**Present All six CBPC Councillors, representatives of Rushcliffe Borough and Nottinghamshire County Councils and of Nottinghamshire Police, ten local parishioners and the CBPC Clerk & RFO.**

**2024.APM1) Welcome and Format**

**Cllr Fletcher welcomed all present to the meeting and outlined the meeting format, which is an Open Parish Forum in which all Parishioners present have speaking rights, and also introduced the Parish Councillors and their various roles.**

**2024.APM2) Clerk’s 2024 Report to Council**

**The Clerk had posted a written Copy of the 2024 Clerk’s Report to Council on the CBPC Website & in hard copy on the CBPC Notice-board. Further copies were also provided to the meeting. The Clerk briefly highlighted some of the items raised in the Report and opened discussion of the Report to the floor. The Clerk was thanked by the meeting for his Annual Report that had highlighted the many positive actions taken by local volunteers and the Parish, Rushcliffe and Nottinghamshire County Councils during 2023-24 to help enhance parish life and the visual appearances of the area as a whole. *(The Clerk’s 2024 Report is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes)***

**2024 APM3) Flooding Feedback**

**In response to enquiry-points raised in writing by a Parishioner ahead of the meeting the Clerk (as a Flood Warden) offered a brief overview of local incidents to date, largely impacting the areas around the Dairy / Wells Cottage on Harby Lane and near St John’s and the adjacent Bunison Lane & Church Gate area. Increased flooding on New Road (especially the lower area about 400m from the junction with Hall Lane) was also noted, despite the work done in clearing the adjacent culvert. The substantial damage done to the Springhill verges and road surface when used as the flood diversion route was also noted; Whilst Springhill is clearly an unsuitable option, Highways remain unwilling to identify and implement any alternative route until Springhill / China Bridge is effectively also closed by flooding. The meeting noted that the primary report on Village Flooding, including the Loughborough University Analysis and some potential remedies, will be presented by CB Lead Local Flood Warden Jim Mcguirk to the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13 May, to which all are again welcome, The meeting thanked the half-dozen volunteers who currently act as Local Flood Wardens for turning out as & when required / able.**

**20234 APM4) Village Security**

**The meeting noted the increased number of attempted burglaries, intrusions and unwelcome visitors that had occurred in the village over recent months. Notts Police Local Beat Officers Mills and Voce outlined local police actions and responses, recommended use of *whatthreewords* to help police locate and attend rapidly, and also offered security, safety and NWS advice. The Meeting noted a Rural Police Forum to be held on May 1st at Oddhouse Farm (Owthorpe Lane). Discussion moved to the potential of establishing a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS), the mechanisms and processes for which were outlined. A local parishioner has volunteered to act as the local Scheme Co-ordinator and this offer was welcomed. The meeting agreed that this potential should be pursued & recommended introduction and oversight of a NWS be adopted and supported by the CB Parish Council. If adopted, the CBNWS should also be widely advertised and signs posted at all village entrances to alert all visitors.**

***This matter was also already scheduled for discussion at the March Parish Council (that followed the APM) and the support of Parishioners attending the APM was noted.***

**2024 APM5) Parishioners Issues**

1. **A parishioner raised the ongoing issue of cars approaching the village at inappropriate speeds along Harby Lane. The national 60mph limit is inappropriate for an area that often freezes & floods and which sees both large and domestic vehicles manoeuvring and turning in and out of Langar Lane and the Dairy. It was suggested that a speed-reduction zone needs to start before Wells Cottage, a view already supported by CBPC. NCC Cllr Neil Clark offered his support but noted the time and (successful) effort required to limit speeds on Hall Lane, which had been substantial, and that whilst the Harby Lane area doesn’t meet any of the guidance criteria for a restriction he would endeavour to get NCC Highways personnel to re-inspect and hopefully re-assess the area in light of the widely acknowledged need for a speed-reduction area.**
2. **NCC Cllr Clarke raised the imminent “retirement” of the CBPC Clerk & highlighted the contribution made to the village in many guises. The Clerk thanked the meeting for their support & wished ongoing success & support for the incoming CB Clerk Mrs Jane Clark (Byre Cottage) following their March-May handover.**

