

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF NAUNTON BEAUCHAMP

Held via zoom on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00pm

Present : Cllr A. Howarth (Chair) Cllr M. Rowe
 Cllr D. Hudson
 Cllr N. Roberson
 District Councillor L. Robinson
 Clerk

1. Apologies

County Councillor R. Adams
 Cllr L. Brennan

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in September 2020 were approved as true and correct.

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

Due to Covid restrictions our annual meeting last year was delayed until September 7th and like all our subsequent meetings held online via Zoom. We have had 3 meetings, November, January and March. My thanks go to all our Parish Councillors and to our District Councillor Linda Robinson and County Councillor Rob Adams. Rob is stepping down as a County Councillor at this election and we would like to thank him most sincerely for the work he has done for our village particularly with drainage issues and highways. We have always been able to rely on him listening to our concerns and representing our views at county level. We also want to thank him for his regular attendance at our meetings.

Other thanks also go to Peter Holpin for continuing to complete the internal audit of the Council's accounts and to Lisa Cope for her efficient work as our Parish clerk. Thanks also to Dave Hudson who regularly mows the green and Ros and Chris Pretty who mow and tidy the churchyard.

PLANNING

We have considered 4 planning applications involving house extensions, replacement windows in a listed building and the installation of a heat source pump, with no objections from the Parish Council, all have been approved.

PARISH LENGTHSMAN

This is a fully funded service provided by Wychavon. The lengthsman was unable to work during lock down as he was shielding a relative, he has now resumed work.

HIGHWAYS

We are still endeavouring to monitor traffic speeds through the village. Thanks to Councillor Roberson who has taken over the supervision of the battery-operated calming sign.

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Highways have continued to monitor the drain by the Main street bridge.

BT Telephone Box

The installed defibrillator has now been commissioned.

FLY TIPPING

We are still having problems with fly tipping both at the ford and down North Piddle lane. Wychavon have responded promptly to notifications of fly tipping, but the council is looking at ways to try and prevent people from just dumping rubbish such as recently we have had two loads of tyres dumped at the ford.

Litter

Having been provided from Wychavon with a set of litter picking tools, gloves, bags and hi vis jackets, villagers went round the village last Saturday to collect litter from hedgerows and verges. Thank you to all those who took part and thanks to several villagers who regularly collect litter throughout the year.

4. Parish Council Accounts

The council approved the accounts and following AGAR documents for 2020-21:

- a.** Certificate of exemption- AGAR 2020/21 Part 2
- b.** Section 1- Annual Governance Statement 2020/21
- c.** Section 2- Accounting Statements 2020/21

d. The accounts had been subject to an internal audit. The total annual gross income for the authority 2020/21 was £5, 738.83 and the total annual gross expenditure for the authority 2020/21 was £4,6437.10

5. District Councillors Annual Report

Having recently read my Annual report from last year's minutes, I am reminded yet again of what a huge effect Coronavirus has had and continues to have on our everyday lives.

The main difference between the position last September and now is undoubtedly the introduction of vaccines. More than half of the UK's population have now received an initial dose (Wychavon 66%). A quarter of adults are now fully immunised having received both doses. Vaccines are now being offered to the under 40's. This is testament to the key role councils continue to play in promoting vaccine uptake across our local communities. Many thanks to all our volunteers and health workers involved in the rollout. The Community testing Centre next to the Civic Centre in Pershore closed last week. Rapid tests are however available from selected local pharmacies and home testing kits can be collected from Pershore library.

As a direct consequence of these measures plus the effect of strict lockdown procedures our local infection rates are decreasing. Across Worcestershire they have fallen to levels not seen since August 2020. Wychavon's rate last week was down to 12 cases per 100,000. This however is not replicated across the whole of the country. The Prime Minister has warned us that we need to remain vigilant as we are 'not out of the woods just yet, as variants continue to pose a threat'. He

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states that we need to be 'realistic' about the prospect of a third wave of infections as lockdown measures are lifted between July and September.

