

# Hill & Moor Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jo Adams  
Landline: 01386 554305

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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

### held by video-conference

Thursday 29th April 2021 at 7pm

Present: Cllrs T. Betteridge (Chair), P. Jeanes, Mrs A. Jeanes, D. Saunders and Mrs P. Stone

Also present: J. Adams, Clerk; County and District Cllr L. Tucker; Mr. M. Taylor (PPW) and 2 residents.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Mrs C. Martin (Church), Mr M. Hayes (Allotments), M R. Smith (Chair, Village Hall and Events Group) and Mrs M. Williams (WI).

**2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2019:** The minutes of the meeting on the 25th April 2019 were agreed as a true record. There had been no meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic.

### **3. Chairman's Annual Report**

Cllr Betteridge welcomed those present to the meeting and gave his report for the year:

Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish meeting. As Chair I have the job of presenting an Annual Report to the meeting. Although I have been Chair for the last 2 years this is the first of these meetings I have done in this capacity as we were unable to hold one last year due to COVID restrictions.

Despite the restrictions the Council's business has continued with our usual meetings taking place via Zoom, something we have all had to get used to in our lives. We have, as usual, had a number of planning applications to deal with that we have responded to on your behalf. In addition, we have continued to take forward and put into place schemes to enhance facilities within the Parish. We have also directly responded to issues of concern raised by Parishioners and, where appropriate, advised residents of the best process to follow to facilitate resolutions to these.

In the last few years, a number of projects have been undertaken by the Council. A perimeter path around the field was put in place thanks to a donation from Severn Waste and it is great to see that it is well used. We have also undertaken the planting of grass and wildflower seeds on the bund and we intend to plant more spring bulbs in the autumn. New benches have been installed, 3 picnic benches by the play area and 5 other benches located around the field. Lighting from the car park to the entrance on the field opposite the village Hall has also been installed.

We have continued to improve the play area with the addition of a basket swing and timber trail and improvements to the existing play area surface have been made.

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Section 106 monies have been used for improvements to the football pitch and replacement of the goalposts. We have also been able to provide mobile goals which can be used by juniors.

Additionally, we have also been able to use grant monies for the purchase of our own mower for the field which is being used by our enthusiastic group of volunteers at no cost to the Parish, although sometimes I do wonder if we should be charging them for the chance to have a go on the mower. But seriously we have had many compliments from residents and users of the field on its excellent condition so a big thank you to our mower gang. Whilst mentioning our lovely field I must also thank David Saunders and his gang of litter pickers, who have not only been litter picking the field but now seem to have moved on to the rest of the parish, spending many hours enthusiastically clearing what is probably years of accumulated litter in all the hedgerows. Events within the Village and on the field will now organised by the Village Events group who have also now taken over the running of the Village Hall. Although nothing has been able to take place due to COVID we are hopeful that things can resume shortly.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their support in the last 12 months and their perseverance with Zoom meetings, which has meant we have been able to successfully continue the work of the Council.

My thanks also to Liz Tucker for all the work she has undertaken for the Parish and last but not least to Jo Adams, our Parish Clerk, who works tirelessly on behalf of the Parish Council but more particularly for all the support she continues to give us.

Cllr Tony Betteridge

## 4. District and County Councillor's Annual Report

### Hill & Moor Annual Parish Meeting 2021 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

#### Report from Liz Tucker, County and District Councillor, report since last Annual Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019

I'd like to begin by thanking the residents of Lower Moor, Upper Moor, Hill and Hill Furze for giving me their trust to serve as their County Councillor for the last 40 years. It is hard to realise how quickly the time has passed. So much has changed over those years, good and bad, families have grown up, many changes have been made to footways and road layout - from when planning permission for the site of the gravel works at the bottom of Salters Lane to transform to a leisure site of lakes and caravans, from when Haig Villas complained of being right onto the Throckmorton Road with no footway and all the waste lorries pounding up the hill, from when we fought and won the argument

for a 40 mph speed limit along what was the B4084 from Salters lane to beyond the Lower Moor junction against police objections, the extension to the village hall, losing the old bus stop which Mrs Mills kept so clean.

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at the crossroads junction, and so many planning applications. I will continue to serve the parish as Wychavon councillor for Pinvin.

