

# **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **Held at St. Bartholomew's Church, Naunton Beauchamp**

### **Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Present** : Cllr A. Howarth (Chair) Cllr M. Rowe  
 Cllr M. Butler Cllr D. Hudson  
 Cllr N. Roberson Mrs Gill Edwards  
 County Councillor R. Adams Mr Ted Howarth  
 Clerk

#### **1. Apologies**

Distr. Cllr L. Robinson, Mrs S. Grainger, Mrs J. Pardoe

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2018 were approved and signed.

3. **Annual Report of Parish Council** presented by the Chairman. The Parish Council has met six times over the last year. Thank you to Councillors, Butler, Hudson and Roberson for their support and work during the year, and also to welcome Councillor Rowe who has recently joined the Council. We are also very grateful for the support of County Councillor Rob Adams and District Councillor Linda Robinson who regularly attend our meetings and keep us up to date with District and County issues. Other thanks also go to Peter Holpin for continuing to complete the internal audit of the Council's accounts. I would also like to record our thanks to the Parish Clerk Lynn Stewart who has done a tremendous job bringing us up to date with policies and regulations and is very efficient in the management of all the Parish Council paperwork.

**PARISH LENGTHSMAN** This is a fully funded service provided by Wychavon. The lengthsman, is in fact a team of three who regularly visit the village, digging out the grips ( the run offs from the road into the ditches) , keeping the drains in the ditches clear and tidying up the verges. We should like to record our thanks to Luke Farnsworth who took over from his father last year.

Thanks must go to Councillor Dave Hudson who regularly mows the village green, it is once again looking very attractive. Also thanks to Chris Pretty and Clive Butler for mowing the churchyard and helping to make the village look tidy.

**HIGHWAYS** Councillor Butler has continued to monitor the speed activated sign. We are still hopeful that the data obtained will be able to be presented to Highways to persuade them that the 30 mile an hour sign might be moved nearer to Honeybourne or to implement alternative traffic calming measures. There are still concerns over the speeding of heavy goods vehicles through and near the village and for heavy vehicles taking the unsuitable route using Seaford Lane. Thank you to Councillor Adams who helped to get a sign at the Pinvin road end to dissuade heavy vehicles venturing down the lane from that end and also for making sure that

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Seaford Lane has had a makeover with proper tarmacking rather than just pot holes being filled which has been much appreciated by villagers . However there is still a problem with vehicles trying to take a sat nav suggested short cut down Seaford Lane from the village end.

**DONATIONS** An annual donation is made to the church for the use of the church for Parish Council meetings and to the Parish magazine which is no longer going to be published.

**PLANNING** The Council has considered 5 planning applications. Those applications appertaining to the village from local residents have not been objected to, although some modifications have been suggested. The Upton Snodsbury Poultry Farm applied for an Environmental Permit which the Council campaigned to include regular monitoring of the water quality of the Piddle brook. This was included when the permit was granted but the Council is still determined to monitor the water quality independently.

**DRAINAGE** Highways have continued to monitor the drain by the Main street bridge. The Lengthsman is required to clear the entrances to the village drain at the easterly end of the village. Again this winter we have not had any flooding in the village.

**FOOTPATHS** Thanks must go to Liz Holpin who has continued to act as our Footpath Warden. The footpath sign by the church has been broken and is lying in the churchyard.

**BROADBAND** The broadband connection has continued to work well with a majority of properties now being connected to the faster broadband.

**BT TELEPHONE BOX** The telephone box has now been repainted navy blue with the badge in gold and the phone removed so we are now waiting for the defibrillator to be installed and then will need to inform villagers and have a village training session.

**FLY TIPPING** This is an ongoing problem and affects all areas of the village. We have had rubbish dumped in the middle of the main road into the village , on the verge in North Piddle lane but particularly and regularly at the Seaford Picnic area where rubbish such as demolition materials, decaying animal carcasses and other unpleasant rubbish has been deposited. Most recently the remains of a burnt out caravan have been left on the car park at the picnic site. Wychavon are usually fairly prompt at removing the rubbish but it is a recurring problem and seems to involve increasingly unpleasant rubbish.

#### **4. Parish Council Accounts**

Clerk presented the accounts for 2018-19, these accounts had been subject to an internal audit. The opening balance stood at £7,439.61, expenditure during the year was £8,208.73 and the income received was £7,592.04. The closing balance was £6,822.92. The accounts were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

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Mr Howarth queried whether the new marquee storage was insured. Clerk to check insurance policy cover.

