

Annual Parish Meeting of Iron Acton 2018

**Minutes of Iron Acton Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May 2018 at 7.30pm
Held at Iron Acton Parish Hall**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

12 members of the public were present.

WELCOME SPEECH

Councillor Lomas the Chairman of Iron Acton Parish Council introduced himself and gave a welcome speech and outlined the procedure and the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

01-05-18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Hunter.

02-05-18 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2017 had been previously circulated. Councillor Lomas proposed and Councillor Noble seconded that these minutes be adopted and signed as a true record. **All Agreed**

03-05-18 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Councillor Lomas Report - Annual Parish Meeting 03.05.2018 – Appendix A

04-05-18 SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

South Gloucestershire Councillor Marian Gilpin – Report Appendix B
Pat / Dave Hockey provided a written report – Appendix C

05-05-18 QUESTIONS / REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED

Cinema Society report – Appendix – D
Iron Acton School report – Appendix E
Acton Aid report – Appendix F
North Road School – Appendix G
North Road Ladies report – Appendix H
Allotment Association – Appendix I
Local Poyntz – Appendix J

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:18

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix A

Over the period we have had resignations from three members. That was for various reasons such as moving away from the Parish, and getting elected as South Glos Councillor, for instance. So, there was an election to replace the first vacancy, and then later on, volunteers eventually came forward prepared to fill other vacancies.

As it seemed to the rest of us that they could help us, they were duly co-opted bringing us back to full strength.

Just recently another long serving member decided he could not combine being a Councillor with his other work/life requirements.

To those that have left, I say thanks for your time and effort for the Parish, sorry to have lost you.

Of course a great thank you to those community spirited parishioners who stood for election and were elected and those prepared to be co-opted to fill the vacancies.

Now the new resignation means we've another a vacancy which we would very much like to fill. If any of you out there can give a bit of time to help the community through being a member of the Council we would love to hear from you.

It's worth pointing out this current council only runs to May next year when new elections are due. So, you could have a taster for a year and then decide if you want to stand for re-election or not.

So what have we lot been doing?

In Chill Wood, we have completed the first stage of improvements as part of a 5 year management plan. That has been mainly clearing the pathways through it and removing rank Holly. We plan to do more work this year, all this is following the advice of experts who surveyed the wood for us.

Appendix A

In the Parish Meadows, the provision of play equipment for older children, beside the Tennis Courts was completed. The younger children's play area was getting past it's sell by date. So, we've completed a major upgrade of the play equipment for younger children.

A lot of work was done by Donna our Clerk finding grants to cover a fair amount of the cost.

We've also done a bit of tidying up such as getting the brambles and the like cleared from the stream bank. That's the part between the play area and the footbridge across the stream.

We have also renewed the over stream footbridge as it was getting pretty rickety and probably unsafe.

We continue as usual to get our contractor to mow the grass in the Meadows and the Village Greens in Iron Acton and Latteridge.

Parish Notice Boards at the Parish Hall and North Road School that were falling apart have been renewed.

We now own a Telephone Box, No telephone mind. Following requests, rather than just let it be removed, we have purchased the High Street Telephone Box from BT, for the extravagant sum of £1. We are now anticipating the Telephone Box Group will make innovative uses of it, to the benefit of the village.

The seat in the Station Road Bus Shelter has been renewed, and we are looking into the provision of another shelter for the stop opposite, that's for the Bristol direction bus. At present the quoted cost of a shelter to match is prohibitive, but maybe we can find a more realistic priced job that is still suitable for the conservation area.

Appendix A

We have provided a new water supply for the use of Station Road allotment holders. Incidentally there seems to be a problem with the water supply to the Nibley Lane allotments. This we are chasing up.

Dyers Lane Coach-Pool requires regular attention, we get one third a year cleared and have done so again. We don't do more than a third at a time for flora and fauna preservation reasons

We have engaged a contractor to do various small repair and maintenance jobs around the Parish to good effect.

A major part of our work as a Council is being a consultee to other higher level authorities. We get consulted on every planning application submitted to South Glos that involves property in our Parish.

Every plan we are expected to judge on its individual merits, and in my experience so far, if the development does not detract from the area around it, the Council has tended to raise no objections to minor infill here and there.

