

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council

## Northamptonshire

---

### Minutes of an Extraordinary Parish Assembly

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2002**

Minutes of an **Extraordinary Parish Assembly** of the residents of the parish held at **7:30 p.m.** - **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2002** in the Chelveston Village Hall.

**Present :-** Councillors :

Cllr. A.J.Palfreeman	
Cllr. A.R.Dale	(Chairman)
Cllr. M.L.Foulger	
Cllr R.A.Meeson	
Cllr M.J.Izzard	

Clerk: Mr. M.H.Hunter

Public:

Cllr Gell	(ENC)
Cllr Moore	(ENC)
29 residents	

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Cllr Dale welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda and the reasons for the meeting. He introduced the members and officers of the Council and the two District Councillors present. Apologies were received from Cllr Stopps.

#### **2 Village Appraisal Results**

- 2.1 Cllr Dale presented a number of graphs showing differences between the 1995 & 2002 appraisals. More than a third of homes had changed hands, but an increasing number of locals (within 10 miles) now lived in the village. Over half the village was older than 40, whilst over 70% of the houses were occupied by 1 or 2 people. House prices were altering accordingly, as Chelveston & Caldecott became a "desirable" rural location. Young families could not afford to move into the village, so the number of children was constant around 65-70.

#### **3 Traffic Management**

- 3.1 As 97% of the residents now owned a car and could drive, there was little uptake of the public transport introduced by NCC after the last Parish Assembly. Traffic speeds and traffic claming were now identified as major concerns to the residents (69%). The Raunds Rd gating scheme was discussed, along with those proposed for the Higham Rd, Kimbolton Rd and Caldecott, plus extensions of the 30 mph zones in Water Lane & Bidewell Lane. The meeting was supportive of these measures. It was asked why "30" could not be painted on the road (as Finedon & Milton Ernest), but these lie on the A6 and come under the Highways Agency, rather than County Highways Depts. It was suggested that Highways Agency be approached direct.
- 3.2 Cllr Dale outlined a 20 mph scheme for Water Lane and Sawyers Crescent, to protect the children playing there, but the meeting did not feel that this would work or be enforceable. There were concerns over additional pollution caused by the speed humps required.

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council

## Northamptonshire

---

### 4 Housing Developments

- 4.1 Cllr Dale commented on the 69% happy with the housing development so far, but 42% were unhappy with the planning information. Since applications are advertised in the *Nene Valley News*, on the noticeboards, by ENC letter to neighbours and by Councillor or Clerk visit (with the plans) to neighbours, what other measures should the Council take? A suggestion of sending round a letter to each household for every application was deemed impractical and unnecessarily expensive (Clerk - there have been 14 applications in the period Dec 01 – Dec 02). Cllr Moore explained that as only in-fill development was wanted, there would never be any more starter homes built (25 new homes required before the planning requirement for affordable housing takes effect).
- 4.2 Cllr Dale went through the plans of the village, showing the new proposed development confines and some of the anomalies that existed. He also compared the new confines with the 1980 confines. The Church & Village Hall were now in an area “outside the periphery of the village”. Cllr Moore explained that all land in the district had been examined, and there were enough brownfield sites to accommodate most of the 8,000 homes needed in the County Plan. However, the Milton Keynes expansion plan (due Jan 03) could require expansion of the county’s major towns. For Wellingborough, this might overspill into Rushden & Higham Ferrers, which in turn would use up some of the brownfield allocation.
- 4.3 Cllr Dale advised that Defence Estates had confirmed that once the upgrade works to the RAF Chelveston Housing Annex were completed, USAF personnel would be returning to the houses.

### 5 Village Footpaths

- 5.1 NCC had built part of a footpath along the B645 toward Higham, but had run out of money. It was unlikely there would be any more. Any path paid for by the parish (via a loan) would have to be to NCC Highways standards and could cost £12,000. The repayments would mean a rise in the Precept. The meeting queried would this ever be used. The suggestion of a new footpath alongside the B645, but in the field, from footpath MM13 (where it crosses the B645) to Bidewell Lane was made.
- 5.2 NCC no longer maintains the existing footpaths properly. The Parish Council could take this on, either by employing a Lengthsman or extending the existing grass-cutting contract, again at additional cost.

### 6 Other

- 6.1 Although the survey indicated support for a village shop, the meeting did not consider it viable. With regard to a Post Office in the Star & Garter, Cllr Meeson advised that there was not considered to be enough trade. Cllr Moore suggested Hargrave be approached (as they don’t have one either) to boost the customer base.
- 6.2 Although there was need for a recreational area, no suitable land inside the village was identified. The costs of play equipment were such that only a playing field marked out for football and/or cricket would be affordable.

# Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish Council

## Northamptonshire

---

- 6.3 Cllr Dale advised that 61% were happy with the Village Hall. Although not owned or run by the Parish Council, how did the residents want the Council to contribute to it? It was suggested that volunteers should decorate it, as they had with the kitchen improvements.
- 6.4 Cllr Dale explained the current Precept (£5,000) which was equivalent to £30 per house. The Council currently spends £7,000 /year, working through a surplus from previous years. However, it would soon be necessary to increase to £5,500 - £6,000, eventually rising to £7,000 if the projects were to be fully supported. 45% had indicated they would be prepared to pay more. It was commented that the Parish costs each household less than £1/week.

The meeting closed at 8:55 p.m. Cllr Palfreeman thanked Cllr Dale for his hardwork in producing, analysis and presenting the appraisal results to the assembly.

**Issued on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2002**

**Pages 736 – 738 signed under seal as true record**

**Adrian Palfreeman**  
**Chairman of the Parish Council**

**Mark Hunter**  
**Clerk to the Parish Council**