**5. District Councillors Annual Report - none received as Cllr Robinson was absent.**

**6. County Councillors Annual Report**

Cllr Adams reported in Cllr Robinson's absence that the recent elections had pleasingly resulted in some younger Councillors joining Wychavon District Council. However the number of spoiled ballot papers was significantly more this time due to Brexit.

Cllr Adams advised that over the previous 12mths the County Councils budget had been under great pressure with 70% being allocated to Looked After Children and Vulnerable Adults. It has been recognised that Worcestershire has one of the largest growing economies in the country. Improvements to the roads, particularly the bridges around Worcester have been major investments to encourage future investment within the county. Locally improvements at Pinvin crossroads are due to commence to improve traffic flow.

The Lengthsman Scheme is going to continue for the coming year it is recognised as representing good value for money. Every Councillor is allocated a budget re. pavements etc. so Cllr Adams encouraged for any issues to be reported. Sadly, rural crime has increased of specific note is the speeding vehicles through the villages, the speed activated signs seem to be effective where used. Some villages are now providing villagers with training to provide traffic monitoring. Finally Cllr Adams mentioned the Legacy Fund that is currently available and may be applicable for providing a toilet facility within the church grounds. Clerk to investigate.

**7. Annual Report of Parish Footpaths Warden**

**Mrs Holpin** was absent from the meeting, however due to other commitments had submitted her resignation from the post of Footpaths Warden. The Chairman recorded the Council's appreciation to Mrs Holpin for her contribution and hard work in performing her duties. This has resulted in a vacancy for the role, any interested members of the community are invited to apply.

**8. Reports submitted by community organisations:**

**Women's Institute - Mrs S. Grainger** - It's not until I sit down and write this report that I really appreciate the opportunities and activities that are available to us as WI members. Naunton Beauchamp is a small club with only 19 members but those 19 members are an enthusiastic and fun-loving bunch. Between us we have a go at so many things on a club, group and county federation level.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed a very varied programme. We have all seen Pam in a new light since hearing about her role in the making of a calendar girls style calendar with Kemerton WI. We have learnt to wrap wine bottles beautifully, although whether anyone could repeat that skill is debatable. We danced the night away Zumba style on a hot July evening,

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burning calories and disturbing the locals with our enthusiasm! We heard about Sue Johnstone's life as a writer and Carey Ratcliffe's sterling efforts with Teams 4 U Christmas box charity. We fell in love with Grace, Merleen Watson's hearing dog for the deaf, and marvelled at her skills. We enjoyed our Christmas party and then kicked off the New Year with an inspiring demonstration of bread making by our president. In February many of us were left with a feeling of camper van envy when Dee told us about her wonderful 3 month long trip across Europe to the Black Sea. We then learnt how town criers get to become town criers and how they act in a voluntary capacity to enhance local community events. Finally, last month we had a wonderful evening of entertainment by talented cellist, Corrine Frost.

On a social front we have enjoyed a summer meal at the Dolphin. The Betty Morgan Memorial croquet tournament hosted by Jackie Plant was won by Lynne Taylor, much to her great surprise! We held another successful festive skittles evening raising money for the club in the process.

The walking group has continued to venture out on a monthly basis. Although normally an intrepid bunch, we have had a couple of cancellations due to poor weather this year. We introduced an evening walk with a pub meal in June which was very successful and will be repeated this year.

Many of us have attempted to widen our skills by attending workshops put on by the County Federation. These workshops have included a floral workshop, needle felting, papercrafts for Christmas, A food safety course, an art course for beginners, willow weaving, and sugarcraft. Members also attended the ever popular Lucy Hingley Lecture on the prevention of colorectal cancer and the fascinating forensics lecture.

On a group level we attended a meeting hosted by Peopleton WI where Chrissy Barnes from the Enchanted Florists demonstrated the basics of Christmas wreath making. Several members also attended Fladbury and Moor's Daffodil evening

Dee Woolford attended the National Annual Meeting in Cardiff as delegate and was accompanied by Sally Grainger.

At the centenary Annual Council Meeting in October our president, Sally was awarded a certificate for becoming one of the new County Advisers. As a club we entered all but one class in the craft competitions (Pretty impressive for a small club) and Sally continued to shine by winning the cookery competition. She is now known as the canape queen! Our pack lunch provided by county was deliciously supplemented by Ros's petit fours left over from the joint exhibit entry.

Finally mention must be made of the skittle team's wonderful efforts in the county competition. Under the captaincy of Gill Edwards they reached the

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dizzy heights of runners up, congratulations to everyone who took part in this competition.