I reckon the general view has been that a bit of new blood to keep the parish is a benefit.

However, where Councillors have felt a development is in an inappropriate location, will seriously add to road danger or would overwhelm the existing neighbourhood, for example, we have made representations objecting to the plan. I have got to point out we can only make our views known, South Glos is the one that takes the decision.

Appendix A

But now for the big one!

Consultation on the Joint West of England Structure Plan. (JSP) (That covers Bristol, BANES, North Somerset and our South Gloucestershire.) is now completed. We have made representations in the consultation period. In my opinion that plan, is all a bit vague and is mainly about housing numbers.

I should point out that this plan is not finalised yet. It still has to be adjudicated on at a public hearing in front of a Government Planning Inspector. Also I believe the new "Metro Mayor" has or will have powers over it too, so what his input into it, if any, will be, is unknown at the moment.

South Glos is now in the process of producing a draft Local Plan to provide the details needed showing where they suggest the housing and associated developments in South Gloucestershire's should be to comply with the requirements of the JSP.

Consultation on that plan has also now just finished and thanks to a lot of hard work and advice by one of our members (Brian Hackland) who has had planning experience in another life, the Council made its opinions known and submitted detailed comments.

We met our MP Luke Hall and made our view known to him.

Representatives from Iron Acton Council have met with counterparts from neighbouring Parish Councils, with a view to perhaps making joint cause.

We have asked for a meeting with Tim Bowles the Combined Authority "Metro" Mayor to enquire about his pre-election commitment to no building on Green Belt. I don't know as if we have had an answer, yes or no yet.

Appendix A

I would think that the JSP and Local Plan will take up a large proportion of our time as it suggests the possibility of a large swathe of housing development around and within the Parish. I don't want to be unduly alarmist but it looks as if it's proposing an extra 1800 houses in our patch. This is a big deal for us and is pretty concerning.

I guess I should say a couple of words about finance. We used to have a fairly large reserve in the Bank in proportion to our spending. The District Auditor did suggested this was disproportionate a while back. So, over the last few years we have drawn down some of this money, using it to keep rises to the precept to a minimum. That has now gone and we are down to the level recommended. Even so, the precept this year is slightly lower in percentage terms, thanks to finishing the play area. But in future the pressure is only upwards.

Still it's only around £1.50 a week per household.

**Iron Acton Annual Parish Meeting
3 May 2018
South Gloucestershire Councillor Report**

The Chairman's report has covered all the activities of the Parish Council over the last year, and you will all be very familiar with the details of the threat of housing developments which could potentially be coming to the east of the village in the near future. Very ably contested by Cllr Brian Hackland and indeed the whole of the Parish Council. We must await the outcome of the Joint Spatial Plan's consideration by the Secretary of State.

Here are some of this year's key points from South Gloucestershire Council.

In May last year, Cllr Tim Bowles from Winterbourne became the first West of England Mayor, and has set about appointing appropriate experts to deliver progress on Transport, Housing, Industrial Development and Training programmes across the region. These were the specific responsibilities devolved to the region when the new Regional authority was set up.

Joining the new West of England Combined Authority has brought £1 Billion of new infrastructure funding to the region to be spent over the next 20 years. (That's £50M per year)

These are still challenging times for the Government nationally, and we, as a Unitary Authority, are seeking to bring down public spending, as far as possible without cutting essential services, and to make changes to ensure that the Council lives within its means. Our aim is always to get value for money.

Waste and recycling: we have started collecting all recyclables every week, and continued to collect black bin general waste fortnightly. Our black bins have been replaced with smaller ones, and both of these measures are already helping to increase the recycling rates, reduce the amount sent to landfill, and save £1 million pounds a year in landfill tax. There is already a 13% increase in recycling since the introduction of these measures, but we can still do better. If all the recyclable waste in the black bin was recycled, then the savings would be £3 million a year.

New Bus Passes: We have introduced a new bus pass for those residents who are registered blind, so they can use their bus pass before 9 am.

Severn Bridge tolls: South Glos cannot take all the credit for the reduction in the bridge tolls (£6.70 down to £5.60) but, knowing that the management contract was coming to an end, pressure was liberally applied by MPs and Councils on both sides of the bridge, and the tolls are set to be abolished completely by the end of this year.

