

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024

The Annual Parish Assembly was held in King George's Hall on Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 7.30pm

Paul Hancock, Gloucestershire Constabulary; Gina Blomefield and Tom Stowe, Cotswold District Council; Lynden Stowe, Gloucestershire County Council; Joanne Piper-Bourn, Chairman of Mickleton Parish Council and Elaine Fuoco-Lang, clerk to Mickleton Parish Council, were present, along with 29 local government electors.

Councillor Joanne Piper-Bourn, Chairman of MPC, welcomed everyone and proceeded to chair the meeting. The minutes were taken by the clerk of Mickleton Parish Council, Elaine Fuoco-Lang.

MPC: Mickleton Parish Council
CDC: Cotswold District Council
GCC: Gloucestershire County Council

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from: Councillor Graham Tyler.
2. Chairman to sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 10 March 2023
The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Assembly were accepted by those present and signed by the chairman.
3. Welcome statement/annual report from the chairman of Mickleton Parish Council
Chairman Joanne Piper-Bourn gave the following report:
Hello and welcome to the annual parish assembly.
My name is Joanne Piper-Bourn and I am the Chairman of the council.
Welcome all of you and thank you for taking the time to come and share with us what your year has looked like for your club/society/group.
We now have five councillors, and we are still sorely underrepresented by the residents of Mickleton, and would like to invite you all to consider being a parish councillor... please.
This year has seen another defibrillator join the already existing 4, placed at the MUGA.
We saw the information shelter have damage to it and the long wait of the insurance company to right it, but right it they did.

The skateboard ramps look shiny and bright after a lick of specialised paint.

Our clerk got both her CILCA and FILCA qualifications and does an excellent job.
We have received gifts of benches and gazebo to which we are very grateful.
We have given out a grant to the Young Gardeners Club. The clerk found grants to fund the replanting of village planters that was so wonderful done by the Gardening Club, thank you.
Many a ball, be it a football, a tennis ball, odd-shaped ball has been given back from the MUGA to those that lost control.
We successfully applied to the Woodlands Trust for hedging that will go on the Junior Playing Field.
We have launched a new .gov.uk website.
We have a post! We are still awaiting the camera, but hopefully June will see its arrival.
Coronation: The best-decorated house received a prize donated by Mickleton Society. We had a fancy dress for the children which was judged by the residents of four seasons.
We had a sports day with picnic in the park, with treats and medals for those children that were there.
We were lucky to receive funding for this from Mickleton 20plus, GCC, Vale Press and the Morrison's shopkeeper. Forgive me if I have missed anyone.
We did tug-o-war, which was won by the TUGGERS!!!

We have had a very full year.

We have the MUGA open day this Monday bank holiday.

For any and more information, please visit our new website.

For any questions that you may have, please make contact with the clerk.

JPB also raised the issue of 20's plenty:

If you support 20's plenty, please email councillors and say to be pro 20's plenty.

Councillor Lynden Stowe stated he understand this and said there is an argument in certain areas, e.g. Mill Lane and near the school. But as an example, this has been done in Blockley and they have gathered data which shows only a reduction of 1.5mph in speed, so they are reticent to introduce schemes which do not change driver behaviours. However, speed cameras do have an impact. Trying to stop those who drive 50mph in a 30mph zone from speeding and repeat offenders. Also, the police have to enforce this, do they want everyone in Mickleton breaking the law? A 20mph traffic regulation order and takes two years and comes at a cost (ballpark 20K).

4. To receive a report from:

Cotswold District Council

Gina Blomefield and Tom Stowe gave the following report:

