

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP

Held at the Church on Wednesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A. Howarth (Chair) Cllr. L.Brennan
Cllr D. Hudson
Cllr N. Roberson
County & District Councillor L. Robinson Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr G. Edwards

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2021 were approved as true and correct.

3. Annual Report of Parish Council presented by the Chairman.

After the disruption of the last two year's it felt like a return to more normality when we were once again able to hold our first meeting for two years in the church in July. My thanks to our County and District Councillor Linda Robinson for all the support she gives the Parish Council and the representation of our concerns to County and District. Also my thanks to Councillor Nic Roberson ,Vice Chair and Councillors, Dave Hudson, Gill Edwards and Lettie Brennan for their support and contribution. Thanks also to Mike Rowe who resigned as a Councillor after the annual meeting last year for his work on the finances. Other thanks go to Peter Holpin for once again completing the internal audit of the Council's accounts and to Lisa Cope for her most efficient work as our Parish Clerk. Thanks also to Dave Hudson who regularly mows the green and to Chris and Ros Pretty who mow and tidy the churchyard.

PLANNING

We have considered 8 Planning applications involving house extensions, alterations of windows, plans for a wooden shed, and building of two garage blocks. The Parish Council has made no objections to any of these applications.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

This is a fully funded service provided by Worcestershire County Council. Over the last year after consultation with the lengthsman he has provided the Council with more detailed records of his work in the village and has been helpful in responding to requests from the Council for actions such as clearing weeds from the drain entrances.

HIGHWAYS

We are continuing to monitor traffic speeds through the village. Thank you to Councillor Roberson for monitoring and fitting the battery to the speed signs and also to Councillor Edwards for downloading the data. While we would still like to see more speed calming devices , most drivers are considerate when driving through the village but as always it is the few who still present a danger to pedestrians and cyclists by exceeding the speed limit. The road surface of the ford has continued to

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cause concern particularly for cyclists, motor cyclists and horse riders as it is very slippery and Wychavon have been unable to find a suitable environmentally friendly means of cleaning the algae from the concrete under the water. We will continue to try and find ways of making this crossing safer.

BT TELEPHONE BOX

We are trying to ensure that the box is regularly maintained by the Police who undertook to look after the former telephone box. At the moment the box does need repainting.

FLY TIPPING

During the periods of lockdown the instances of Fly Tipping were greatly reduced but earlier in the year we had a load of tyres dumped at Seaford and more recently there are some household waste items have been left in a gateway in Seaford Lane. We are grateful to Wychavon who do respond promptly when informed of Fly Tipping removing it from Council land and the highway but are unable to remove it if it is on private land.

QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

The village is planning a celebratory street tea party in Orchard Lea and the Council have applied to close the road on Sunday June 5th from 1.00pm to 6.00pm.

We are also planning a commemorative bench to be placed round the cherry tree on the green. The Council have also commissioned the making of a new village noticeboard, funded with thanks through County divisional funds.

4. Parish Council Accounts

The council approved the accounts and following AGAR documents for 2021-22:

- a. Certificate of exemption- AGAR 2021/22 Part 2
- b. Section 1- Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
- c. Section 2- Accounting Statements 2021/22

d. The accounts had been subject to an internal audit. The total annual gross income for the authority 2020/21 was £6,713 and the total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2020/21 was £5,560

5. County & District Councillors Annual Report

As tonight is both your Parish meeting & your Annual Parish Council meeting, I would like to say a few words of appreciation. It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since I became your new County Councillor. Taking the role on from Rob Adams was quite daunting and I would like to thank him for being a valued advisor for me as I got to grips with this new position. My thanks also go to all your parish councillors particularly your Chairman and Clerk.

A large percentage of my time is spent on highways issues dealing with 11 parish councils and three parish meetings in our large Upton Snodsbury Division. I have been made Vice Chairman of Planning & regulatory services which can be quite challenging. I have also become a member of the Hereford & Worcestershire Fire Authority which is very interesting.

I was also pleased to be able to donate funds for your Parish to purchase a new notice board out of my annual Divisional fund .

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In May last year we were in the middle of the Coronavirus pandemic and I would like to thank all those in your community who gave their time to help others. Now we are involved in yet another crisis with the war in Ukraine and once again many of our residents are doing sterling work to help refugees and raise funds and send collections of essential items for those still in Ukraine. Please see below for the latest details from Wychavon & County.

Covid-19 update

April saw the end of free testing and this has affected the reliability of infection data. While official testing rates have fallen significantly, information from other sources presents a different picture, although data is still patchy. What is clear is infection rates are significantly higher than the headline rates. In the south of the county, it is estimated about 1 in 14 people have Covid-19 which is the same rate as England and only slightly above the West Midlands (1 in 13). This is being felt by our acute hospitals. As of 25 April, 129 patients had been admitted with Covid-19 in the last 7 days with about 158 now in hospital. Not all are being treated for Covid-19 though some may have arrived for a different reason but also have Covid-19. Hospitals are reporting the age of people arriving with Covid-19 is increasing again with more people over 60 presenting. Visit the Worcestershire Covid-19 dashboard for the latest infection rates data. In terms of Covid-19 vaccinations, our areas of lowest deprivation continue to be the areas where take up is lowest but take up of the vaccination has now largely stalled with numbers barely changing. View the latest vaccination data on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Homes for Ukraine update