Library Services. There was general agreement that we would have to cut annual spending on our library services by £500,000. After some research, we have introduced a system whereby residents can use the libraries when they are unstaffed. No library will be closing and we are doubling the opening times. We are doing 'more for less' with our libraries.

Appendix B

Unfortunately the mobile library service to villages has had to be discontinued, but it is still possible for books to be delivered to the homes of vulnerable residents.

Cost of running the Council

Councils are often accused of using taxpayers' money on 'too much bureaucracy'.

So we have reduced the cost of running the Council by cutting out meetings, merging committees and returning to a Cabinet form of governance. This has not only saved time, and therefore money, but it has also gone a long way towards streamlining decision-making and speeding up the implementation of decisions once they have been made.

Surplus office space has been concentrated at Kingswood Civic Centre, and has been rented out, bringing in more money, without any reduction in services to the community in Kingswood, and leaving the Council Chamber and the very well-used Training Suite still intact. However, moving a lot of staff to the Badminton Road offices has caused serious parking problems there, and the building of more car parking space by the Badminton Road offices is imminent.

Solar panels have been built on Council owned waste land, saving on energy costs.

We have joined the government's new Business Rate Retention pilot, which will increase the council's revenue by £18 Million over the 3 years of the pilot.

Health Scrutiny Committee

I was given a new responsibility during the year and became Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This means that my committee works with the North Bristol NHS Trust, the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Health and Wellbeing Committee, and Social Services with the aim of improving health and welfare services to all of our communities. Our biggest challenges this year have been Delayed transfer of patients out of hospital, the Minor Injuries Service (which aims to keep patients from attending A & E unnecessarily) which has been so successful that it has been necessary to close early on some occasions, and the continued delays and deliberations over the promised facilities at the Frenchay and Thornbury hospital sites.

Housing, Transport, Education and Social Care

Housing is a major challenge. We are still some 720 houses short of the 5 year delivery plan, and this has made it possible for a lot of speculative building applications to be put forward and to be approved. While the numbers for the five-year plan are not met, legal grounds for refusing planning permission are much reduced. The cost to the council of facing an appeal by developers is very high, and if S Glos loses the case, then the developers' costs also must be paid. All other councils are facing the same problem and representations have been made to Ministers to change the legislation and remove this problem.

Appendix B

Transport is as always, a major challenge for the council, but repairs to the Bromley Heath Viaduct on the Ring Road are now finished, within budget and almost on time, which should ease some of the peak time congestion.

There is now a Scrutiny Commission within the Council and one of the main issues under discussion is our relatively poor record in Secondary Education. Most of our secondary schools are Academies, which are run as independent businesses, making it hard for the local authority to intervene or influence the quality of education. We are looking at ways to challenge under-performing schools because as a council, we have a responsibility to ensure that our young people have the best possible opportunities.

By far the largest area of responsibility and expenditure is Social Care – providing for the vulnerable members of our communities, young and old, with many differing needs and frailties. Social Care in all its forms takes approximately 60% of the council's entire budget, and, as we are all aware, this is an area of increasing demand as our population lives longer and needs more help.

Thanks to the Parish Council and to all the community groups in Iron Acton. You hold the village together in an incredibly positive way, and it has been a pleasure to work with you during this year.

Cllr Marian Gilpin
Ladden Brook
03 05 2018

REPORT FOR IRON ACTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

FROM SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Pat & Dave Hockey

We reported last year that the Conservative administration had decided that South Gloucestershire Council should revert to a Cabinet decision making system with only the Planning and Regulatory Committees remaining. This was introduced at the Council's Annual Meeting along with a Scrutiny Commission which sets up working groups to consider various aspects of the Council's work with a view to advising the Cabinet on new policies or modification to existing ones. The decision making Cabinet is made up of Conservative Councillors.

Pat and Dave have continued to serve on the West Planning Committee which does not deal with planning applications in Iron Acton. We do however refer applications and make representations to the East Committee when appropriate as Local Members. Pat has also continued as a member of the Regulatory Committee which provides Licencing Panels and the members to deal with Public Rights of Way and Commons Registration issues. Pat also joined the Scrutiny Commission.