We were delighted to be re-elected as your District Councillors in May last year and we have continued to work together across the Campden & Vale Ward. The Campden & Vale Ward is the largest ward in the district, we represent over 5200 electors across Chipping Campden, Mickleton, Weston Sub-edge, Willersey and the settlements in between. We are both very active in representing the best interests of our residents at the council chamber in Cirencester. Tom is the Leader of the opposition Conservative Group, He is pleased to have a 100% attendance record for meetings at Cirencester. He also sits on several cross-party working groups and has regular meetings with the CEO and other senior officers. Gina is Chair of the important Overview and Scrutiny Committee so is responsible for Ensuring that decisions made by the Liberal Democrat administration are properly considered and scrutinised. The state of CDC finances remains perilous. A significant budget gap was noted in the budget outturn report last September which led to the Leader of the Council, after 5 years in charge, having to raise concerns about the Council going bankrupt if significant savings and cost increases were not achieved and a balanced budget delivered for 2024/25 financial year. Against this backdrop, the CDC cabinet voted to withdraw the funding to VICs across the district, including Chipping Campden, which it had provided for many years. Tom led the campaign to reverse this decision and launched a petition. The petition was signed by over 2000 people including many from Mickleton and triggered a debate on the matter at Full Council. Unfortunately, the administration decided to ignore the petition and pressed on with the removal of funding. There have also been significant increases in the council's discretionary charges as they continue to stave of the threat of bankruptcy, most notably the Green Bin charge and parking fees across the district, including the introduction of Sunday charging. We are both keen on ensuring that through the planning process we create and enhance an environment where local business, large and small can flourish and generate sustainable local employment. The Campden & Vale Ward has one of the highest numbers of planning applications – during the last 12 months there have been approximately 150 applications for us to study and consider, many of these have involved detailed discussions with case officers. There has recently been a change to the planning application call in procedure, this will mean a change in the way that we work with Parish Councils and other interested parties should there be valid grounds to call-in a delegated officer decision to Planning Committee for further discussion. There has recently been an announcement from CDC regarding changes to bin collection days and times, however, we believe that Mickleton is going to be unaffected, we will update residents via social media should this change. We have recently assisted residents in Lolium Close, Mickleton with a problem whereby the bin lorry was driving over and damaging the verge, were pleased to say that a new driver protocol was implemented and UBICO have

been and carried out work to restore the verge. After several months of pressure Tom was delighted that the unstable, leaning flagpole outside Alveston Grange, which nobody owned was safely removed by GCC Highways. We have been continuing our battle against fly tipping in the ward. We have reported and attended many fly tips and liaised closely with the enviro-crime officer to ensure that the mess created is collected in a timely fashion. We were pleased that Government legislation has led to CDC being able to increase the FPN level from £400.00 to £1000.00, which, although we feel is still too low, will hopefully act as a further deterrent for the perpetrators. We have been working with GCC Highways and CDC Officers to attempt to alleviate flooding at various locations around the ward. In Mickleton, flash surface flooding remains a problem at both mini-roundabouts at Broadway Road and Granbrook Lane. Tom has doggedly been pursuing Royal Mail to get the leaking cess pit issue at the Chipping Campden sorting office repaired. He has been liaising with the CDC enviro-crime and ERS enforcement team. Enforcement is still ongoing but we are extremely disappointed by Royal Mails lack of action with this matter. We have recently launched a social media campaign to attempt to embarrass Royal Mail into action, this has also now been reported in the local and national press. In Mickleton, dog poo is an issue. We have recently launched an informal consultation with residents via Social media to get ideas on the siting of dog poo bins in the village. We will work with officers at CDC and Ubico in the coming months to try and improve the siting of bins and signage around the village. We also continue to pressure officers at CDC to ensure that they are in regular discussion with their counterparts at Stratford DC to ensure they are included in discussions around further development at Meon Vale and Long Marston. We continue to liaise with local housing associations, we have regular meetings and "walkabouts" with Bromford and Platform housing, helping to sort out various problems raised by customers and other residents including fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, maintenance and advice on tenant's rights. We recently worked with Bromford to get a suitable exterior LED lighting system installed at Marrow Court, Mickleton. It was also noted that the 'All things Wild' planning application also affects this area, despite not being in our district the traffic will have an impact.

Some questions raised were:

Q: How can you find out who does fly tipping?

A: This can be because people are caught in the act, and evidence can also be sifted through: in one example a £400 fine issued. Also, there have been small-scale campaigns with CCTV cameras, but none at this end of the district. People can report on the CDC the website and use what3words (what3words.com) and a photo so people know what they are picking up and where they are. A direct fine was issued to a delivery driver who was dumping bags in Furze Lane.

Gloucestershire County Council

Lynden Stowe gave the following report: Finances are not in a bad place at all. GCC did have to put council tax up by 5%, but this includes care packages: adult, children, disability. GCC continue to invest money in resurfacing schemes, as this cuts down maintenance on potholes this year 86k was spent on potholes. There has been various resurfacing locally, and there will be more to come. Last year GCC also repaired pavement areas and more ongoing on High Street.

Residents should use [Home | Gloucestershire County Council](#) FIXMYSTREET to report potholes and it is interactive, you can see if one has been reported.

A speed camera will be located on Stratford Road as well as white gates. GCC is investigating the issue of flooding on Broadway Road roundabout. GCC has permission to fell an ash tree in Gloucester Lane, if it wasn't ash they wouldn't be felling it but it does need to be done. Money for a dedicated first responder scheme vehicle in Chipping Campden is being raised, please donate to rotary club scheme, as first responders do go out to Mickleton, Moreton and Stowe.