Staff continue to work hard to deliver the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Wychavon. As of 28 April, we have been made aware of 99 hosts in the district, with an anticipated 242 guests. We are finding that some guests are choosing not to travel after their visa has been issued for a variety of reasons so we are treating this figure with caution. As of 26 April, the number of visas issued by the Home Office for guests intending to travel to Wychavon was 160. We have been told the Home Office is speeding up the issuing of visas. To date, staff have carried out a total of 72 property checks – all satisfactory – with a further 7 booked. We have also welcomed 40 guests to the Civic Centre so far to collect their £200 payment and inform us of any welfare or support needs. However, we are seeing an increase in arrivals now and have many more booked to meet with us in the coming days. Please also note that where guests cannot travel to the Civic Centre, we will visit them. The main priorities we are picking up from initial welcome conversations are access to healthcare and particularly mental health / trauma support, school placements and support with financial matters, including bank accounts, benefits and right to work. Our local partners, and particularly local community groups, have been instrumental in helping us to provide the necessary support, including with basic needs such as clothing.

We are expecting further guidance on the local authority role in 're-matching' (e.g. when a sponsorship relationship breaks down) next week.

Community Recovery Fund

We've just opened applications to our Covid-19 Community Recovery Fund. The £150,000 grant fund has been set up to support to community groups/organisations that require funding to assist with their day-to-day running costs to aid recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. They are also available

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to organisations that have experienced an increase in demand as result of the pandemic and wish to expand their services to meet the need. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the impact that the pandemic has had on their organisation, how the funding will be used, and the difference it will make to Wychavon residents. We expect grant awards to be between £300 and £10,000 depending on need. You can find more details and a link to our web-based application form on our website here. The fund will stay open until the end of October 2023 unless all the money is allocated before then.

SWDP.

The SWDP publication which was scheduled for consultation in July has been delayed. Work on the key documents relating to development sites and the infrastructure to support them is yet to be completed.

How Worcestershire's gritters travelled the equivalent of three times around the Earth this winter

GRITTERS covered almost 70,000 miles across Worcestershire this winter as staff sought to keep the county open for business. Since October, Worcestershire County Council has carried out 51 gritting runs, spreading 5,341 tonnes of salt, keeping roads moving and safe for motorists. This covered 69,972 miles in total, which is the equivalent of approximately three times around the circumference of our planet.

WORCESTERSHIRE's roads will be given a new lease of life when the county's surface dressing programme hits the streets. The programme will see road surfaces across the county restored, with more 160 sites set to be treated over the spring and summer. Signs will be displayed on roads prior to any work taking place and works are subject to change if weather conditions are suitable to carry out the process.

Visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/surfacedressing for the list of roads which will be subject to the works in 2022 and stay up to date with the surface dressing schedule on Twitter @WorcsTravel.

6. Reports submitted by community organisations:

a) Women's Institute- Jackie Plant

Our first face to face meeting since the onset of the pandemic was the Betty Morgan Memorial Croquet tournament. This was held in the garden at Dean Lodge Farm in June and was followed in July by our Annual Meeting held in the garden at The Cottage, North Piddle Lane. Sally Grainger agreed to remain in post as President following a unanimous vote and all committee members have continued in their roles. We indulged in a summer meal at the Dolphin in Bishampton and then, from September 2021, we were able to resume meeting together in Upton Snodsbury VH on our usual night of the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. We started off with a Beetle drive and have since been entertained by talks on Wildlife photography; Setting up a glamping business; Astronomy; the History of Pepper and the Role of a Magistrate. We held a craft evening where we learnt the art of decoupage and enjoyed a Christmas social evening with party games & supper.

Away from our monthly meetings, the walking group has continued to enjoy regular walks in the local area with members taking turns to lead and provide refreshments. We have also participated in the County skittles tournament with our usual sense of 'have a go and have fun' rather than skill!

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We are grateful to be able to enjoy the friendship of each other and to make the most of opportunities to develop skills and pursue interests at a Club, County and National level. Our membership has remained steady at approximately 20. We would like to see our numbers grow in the future and warmly encourage potential new members to give us a try.

b) Naunton Beauchamp Church- No report received

c) Police- Julie Pardoe

The amount of incidents has remained very low and relate mainly ASB around the picnic/ford area. There was a theft from a shed in the village in November which corresponded with a few similar events with the local area.

A more detailed view of crime levels in the area can be accessed via www.police.uk which is the national website for policing in England, Scotland and Wales. We note that the PC priorities are speeding, fly-tipping and littering. We have previously been to the village to assess speeding but our results did not indicate an issue with speeding at that time. Fly-tipping needs to be addressed with Wychavon District Council. We will continue to monitor the picnic area on our patrols but have not received any recent reports. The Pershore SNT has under gone some changes in the last 5 months. I have been on long term sick after an injury sustained during my duties. I am currently on restricted duties and I am not able to patrol until such time as I have had an operation to repair the damage to my knee. PC Daren Riley is still the PC for the area but is now also covering Pershore Town. PCSO Faye Allen-Carter as she has now moved to Malvern. PCSO Ashleigh Smith has joined Pershore in a hybrid role and is covering both Pershore Town and Rural. We will also have student police officers assisting on the area as part of their training.

We are still encouraging all clerks/PC members and residents to register on our Neighbourhood Matters alert system. This allows everyone to get up to date information as to what is happening on their area including crimes, community engagements, good news stories and crime prevention advice. The SNT would be grateful if the PC could promote this. <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/> We are also updating the PC's via newsletter on a regular basis.

Apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but if there are any matters raised that we need to be aware of please do not hesitate to contact the team.

7. Questions from members of the public

None

This report concluded the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7:25pm.

SIGNED..... Chairman

Date

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