The Policies Sites and Places planning document which brings up to date policies on such matters as design, amenity space and town centres as well as designating Local Green Spaces but doesn't identify further areas for development, has now been adopted with a few changes required by a Planning Inspector following an examination in Public.

A new Local Plan for South Gloucestershire is supposed to be in place by the end of 2018. Further development sites will be identified in the Local Plan. Iron Acton and Engine Common are proposed as villages that could accommodate some. These are in addition to the Strategic Development Areas put forward by the West of England which includes much of Engine Common for development at Yate. Views are also sought on the future of the local Green Belt which currently washes over Iron Acton village.

The Community Engagement Forum for Iron Acton, which includes Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell, Westerleigh, Frenchay and Stoke Park, continues to meet in the Greenfield Centre. Residents and Parish Councils have the opportunity to have local issues investigated as well as raising other matters of interest to them.

Once again each Councillor has been allocated £3,000 for grants to local groups or projects. Requests from their 18/19 allocations can now be made to Pat and Dave.

The Combined Authority for the West of England (WECA) is now in place meeting regularly under the Chairmanship of Tim Bowles, with a budget and staffed office in Bristol. Its membership is the Leaders of South Gloucestershire and B&NES Councils and the Mayor of Bristol. It is now responsible for strategic planning and transport, skills and economic development and allocating the various funding streams from Government and Europe. Along with the Leader of North Somerset Council it has formed a West of England Joint Committee which is taking the Joint Spatial Plan to Public Examination by a Government Inspector. It is consulting on Joint Transport Plan and will shortly be embarking on the preparation of an Industrial Strategy and a Bus Strategy. There is an Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the West of England made up of Councillors from South Gloucestershire, Bristol and B&NES. Pat is one of the South Gloucestershire Councillors.

Dave and Pat Hockey 23/04/1.

Appendix D

Iron Acton Film Club 2017/18

The Film Club has completed another successful season which was much enjoyed by the membership.

As before we put on 6 events over the winter months each of which comprised a children's film in the afternoon (free of charge) and a film for members and their guests in the evening.

The children's films have proved particularly popular with audiences of 40-50 quite common. The sale of sweets and drinks, together with the occasional generous donation from a grateful parent, has helped defray the costs of purchasing the films and hiring the Parish Hall.

The members' films have been well received, partly because members vote for them, and everyone seems to enjoy the convivial atmosphere created by an evening surrounded by friends, a good film, and a well-stocked bar!

Our membership numbers have remained steady at last year's levels (around 35) and this puts us on a sound financial footing and means we can continue for at least another 2 seasons, with dates already booked.

So long as members are happy to join and enjoy the unique experience of a community film club, we will be happy to keep it going. Our ambition this year is to widen the membership base and welcome new members from all parts of the parish, and beyond. Membership forms for the 2018-19 season will be available in the summer or can be found on the Parish Website.

My thanks go to all the willing volunteers who help prepare the hall each time and especially to Caroline and Sarah who take care of membership lists and finances.

Simon Cross

Chair

Parish Council Report
Iron Acton Primary School
2017-18

We have had an incredible year. The school has grown considerably in numbers from 76 this time last year to 86. We lose 8 children to secondary school in September but welcome 15 children and their families to our Reception class taking our numbers to 93. This is the largest the school has ever been and it contributes to making it a more vibrant and exciting place in which children can learn as well as increasingly financially sustainable. As well as this, our staff team has continued to evolve; we saw one member of staff promoted to senior leader at another local school last September and welcomed 2 new members of staff. We have begun to recruit further staff to the team in preparation for September.

In December 2017, we had a visit from a church schools inspector who praised the school for its strong relationships with the community, the way in which it helps children to understand distinctively Christian values and leadership at all levels with particular mention of the child led collective worship team. We were challenged to further develop children's understanding of prayer and to provide increasingly high quality opportunities for spiritual development.