Some questions raised were:

Q: Cars parked on pavements is a problem.

LS: Not sure that law has been put into place as yet.

Q: GCC is not taking responsibility for car damage, other councils take preventative action.

LS: if we paid out for everyone we would go bankrupt. We send inspectors for A roads but local roads not really regularly inspected, GCC relies on local people.

Q: Regarding Broad Marston Lane to Pebworth road: would anyone consider that the road should be widened? There is an increase in traffic and ruts at the sides.

A: GCC will look into the quality of the surface, but LS does not think it would be a priority.

What about passing places, LS will ask about passing places and rutting.

Gloucestershire Constabulary

PCSO Paul Hancock made the following report:

This year has seen a reduction in the overall crime rate for Mickleton, the total number of all calls into Police has remained relatively consistent.

Although the total number of Burglaries has reduced, recent incidents have caused concern. 3 males were arrested (March) and interviewed in connection to a number of Burglaries in the area. Investigations are still ongoing in connection with this.

Burglary prevention advice can be found:

www.gloucestershire.police.uk/police-forces/gloucestershire-constabulary/areas/gloucestershire/campaigns/burglary/

We also offer a crime reduction survey, where an officer will arrange a visit to your home to discuss security advice.

If this would be of interest please contact the local team via the email below –

cotswold.npt@gloucestershire.police.uk

The past month saw the resignation of PC Natalie Lansdown, who wanted to pass on her thanks for all the help and support she received during her time in post and to wish everyone all the best for the future.

At the time of writing no replacement has been announced and we will keep you updated of any news.

Brief update regarding an incident last Wednesday. A weapon was removed from a vehicle and weapon was found discarded. They have visited a number of addresses, one male was arrested and subsequently released. This is an ongoing investigation.

QUESTION: TS Could you tell people importance of reporting and how to report it.

PH: If there is an issue we respond, but lots of slow-burn small issues, but important to report these continuing issues. Paul has given out his email address, but there is a reporting function on the website, you can be anonymous too.

QUESTION: Could MPC be asking the police commissioner to come and speak about what is being done, JPB yes I agree, but let's all contact too, but we will look into this.

Mickleton Parish Council climate working group

Report not provided, but included an update by Councillor Andy O'Neill who noted potential projects, including putting information on the website.

Mickleton Parish Council planning working group

The Planning Working Group comprises councillors Joanne Piper-Bourn, Andy O'Neill and myself, Geoff Mayling.

MPC is a consultee to CDC and to a lesser degree to Stratford Upon Avon District Council, GCC and Worcester County Council for planning applications and listed building applications.

MPC receive all planning applications and listed building applications within Mickleton and the Mickleton Conservation Area.

MPC will receive planning applications from Stratford if those applications affect Mickleton and the B4632 road between Stratford and Mickleton. Examples of these applications we have received in the last year are housing at Long Marston Airfield and Meon Vale plus the application for 'All Things Wild' at Clifford Chambers. I attended a very good meeting with the clerk of Quinton and Long Marston, and suggest MPC liaise with the parish councils.

Planning applications and listed building applications are received by the Parish Clerk and circulated to the Working Group for comment. Site visits are often made by councillors if the building is not known or the application could possibly be contentious.

Each application is discussed at the next parish council meeting and our comments or objections are submitted by the Parish Clerk. In some instances, an extension to the consultation period is requested due to dates of parish council meetings.

If a planning application appears to be contentious and we anticipate that we will be lodging an objection we are required to inform our District Councillors in advance of discussing this application at the next parish council meeting.

In the period June 2023 and May 2024 MPC received thirty-four, of 150, planning and listed building applications. They range from tree felling and pruning, new housing, house extensions, domestic garages, lakes, marquees and farm buildings.

Over the last year and this year we have received confirmation that our requests or assets of community value for the junior playing field and allotments/community vineyards have been successful.

The Working Group examined the Update to the CDC Local Plan and comments were submitted in respect of 'areas to be considered for new housing' in Mickleton. Comments can be viewed on the MPC website.

5. Reports from local groups

In agenda, not presentation, order

Mickleton Poor's Land Trust (including receipt of charity accounts)

Charity accounts were received.