As a committee we would like to thank all the members for their support and enthusiasm which is so important to the running of our club.

We are mindful that membership numbers have remained low this year and one of our objectives for next year is to work on recruitment. Alongside this we want to continue with our ethos of fun and friendship while we pursue all of the opportunities available to us through our membership of the WI.

**Naunton Beauchamp Church - Mr Howarth.** The number of services in 2018 was only 14 compared to 20 in the previous year. There were; 3 Communion Services, 5 Morning Worship, 1 Teddy Bear Service, 1 Harvest Service, and 3 Christmas Services; a Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Day and 1 Baptism. The non-communion services were taken by Gill Jubb, Steve Reeves and Delia Harding and the communion services by Rev. Gary Noyes.

The church committee have met 4 times and the sale of the glebe land was successfully concluded during the year with the balance of the money from the sale (less professional costs) invested via the appropriate Church of England investment fund. Hopefully this will secure the good condition of the church for the foreseeable future.

Matters are being put in hand to get the essential work done as specified in the last quinquennial survey. With the help of volunteers the churchyard has been kept presentable.

Social Events have been Chocolate Bingo in March, Quiz night in May, Fete and Dog Show in June, Harvest Lunch in September.

The year has seen the culmination of the important changes in our finances and we were able to meet our Parish Share commitment in full. Much work has been done by the committee and Rev. Gary to effect these improvements. The committee has remained unchanged for several years and with only 5 members we need to recruit some new blood!

We thank all those who organise and take part in the social events and services and show their support for St. Bartholomews.

**Neighbourhood Watch - Mrs G Edwards.** I have been acting as a coordinator for Naunton Beauchamp Neighbourhood Watch for around 3 years. Our scheme description as recorded on the Neighbourhood Alert System is

*"The aim of the scheme in Naunton Beauchamp is to help residents to protect themselves and their property and to reduce the fear of crime. The scheme coordinator will act as a link between the village and the local police."*

The scheme was set up at the request of the Parish Council and I am listed through Neighbourhood Alert as a coordinator for the area Neighbourhood Watch. Details for the scheme can be accessed by anyone via the [ourwatchmember.org.uk](http://ourwatchmember.org.uk) (Neighbourhood Watch) online access.

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I receive e-mail alerts from Crimestoppers, the Local Authority, Neighbourhood Watch, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and Action Fraud. Coverage is for Warwickshire and West Mercia Police. Information from the community messaging round up includes: details of reported crimes, incidents and useful information on ways to protect yourself against these incidents from burglaries to vehicle crime. The priority level I have fixed for receipt of these messages is 3 - meaning I receive all high and medium level messages making the volume of information more manageable. As soon as these messages are received I e-mail them to my contacts. A recent addition has been a Neighbourhood Watch Magazine which is also e-mailed to the group. The latest version of this is for April 2019. These magazines contain useful toolkits which anyone can download providing useful information. I have also "liked" the Neighbourhood Watch Network Facebook page which allows me to receive updates and other news stories.

At the moment, there are 21 village members to whom I forward messages, and encourage them to pass onto other local people who may be interested.

Over the last 6 months or so - majority of alerts have related to cyber crime and ways to stay safe on-line as well as vehicle security. The existence of the group has also proved useful for sharing other information across the village (ie) in cases of missing pets. There is a huge resource of information and support available for Neighbourhood Watch.

Using streetcheck (for which I am now in receipt of updated crime reports) for Naunton Beauchamp there have been 4 reported crimes; 3 criminal damage and 1 theft.

I am happy to receive comments from the Parish Council as to whether the current arrangements are acceptable or whether further action is required.

**Annual Report from the Police - Mrs J Hemmings.** The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 02/05/2018 and 02/05/2019. Overall the Parish had 5 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 1 recordable crime the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

	2017/18	2018/19
Burglary Business		0
Burglary Residential		0
Theft of Vehicle	0	1
Theft from Vehicle		0
Criminal Damage		0

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Theft other	0	1
Other Offences	1	0

(Includes mostly domestic related incidents or concerns for welfare)

Overall the figures show a steady but low crime rate for the past few years. This year has seen a small increase in crime for Naunton Beauchamp, however the figures clearly present the picture that Naunton Beauchamp and the surrounding area is still a safe place to both live and work, however we all have a responsibility to ensure we maintain this.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

**Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team.** Non emergency phone number 101.

**This report concluded the meeting.  
at 8:20pm.**

**Meeting closed**

**SIGNED..... Chairman**  
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**Date**

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