In March 2018, we had a visit from Ofsted. This was just over 4 years since our previous inspection and we were pleased to retain our judgement of 'good'. The inspector was complimentary of the progress the school has made over the 4 years; she noted that published results were strong across the school as well as the progress and attainment for current children. During the previous inspection, maths was highlighted as an area for improvement whilst this time it was a strength. Safeguarding was considered effective as was the quality of education provided for disadvantaged children. Our next steps include working to further increase the progress of children with Special Educational Needs so that, over time, they catch up with other children.

We continue to be supported by an active Parent Teacher Association who work hard to raise money for the school as well as charities chosen by the children. We have a full governing board made up of parents, staff, and members of the local community and beyond who work hard to support and challenge us in our improvement journey.

M Riches, April 2018

Appendix F

Acton Aid – Report to the Parish Meeting May 2018

Acton Aid continues to grow and thrive with over 55 members of whom around 40 are active. I apologise that I am not able to deliver this report personally, but as Acton Aid meets every first Thursday of the month, tonight's two meetings clash. Acton Aid has recently changed its status in that it is now a not for profit Community Interest Company

Over the past year,

We have donated to: £5000 to contribute to the new playground in the Parish Meadows
Made a contribution to Iron Acton School for new climbing play equipment.
Contributed to providing a hearing loop to North Road School Road

We provided resources for: Clearing the kids playground with the help of Chris Heal saved and saved the Parish Council £10,000

Clearing scrub on Algars Path

Painting the Marshall Rooms

Renovating the bench by the post box. (Steve Green)

In terms of events, in chronological order:

May Day Assisted setting up May Day celebrations and cooked and served 1500 portions of hot food.

Mash and Proms Organised a very successful Mash and Proms in the Meadows with circa 700 attending the Mash and 900 attending the Proms. This is our main fund raising event of the year and provides superb entertainment for both parishioners and visitors. The next music in the Meadows could be our best yet with a Queen Tribute Band playing on the night of Friday 6th July. The Proms on the 7th July will feature the Bristol Millennium Orchestra and the theme is "A Night at the Movies"

Beer Festival: Organised a very well attended beer festival to compliment the Village Horticultural Show

Magic Colin Arranged and funded a children's magic show with 50 kids having a great Sunday morning

Bonfire Night Organised the biggest and best yet

Xmas Parcels. Funded and distributed to parish pensioners

Burns Night. Organised a Burns night in the Parish Hall

Appendix F

Looking forward to the coming year, the Chairman's charity is Street Life who support the homeless in Bristol by providing hot food, drinks, toiletries and clothing every Saturday night. Acton Court are hosting a special Charity Day on Sunday 24th June to raise funds for this special work. The day includes:

- Performances by 5 talented acoustic solo artists in Henry's Music Room
- Special attendance of Henry's 6 wives in traditional costumes
- Demonstrations and talks by The Hawk and Owl Trust
- Demonstrations and talks on Tudor hunting weapons and food
- Loads of children's activities including a treasure hunt, mask painting and owl pellet dissection!

Acton Court is one of the finest example of Tudor Mansions in the UK and is very keen to be reunited with the village having been cruelly separated by the Bypass! Tickets are just £10 and can be purchased from the Acton Court Web Site. www.actoncourt.com

Acton Aid are pleased to work closely with the other organisations in this thriving village and if individual parishioners need specific help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Richard Hunter

Chairman of Acton Aid

North Road Community Primary School

Parish Report 2017/2018



Just over a year ago we had a one-day visit from OFSTED and were pleased to share that we continue to remain a 'good' school. We received very pleasing feedback from our Inspector who said there is a 'supportive family feel to the school which never compromises its effectiveness'.

During the following year we have continued to build on our successes and move forward on our journey to outstanding outcomes for all pupils, both in academic and personal development.

The children and staff at North Road Primary School were pleased to announce at the start of this year that we were successfully awarded a Silver ArtsMark Award from the Arts Council for England, for demonstrating our commitment to promoting the Arts for all pupils. This follows two years of a dedicated focus on promoting The Arts for all pupils. Our Pop-up Art Galleries have been opening across the local area for the past year and are still continuing with over 40 children taking part each term. Our latest gallery will be opening in Yate Shopping Centre at the end of May.