Progress report for 12 months ended May 2024

1. Laid in the new access road (giving us the ability to drive right around the allotments)
2. Tackled the perimeter hedging to make maintenance easier (and therefore cheaper) in future
3. Tidied up and maintained much of the overall site
4. Let 52 of the current 58 plot combinations
5. Put in place the plan to divide two of the vacant plots into another 8 starter plots to be offered June 2024 onwards
6. Renewed and widened the two site entrances
7. Successful Plant Sale Saturday 11 May 2024

8. Issued membership cards to each allotment holder, with negotiated discounts from local suppliers
9. Issued newsletters to allotment holders
10. Created and maintained Facebook and website, with posting activity to keep all informed

Nanny Millard (including receipt of charity accounts)

No report or accounts were given to date

Mickleton Community Archive

It is now 12 years since Mickleton Community Archive was formed to record all the photographs and village history that the Women's Institute had collected over some 45 years. Since then, the archive has added hundreds of photos, maps and stories of village life to the catalogue and website (www.mickletoncommunityarchive.org.uk) collected at various events and exhibitions over the years.

We are grateful to Mickleton Parish Council for a grant to fix the storage shed roof. The historical documents, photographs and the 1839 Club Day Banner are now dry and safe. We applied to The Repair Shop to see if they would restore the banner, but as yet have heard nothing.

During the past 12 months we have had the opportunity to exhibit at the Coronation Tea last May, which showed Middleton celebrating every royal occasion in the last 120 plus years. Our exhibition at the Leasows in March proved popular with the local residents, some of whom had no access to the Internet. Our rolling film of 'Mickleton through the decades' produced a lot of chatter and reminiscences. Some sat through it two or three times just to catch photo. We frequently paused the film to collect and identify folk in the pictures. We are shortly going into Mickleton Primary School to help year 6 with their local history project. We hope this will be popular with the children and spark an interest in the village in which they live.

We have a presence in the Mickleton Magazine each month and on Facebook too, with many 'hits' when a new topic is introduced. Our followers are soon able to put faces to names and recall occasions. There is quite a lot of chatter back and forth sometimes. This makes our work interesting and worthwhile.

Saving memories for the future.

Mickleton Gardening Club

The chairman gave a PowerPoint presentation

The gardening club has 100 members, a postcard was delivered to every house in Mickleton listing discounts and activities. They meet on the third Wednesday of the month in King George's Hall. They also involved with BBC gardener's question time, with 300 people in Cider Mill Theatre. On 17 June there will be open gardens in Mickleton

Involved other groups Pebworth WI collecting bras for Sierra Leone to avert sexual abuse. They maintain MPC containers supporting local businesses.

Plantation: fallen into disrepair next year fountain will be 150 years old. T20 committee has a pot of money for benefit for whole village.

Everyone can be involved in this potentially, such as history of the fountain etc and how it should represent the village.

Meon Singers

Meon singers were founded in 1976. We are a community choir open to anyone interested in singing. Membership has increased to around 40 recently with members from an area bounded by Stratford, Shipston, Bourton on the Hill and Broadway. We rehearse on Thursdays in KGH under our professional music directors performing a wide variety of musical styles from around the world in our concerts in Spring and December.

As a recently recognised charity we look to support music in our community. We are part of the Social Prescribing offer for Meon Vale and Shipston and will be helping support a multi school concert planned by Mickleton School in July. We sing at the Parish Council Christmas street event and are looking into future collaboration with other groups such as our local school.

With thanks to the King George's hall for the storage provision.

The Mickleton Society

The secretary of The Mickleton Society gave the following report:

The society is in its 52nd year and, whilst without a Chairman and full complement of committee members, is in a healthy state. There has been an increase in membership from around 90 to 105 members and meetings have been well attended, often to capacity, which shows, I think, that its programme of speakers is engaging the membership. It has a full programme into 2025.

Members are e-mailed with a monthly newsletter which, in addition to advertising our forthcoming events, reports on village news and the activities of the Parish Council and the other local authorities.

We endeavour to have a local connection at our events. We invited a local professional photographer to show his work in and around Mickleton. An author and local resident spoke to us about his book on the Life of Sir Thomas Fairfax and focused on the impact of the English Civil war in this area.

Following a theme of exploring local business started last year, Richard Baldwin came to tell us about his business at Lower Clopton Farm and the state of farming in the area. Other businesses have been invited to speak in 2025. On a lighter note we heard about the history of Sudeley Castle, "A Lifetime in Cheese" – with samples – from a Master Cheese Maker and from the Rev. Nick Scott about a Chaplain's life at HMP Long Lartin.

We were disappointed that the Council for the Preservation of Rural England were unable to speak to us about their work but nevertheless heard from a speaker about the apple and pear orchards of the area, including Mickleton, that once abounded and the work of the "Orchard Project" to keep the remaining orchards in good shape.