This last year has been almost entirely taken over by Covid19. Both County and Wychavon councils have stood on their heads to support residents in every way they could, setting aside normal priorities to help vulnerable people through difficult times, support volunteers, and help businesses access government grants speedily where available. The South Worcestershire Development Plan was delayed by a further year and information about progress of plans for a new town (of 2,000 homes plus a further 4,000 after 2041) on Throckmorton airfield remains confidential until September, and the Wychavon "vision" will be voted through by their council in October before there is further consultation. The parish has been understandably disappointed in the lack of enforcement action over several issues in the parish.

Bus services have drastically reduced and there is real need for more flexible community transport.

Wychavon continues to keep council tax unchanged – finding savings by increased shared services and staff with Malvern Hills DC. The County Council increased council tax by the full amount available to it in 20/21 but chose to take only 1.5% of a possible 2% this year and only 1% of the 3% social care precept available over 3 year. Next year they have predicted a £76 million gap in funding. This cannot be cured by council tax increases as it raises only £4m for 1% increase in council tax. Presumably there are already plans in place as to how to cover such a huge hole in the 2022/23 budget but the leadership has not informed councillors how this will be achieved.

Cllr Liz Tucker

## 5. Reports from Village Organisations

### St Thomas' Church

We have had a most unusual year not being able to go anywhere or do anything. With our churches being closed and unable to have any services because of the virus, we have managed to open Every Thursday for anyone to sit quietly or pray silently.

We made an effort this Easter by painting stones and then putting them outside the church, inside we had flowers.

We tolled the bell 99 times in memory for Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and a few villages thanked us for respecting the day.

We hope to open the church daily very soon but I am not sure about when and if we will be able to start services again as I am not sure what the Reverend Sarah Dangerfield has in mind for our village. Fladbury has started to have their Sunday services.

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Cllr Ali Jeanes (on behalf of Carol Martin, St Thomas' Church)

## Report from Fladbury and Moor WI

With regret the WI had to close its doors on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. They needed a new committee, but no-one was willing to come forward so, after 90 years in the area, first in Fladbury where the ladies of Hill and Moor used to also attend. It is thought Hill and Moor then formed their own group during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War years. Then due to declining numbers they once more merged over 12 years ago. Nine meetings were held in Fladbury and 3 in Lower Moor during the winter months as the Moor hall was warmer!

The WI has donated £500 to the Parish Council to buy trees and bulbs to be placed on the Green with a plaque, a big thank you from us to them.

Cllr Ali Jeanes (on behalf of Marilyn Williams, Chair of Fladbury and Moor WI)

## VILLAGE HALL AND EVENTS GROUP – PARISH MEETING 29 APRIL 2021

In spring 2020 a new committee was formed consisting of: Pat Stone (chair), Richard Smith (treasurer), Lynne Foord-Saunders (secretary), David Saunders, Carole Oliver, Kevern Oliver, Carole Martin, Ali Jeanes.

Due to the Corona virus the hall has been closed (with the exception of the Post Office on Tuesday & Thursday mornings) since March 2020, so there is no activity to report. It is due to re-open to the public on 17 May 2021. We have had several enquiries from new clubs wishing to hire the hall on a regular basis so the bookings are looking very promising from May.

We received a grant of £10,000 from Wychavon at the beginning of the pandemic and are due to get another post-lockdown grant of £2,000 in due course so our finances are very healthy. There is still money to be spent, from a previous grant, on the kitchen. The Audio-Visual system is currently being held in abeyance as we felt we could not afford the kind of system that would provide good enough quality sound & vision to make film evenings a viable success. We intend to fit an alarm system as soon as practical after the end of the Covid restrictions. We have the funding for this and are in discussions with the Parish Council for a joint venture to include CCTV coverage for the Hall and playing field.

We have a meeting on 30 April 2021 to review our accounts, make the arrangements for the re-opening of the Hall and plan the diary of works and events for the forthcoming year.

Cllr Pat Stone

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## Allotments

The Allotment site continues and there are currently vacant allotments available to rent which are charged at £15 per year, with a one-off sign-up fee of £5. They are large plots and the rent is charged March – March. Residents are welcome to apply for a plot if they wish.

The clerk on behalf of Mr M. Hayes of the Allotment Association

## Parish Paths Warden

Mr Taylor had taken the role on 2½ years ago and had continued to report blockages of footpaths and problems with signs and stiles. There was a backlog of work needing to be done by the County Council. Some paths got a bit muddy in the colder months but they were now clear and walkable. He reported that he would be leading a walk from Throckmorton Hill, to include the lakes, in July as part of Evesham Walking Festival.

## **6. Parishioners Open Forum**

There were no questions.