During the past year, North Road Community Primary School has successfully been awarded a Bronze Health in Schools Award for demonstrating our commitment to promoting a healthy lifestyle for pupils. Our journey towards a Silver Award has already begun with the School Council delivering a presentation to parents and pupils about how to pack a healthy lunchbox and the Lunch Crew – lunchtime pupil role models - awarding stickers to all pupils who include fresh fruit and vegetables in their lunchboxes. At the start of the academic year we introduced a change to our uniform to include a PE uniform, worn twice a week by pupils, in order to increase the quantity of physical activity in which our pupils are taking part in. In January we followed this by introducing weekly 'Wake up, Shake up' exercises and each child across the school running the Children's Daily Mile. We have already seen the impact that these initiatives are having on both the children's physical development and their academic achievement back in the classroom.

In January, we also joined the WoW, 'Walk Once a Week' campaign with a 'Walking Bus' leaving Yate Town Football Club every Friday to walk to school together. We now have half of the school walking as a group, getting fit and having fun whilst reducing traffic on North Road. Just this month we have been awarded a place on the Modeshift Stars Award and are working towards national accreditation for demonstrating excellence in promoting walking and cycling to school.

As a school we promote a focus on good mental health and were pleased to be asked to share our great practices and initiatives, which focus on an inclusive environment, good physical health and a culture of open talking, at a conference for schools in South Gloucestershire. Alison Difford, our school ELSA, (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) joined me to share with colleagues the excellent work she does helping children to reduce their anxieties or worries and achieve their full potential. Our seminar was entitled 'Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Happy Children', a vision and commitment that all staff at North Road Community Primary School share. Since the conference, Alison and I have been involved in supporting two other local schools with beginning to implement the same

North Road Community Primary School

Parish Report 2017/2018

commitment in their schools – a rewarding and very positive experience for all involved.

As a school North Road Community Primary School has also celebrated many sporting and academic successes. This past year we have celebrated success in the local Rotary Club Creative Writing Competition and the Digital Photography Competition where our pupils won 1st and 2nd place for their writing on the theme 'reflection' and 2nd place with a photo entitled 'Sun through Ice'.

The children have been busy, both in school and in the local community: North Road Dance and Cheerleading Clubs have performed at the South Gloucestershire Festival of Youth Dance and the North Road Choir have performed at the South Gloucestershire Carol Concert, Brimsham Green School and at a charity event for the Yate charity 'Smile'.

We have been very pleased to welcome local organisations into school to enhance and support the teaching curriculum. We have especially recognised the impact on learning that the weekly Rugby and Football sessions from Bristol Rugby and Bristol Rovers provided, where Sport and Maths were brought together in the classroom. This was an exciting opportunity to enjoy Maths through Sport.

At North Road Community Primary School we continue to be extremely well supported by our Friends of North Road School, who not only fundraise tirelessly for the children and the school, but also plan and arrange a wide variety of events, not only the children, but also their families. Through their hard work and dedication to our school they have provided a bank of 12 I pads, lockers for KS2 and new books for the library to name just a few!

Staff and Governors continue to be committed to our school values of Respect, Pride, Perseverance, Ambition, Responsibility and Positivity with the children's learning and well-being at the centre of all that we do.



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



NORTH ROAD LADIES CLUB

Members of North Road Ladies Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary last November with an evening meal at The Lamb Inn, Iron Acton.

Our membership consists of 40 ladies and our monthly meetings are held, usually on the first Monday of the month, at 7.30 p.m. in the Committee Room of Iron Acton Parish Hall.

For our meetings we have a Speaker, followed by refreshments, business time and a raffle.

However, we do not hold a meeting in August.

Every year we choose a Charity to support by fund-raising throughout the year. In 2017 our chosen Charity was "Special Friends Club" which is a charity operating throughout Bristol and South Gloucestershire run by parent volunteers providing support for families of children with special needs. By holding a Skittles Evening, an Afternoon Tea Party in one of our member's garden and a Bring & Buy stall at each of our monthly meetings we were able to present a cheque to a representative from "Special Friends Club" at our December meeting.

Our members were very keen to support this Charity again, so "Special Friends Club" is our chosen Charity for 2018 and we will be fund-raising throughout the year in the same way as in 2017.

We are a very friendly club and visitors, or new members, are always most welcome.