At our last meeting of the Spring season the Clerk to Quinton and Long Marston Parish Councils spoke to us about how those councils have come together to address a range of issues arising from the extensive housing developments at Meon Vale and Long Marston. Many of the concerns raised apply to or affect Mickleton too.

Through our meetings and the regular newsletter the Society informs members of issues and developments in and around the village and points them to where they can find out more and express their views. This is especially important this year and in the years to come as the Local Plans for the Cotswolds and South Warwickshire proceed with the stages of their revision and renewal. We endeavour to support the Parish Council in matters of common interest and we are grateful to councillors who are also Society members for raising matters and speaking at our discussions.

The Society endeavours to be part of village life and intends to continue to play its part in promoting pride in our cherished village.

Richard Porter Trust

The trust is 400 years old. Grants are available to children, and that continues today.

Theatregoers Club

The chairman, gave the following report:

The Mickleton Theatregoers Club was established at least 36 years ago by residents who wanted to regularly experience 'live theatre'. The Club now has some 130 members, all of whom must reside within the Parish boundary of Mickleton.

We are run by a committee of volunteers who are subject to election at our AGM each year. The village is divided into six areas, each served by a 'Rep' who acts as the name and face of the Theatregoers for members.

There is nothing quite like the excitement of 'live' shows, especially when in the company of a group of like-minded friends! We organise about 10 trips each year. We travel to a range of theatres, all within an hour's journey time. In the last couple of years we have visited Malvern, Cheltenham, Oxford, Birmingham, Chipping Norton, Stratford and Coventry. In Mickleton itself, we host our AGM and two social events: our Summer Picnic in the vineyard and Annual Dinner at The Three Ways House Hotel.

To cater for most tastes, we choose a wide range of genres. We go to plays – classics and modern; serious drama and comedic – musicals, concerts, ballet and opera as well as an annual Christmas 'event' and a pantomime!

Live theatre – especially musicals – is very people-intensive and can seem expensive. But we obtain tickets at a discount so that the cost, including the coach trip, is less than you would pay for the ticket alone if booking for yourself! (And you get delivered virtually to the front door of the venue and you don't have to pay for petrol and parking or fight your way through England's not very clement weather to the theatre!)

Recent shows attended include:

Musicals: Chicago, Mamma Mia, My Fair Lady and the magnificent Come From Away.

Plays: Dial M for Murder, Private Lives, The Mirror Crack'd, All's Well That Ends Well, The Verdict, Noises Off, The Merchant of Venice, and And Then There Were None.

Concerts: Christmas at Coventry Cathedral, Jools Holland & his R&B Orchestra.

A Ballet: The Nutcracker and Opera: Mozart's wonderful: The Magic Flute.

In the pipeline for the next 12 months we have award-winning plays: Kite Runner, School for Scandal, The History Boys and Birdsong; popular musicals: Hamilton and Grease; and a trip to the opera: The Marriage of Figaro.

Members receive regular newsletters and are informed of forthcoming shows by our friendly local 'Reps' who deliver 'flyers' for shows to your door. For all this wondrous activity – and more – we charge an annual fee of just £5 per member.

We like to think of ourselves as the friendliest 'club' in Mickleton! So if you want further information or would like to join our happy band, do get in touch with us by just dropping an email to: mickletontheatregoers@hotmail.com – we'll do the rest!

Mickleton Young Gardeners

Report not provided, but the group supports young gardeners and families. Last year it received funding from Richard Porter Trust (parachute shelter) and MPC (to assist with rainwater harvesting).

Women's Institute

Report not provided, but a common question was why are no men able to join the WI. The

charity was set up to educate women and the constitution (1915) states membership is for women only.

Mickleton book club, toddler group, King George's Hall and sports club

Report not provided, but the chairman stated that KGH is used for functions thin on committee members who do things, bookings, accounts, chairman, cleaning etc, trustees are separate, let them know who can help.

Hall being used every day of the week by a variety of age groups. Coffee mornings are held on a Wednesday and Friday morning, there is a community library with jigsaws and books, bowls, baby and toddler group, book club, WI, Gardening Club, Slimming World, range of events parties weddings. The hall profitable 8-9k a year, but energy costs are big costs. The hire rate is on hold for next 12 months.

Now the hall has to pay rates, but it has no rubbish collection.

Chairman has taken over a chairman of sports club JPB initiative boys team and girls wildcats moved from Meon Vale to Mickleton.

Cricket club needs players.

Mickleton Magazine thank you to contributors.

6. Public forum

There were no questions.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.38pm.