of our pitches all year round. In finishing I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank Gail Parsons and Naomi Wear without whom, Temple Cloud Village Hall would not be able to run”. **Natalie Parfitt**

INTRODUCTION FROM THE NEW RECTOR

“I arrived with my wife, daughter and two dogs in early November just before Christmas to begin work as Rector. You might be familiar with St. Augustines Clutton and St Barnabas Temple Cloud, but I am also Rector of St Nicholas Stowey and Holy Trinity Bishop Sutton. Just to make sure I have enough to do there is also St. James Cameley! Before arriving in Somerset I was a vicar in Egypt and Morocco, not at the same time of course! Before that I was Rector of Holy Trinity Stapleton and chaplain of Colston’s school. We are really enjoying getting to reacquaint ourselves with friends and favourite places in the area, including Chew Valley Lake, the wonderful cities of Bath and Wells together with the Cabot Circus development in Bristol which appeared while we were overseas! This has also meant exchanging the blue skies and sunshine of North Africa for the green of the rolling Somerset countryside. A fair exchange! How is it going so far you might be asking? When you accept the job as Rector you have to take the accommodation that comes with it, which is why I have spent a disproportionate time at B&Q in recent months. If you want to swap your warm cosy house for the huge draughty rectory, please let me know! Anyway back to church, it was a packed house at the Christmas services at St Augustines and St Barnabas. It was great to see so many families and children at the carol services. I guess my great challenge is to get the chance to see them again before next Christmas! I was pleased to find churches where so much is going on, Saturday morning coffee shop, monthly breakfasts at the Railway, contemporary music events and a new Sunday School which has been started recently led by a mum from Clutton.

We will be running some groups in the coming months looking at the Christian faith and it's meaning for the 21st century. I look forward to getting to know you and to encourage all connections between the life of the church and the community in these two wonderful villages of Clutton and Temple Cloud".

Reverend Mark Cregan