June Rycroft
Club Secretary

Report of the Iron Acton Allotment Association – Nibley Lane

May 2018

The past year has been a successful one for the Iron Acton Allotment association. Nearly all the plots are under cultivation and looked good last summer. There is concern over 3 plots but inspections have been held and the incumbents have been asked to tidy their plots up or they will be issued a 30 day improvement letter. The Parish Clerk had been requested to issue Improvement notices on the 12 April 2018 to 2 out of the three plot holders – thanks to Donna (PC) for helping us issue these.

The association have organised the first social 'seed swap', which although being held on a very cold day proved to be well supported. This is held so people can have a chance try to grow new and different plants, or have too much of a certain variety so share stock rather than waste it.

Particular thanks goes to Phil in dedicating his time to grass cutting, security and various tasks that need to be attended to: Dennis who not only runs the Trading shed but takes on all manner of improvement and maintenance as well as (with Annette) hosting the annual Christmas party. Rob for managing the Allotment finances, and Lisa who keeps the committee organised; and the other enthusiastic allotment holders who help when we need some extra hands.

The committee have plans to improve the existing trading shed, which provides cost price products. The plan is to add a small porch area to improve the access to the shed (health and safety). In addition, to add a covered area and guttering, which will help stop the water ingress and funnel rainfall to a water butt for allotment use.

This year the Association will be able to replace the old fence and start planning how to enhance the grass cutting next to the fence, by planting some flowers that attract pollinating insects and make it generally a more attractive space for the village to enjoy. We have cleared most of the fence area of rubbish now (which had been attracting vermin) and will start in the far right hand corner and move across the length of the site. The area by the fence will revert to pathway to prevent the build-up of rubbish there again.

Regular updates are sent to those who have supplied e-mail addresses on what is being discussed at committee meetings and matters of general interest and we are hoping be more involved as an association with the Horticultural show, and contribute to the local Church with their Harvest festival this year.

We do seem to have an ongoing issue with the water supply on the allotment site. Very low water pressure indicates a leak of some sort but it is not on the site, conclusion being it must be a problem from the Graveyard on: The association does need help from the Parish council is rectifying this situation as it is not something we are able to solve ourselves.

The waiting list for the Allotments has eight people on it currently and you can contact me (as the Chair for the Association) by post or e-mail; my address is;

33 heather Avenue, Frampton Cotterell, BS36 2FJ – Katherine.curtis@uwe.ac.uk

Appendix J

Report from Local Poyntz Magazine
To Iron Acton Parish Council

03/05/2018

I am Pamela McCoy, the editor/producer of Local Poyntz magazine, which is a free publication to all residents of the Parish of Iron Acton. It is a quarterly magazine, spring, summer, autumn and winter, and has a distribution of about 560 copies. Our main cost is the printing, which is covered by our advertisers. The charges for advertising were £40/full page and £20/half page but from last autumn we increased these, for new advertisers, to £44 and £22.

This magazine, which was originally Focal Poyntz, started in spring 2015. The F.P. magazine was A4 and in black and white. The L.P. magazine is A5 and in colour.

We would to thank IAPC for their financial help with our start-up, which was a huge bonus for us.

Our first edition came out in June 2015 and had 40 pages, which soon increased to 44 pages. I am in the process of collecting and collating all articles, posters and adverts for the start of our 4th year and it seems that we may have more than 44 pages. Sounds great because the magazine is getting noticed and attracting more interest but there is a fine balance which has to be achieved. More pages means higher printing costs, which in turn means we have to attract more advertising, which means more pages etc. etc.

We have a team of 8. 7 people (including myself) gather the articles from our usual contributors. 1 person is responsible for getting the various quantities of magazines to the wonderful volunteers who trudge along the street putting magazines through letterboxes. 1 person is in charge of accounts and collecting monies from our advertisers (not always easy!!). 1 person is responsible for the website. My, main, job is to collect all articles etc. then to collate them and work out a suitable layout. I spend many hours, each quarter on this task, and my husband is banned from the kitchen during this period. Actually he is great because he usually chooses the front-page image. I have to admit that I really enjoy my task and get an enormous buzz when the job is done and the magazines arrive at our house.

I'm happy to take any questions.

Pam McCoy