**2024 APM6) APM Closure** **There being no further business the Chair thanked all for their attendance and closed the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting at 2010hrs**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_ \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/ 2024

**2024 Clerk’s Report to APM & Council; Nige Mayglothling, Clerk & RFO to Colston Bassett Parish Council**

2023-24 was a year of contrasts for Colston Bassett, it’s residents and Parish Councillors. The 2023 APCM saw a substantive change in Parish Councillor personnel, with thanks passed to those who helped steer Council with great success despite regularly being short-handed. I am delighted to report the opportunity to fill all 7 Council seats & see a fully functioning Parish Council sharing the load is now achievable. Our Parish Councillors operate in the best interests of our village and thanks are due to them for the time they put in, both behind the scenes & in numerous meetings.

Thanks are also due to a raft of volunteers: Litter-Pickers and Snow and Flood Wardens, as well as to other Local Committees (St Mary’s, Village Hall, The two Brekkie Crews & Local History Group to name but a few). The Cricket and Croquet Clubs make the best of Smiteside, although the Pavilion is in urgent need of repair; that can probably only be achieved by a longer-term lease that will offer grant-funding options… but all in all, quite a positive picture of parish life emerges…

Finance remains a key factor for the Parish. The long-term Public Works Board Loan on the Village Hall has been repaid in full and significant PC support given to the Village Hall & to other local projects. This support cannot be given without parishioners all sharing the cost, with Council voting for Precept income levels to return to early-2020’s levels. CBPC retains a healthy Reserve so is able to support projects to the benefit of the whole community, but no Reserve is limitless. I remain fully confident that CBPC budgetary control is robust and finance well governed, both operationally and also in oversight by Councillors and our Internal Audit processes. I am also always happy to answer any questions around PC funding and our operational requirements.

The Village Hall group are to be congratulated on dealing with the unexpected repairs required to the north-roof; plans are now under discussion to put solar panels on the south side, which would offer significant benefit to VH funds. The “Friends of St Mary’s” also sourced funds to effect substantive repairs to our historic churchyard, keeping the venue safe to visit and enjoy. Other successes include the Hall Lane speed reduction, shortly to be supported by reinvigoration of a local Speed-Watch Team. Both projects were well supported by NCC Cllr Neil Clarke and RBC Cllr Tina Combellack; our Parish has benefited from their support in many ways & both remain actively engaged with our parish activities and projects. Our Lengthsman Scheme has been supported by NCC VIA Highways and will continue at least through to 2024, whilst our Conservation Area is being reviewed. The Neighbourhood Plan still impacts on & helps guide Local Planning and we have also had success in moving the parish across to Fibre Broadband opportunities in 2024-5.

On the downside the village has also had numerous “Incidents of Concern” including attempted break-ins, several other unwanted “visitors” and the age-old bette-noire of fly tipping. We all have an opportunity to tackle these issues in tandem with our local police, but community involvement is essential to help with eg a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme if these problems are to be addressed. Flooding and road-closures have occurred again, but the Loughborough University Project may offer some potential solutions.  The upside is that WE CAN HELP SOLVE THESE ISSUES; the method to do so lies with each one of us. One other potential issue could eventually be loss of the bus service as we know it, but even there options to “escape the village” will still exist; we just have to move with the times and accept that fiscal realities require workable solutions affordable for all.

In closing I should note appointment of your new Parish Clerk, Jane Clark. I hope you’ll all support Jane going forward, as I will be standing down at the end of the Annual Parish Council Meeting (May 13 2024). Jane and I will be working through a handover either side of that date and further details (on eg contact methods) will follow in due course. Jane has been in the parish for many years and also close to Council so (hopefully) knows what she’s taking on!

Onwards…

Nige Mayglothling RFO & Clerk, CBPC March 2024