Step three of the rollout is due from the 17th May when indoor leisure/entertainment and hospitality is due to re-open while mixing between two households or groups of six will be allowed inside. We can still expect some social distancing measures to continue in public places. Hopefully we can all look forward to all legal restrictions on social contact will ending on June 21st if infection levels remain low.

Wychavon's reception will re-open on the 21st June and virtual Council meetings look as though they will not be possible after the 6th May following a recent High Court hearing. We have however all learnt a new skill in participating in remote working which I am sure could continue to have benefits going forward.

Much effort from our Economy Team is now focussed on business Covid recovery and residents are being encouraged to shop local to support our traders and local businesses.

In closing I would like to thank your Parish Councillors, Chairman and Clerk for all their hard work on your behalf over the past year through such difficult unprecedented times. My thanks also go to your retiring County Councillor Rob Adams for giving me his invaluable wisdom and support throughout my development as your councillor.

6. County Councillors Annual Report

A very difficult year for everyone with Covid. My thoughts and prayers go out to all who have suffered losses of family members and friends. Never before have I experienced the County Council/District Council working so well together with the Here to Help campaign. This has been wonderfully supported by communities helping each other. Kindness is an understatement. I have continued to support your Parish Council at County level and try my best to get issues sorted regarding highways, speeding, flooding, planning and the rural bus service which I have supported with contributions from my Members Divisional fund in order to keep it running.

As I write this note to your Parish Annual meeting I am days away from retiring as your County Councillor after 16 years although I do remain on the District Council where I started back in 1999. I am committed to represent you and your Parish Council in my role as Executive Board Member for Strong Communities, Culture and Sport. It is important as we come out of lockdown that our economy grows together with supporting your family and businesses.

Thanks to all who have helped me represent your Parish.

7. Reports submitted by community organisations:

a) Women's Institute- Jackie Plant

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As for any organization, the past year and beyond has been unprecedented and challenging. We have missed meeting together as a group on a monthly basis at Upton Snodsbury VH. We have tried to maintain contact with members throughout this time. Initially this was mainly via email but over the summer months when restrictions lifted, we organised walks for those members who like to exercise and chat while enjoying our local countryside. We increased the frequency of these to fortnightly whenever it was allowed as it was one of the few activities that we could participate in as a small group. Since March 29th we have been delighted to be able to restart this. The latest ramble has been around Grafton Wood to enjoy the bluebells.

We have done our best to rise to the challenge of zoom meetings. We started off using the free package for social chats. We managed an enjoyable Christmas meeting, selecting a number of competitive games which worked well remotely. We also delivered goody bags to members to enjoy during the festive period including delicious mini-Christmas cakes baked by our president, Sally Grainger. Since Christmas we have joined up with Fernhill Heath WI to share a zoom pro package so that we could pay to have speakers. This has given us the opportunity to attend their meetings as well as to invite them to our own. We have had a flower demonstration, a talk by a theatre lighting director and a surprisingly effective opportunity to be guided through a self-massage of the head, face and neck. We all slept well after that meeting! Not all members have taken to this way of socialising and sadly 3 members chose not to re-join when subs were due last month.

There are a few new faces in the village, and we are hoping to be able to boost our diminishing numbers as the country opens up and life returns to something like normal. Lockdown has made us all even more aware of the importance of our community and being able to spend quality time with friends.

b) Naunton Beauchamp Church- Mrs Jubb

As for all our normal activities, 2020 was an unusual year for the church here in Naunton Beauchamp with the church closed for much of the year to comply with national COVID 19 guidance.

3 services were held at the start of the year and then the church was closed until 27 September when a service of thanksgiving was held. We were then able to start monthly services again following a full risk assessment and also held an advent reflective service on 6 December and a Crib service on 24 December.

In 2020 there were no marriages, one burial and 2 internments of ashes.

Outdoor worship was started with an act of remembrance on 8 November on the green and carol singing on 20 December. Both were very well attended and fully socially distanced. It is interesting to note that villagers attended these outdoor acts of worship who would not normally attend church services so we need to think about how to maintain involvement of these families.

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Despite the church being closed, cards were distributed around the village offering help and support to those in need and the church maintained its presence with weekly reflections on the notice board, emails to those who wished and Bell ringing for special occasions. Online services were available to those who were able to access them. We were also able to have a virtual village bingo night with a takeaway fish and chip supper from the green. This helped families to remain connected and provide social interaction. It is hoped that monthly services will be able to start again very soon.

In May there was a reorganisation of the churches as we welcomed Rev Emma Goldby as our priest in charge and said goodbye to Rev Gary Noyes who has partially retired. It has also been sad to say goodbye to our friends in Bishampton and Throckmorton who moved into the Five Alive group of churches with the re-organisation. Flyford Flavell, North Piddle and Grafton Flyford are now working as a single parish and we join with them and Abberton to remain a smaller group.

Thanks go to all the committee for their work this year in difficult times. We look forward to 2021 with the return of services and other social activities. The first service of 2021 should be held on Sunday 2 May.

c) Neighbourhood Watch- Gill Edwards

I have been acting as a coordinator for Naunton Beauchamp Neighbourhood Watch for the last 4 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 (Neighbourhood Watch) online access.

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. These e-mails contain useful toolkits and links which anyone can download providing useful information. I have also "liked" the Neighbourhood Watch Network Facebook page that allows me to receive updates and other news stories. At the moment, there are 20 village

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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 shopping 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. During lockdown the village has become closer with neighbours providing much needed support for each other. The Naunton Beauchamp Facebook page that has proved popular with residents and a useful tool through which we share information and news.

Using Streetcheck (for which I am in receipt of updated crime reports) from September 2020 – February 2021 within a mile range of the centre of Naunton Beauchamp there have been 3 reported crimes, two public order offences 1 violence/sexual assault. In all cases, the police have been unable to prosecute the suspect. I am happy to receive comments from the Parish Council as to whether the current arrangements are acceptable or whether further action is required. Moving forward into 2021, I am proposing to liaise if possible, with other local neighbourhood watch teams to learn from their experiences and to gather more information and/or literature to expand the scheme in our village. I am also in the process of having the scheme approved to allow it to become a fully functional scheme by a local administrator which will allow access to further material.

d) Footpaths Officer- Gayle Rowe

Enclosed is a fairly up to date assessment of the Parish footpaths, as you know ill health has prevented me from walking many of these in the last few months, however Fiona Argyle and I did meet in the village and identified a number of problem sites in December 2019.

- The stile by the ford had collapsed, the land owners were notified and provided with a new stile which they have kindly erected.
- The owners of Rotherdale Farm were contacted and asked to clear the footpaths around their property namely the one which runs along the back of the greenhouses, this may have been done at the time, unfortunately I was not been able to check on this and it now appears to be overgrown again.
- The footbridge between Grove Farm and the orchard belonging to Vale Landscape Trust has been replaced by the Trust after it was washed away.
- A stile that sits on the edge of Naunton Court land and the main road B4082 is leaning at an impossible angle, I'm not sure if Mr Gracie has been contacted but as far as I know nothing has been done by him to improve the access. I will follow up with Fiona.
- The bridge that crosses a ditch on the footpath that heads north out of NB towards North Piddle is in need of repair, the handrail is not safe. I will also discuss this with Fiona.

On the whole the footpaths in the parish are well tended by the landowners,

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there are a few exceptions, they have been notified in the past but are resistant to change.

Please feel free to let me know of any other issues regarding signage or stile decay and I can contact Fiona to hopefully sort out a solution. All of Naunton Beauchamp footpaths fall into a low priority area regarding funding as the footfall is generally quite low and resources at county level are continually trimmed.

8. Questions from members of the public

None

**This report concluded the meeting.
at 7:20pm.**

Meeting closed

SIGNED..... Chairman
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Date

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