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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Naunton, held in Naunton Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Present:** Cllr Bev Chance (Chairman), Cllr Charles Hanks (Vice Chairman), Cllr Keith Russell, and Cllr David Pickup. One member of the public.

**In attendance:** Maxi Freeman (Clerk)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.
2. **Apologies** None received.
3. **Minutes**  
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were accepted by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Reports** (Note: Only highlights of the reports are included here. Full reports are available on the website: [www.nauntonpc.org.uk](http://www.nauntonpc.org.uk))
  - **Gloucestershire County Council – Report from Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington**
    - \* Gloucestershire Highways continues to address potholes with a programme of resurfacing as well as temporary fixes. The maintenance budget has increased by 22%. The Councillor’s Local Highways Budget of £30,000 is also available to residents and Parish councils. Note that you can report potholes and other problems with roads on the GCC ‘Report it’ webpage:  
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>
    - \* A programme to mitigate flooding disasters in the county has been agreed.
    - \* The Councillor is working with the relevant GCC officers and the local communities to address the problems caused to residents by the cluster of quarries in the North Cotswolds.
    - \* 60% of GCC’s revenue goes towards funding social services
    - \* A number of bus routes have been reinstated and ‘The Robin’ has been introduced to serve residents in isolated villages.
    - \* The North Cotswold Line Task Force is working to improve train services, including installing dual track where it is missing.
    - \* The number of officers in the Gloucestershire police is increasing.
  - **Cotswold District Council – Report from Cllr Richard Keeling**  
Cllr Richard Keeling reported on the continuing delays with processing planning applications due partly to understaffing and absences. Poor staff morale is being addressed with an employee Recognition Scheme. The Council’s budget had increased by 12% on last year’s. He highlighted the following items of CDC expenditure:
    - \* The proposed ‘borrow to invest’ scheme had been dropped as a result of intervention by Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, and CDC councillors.

- \* Council reserves will fall from £13.2m (2019) to £2.1m (2027)
- \* Council Tax, Garden Waste and car parking charges have all risen.
- \* £22.5m will be used to refurbish 3 leisure centres and the Corinium Museum as well as contributing to the A417 'Missing link'.

- **St Andrew's Parish Church and its Parochial Church Council - report from Diana Woolley, Hon Sec, Parochial Church Council.**

Some pandemic measures have been retained due to the absence of the Rector on sabbatical and the curate on maternity leave. The weekly morning service has been held and Zoom services also take place.

Major services are generally well attended. A special service on the anniversary of the outbreak of the Ukraine war was also well attended and it is planned to hold more special services. The village Rural Cinema has returned to the church from the village hall. Coffee shop, Music concerts and other events are also back to normal. Thanks to all those who have helped to keep the church operating and the village a happy place. Special thanks to three people who have retired for the PCC Julia Law, Bob Steiner and Graham Hunter whose help and guidance will be greatly missed.

- **Naunton Dovecote Trust – Report from Penelope Hanks, Chairman, Naunton Dovecote Trust**

There has not been much activity over the past 12 months however, the picnic and duck racing was well attended. Proceed went to a charity supporting local Ukrainian refugees, and to the North Cotswold Food Bank.

Two gates have been replaced with new ones in a traditional, local Cotswold design. The trustees will be taking action to encourage wildlife at the site, especially otters. Sixteen new 'Friends' of the Dovecote have recently been recruited. They will also be organising the next projects -bringing mains water to the stable block, create a small kitchen, a disabled WC and storage.

- **Village Hall Committee – Report from Nikky Shergold, Chair, Naunton Village Hall Trustees Committee**

The village hall has welcomed some new trustees and has benefitted from grants received during the pandemic. This enabled the hall to charge low hire fees when it reopened. Full prices are now being charged, with a small rise recently due to cost of living increases.

Seven groups meet regularly at the village hall. Popular events continue to be organised and new events, such as Curry Night, have been introduced.

The new staircase to the first floor storage has been installed providing access to a storage area and office space. Fundraising is high on our plan for next year so that the village hall can continue to provide the amenities that the village needs and wants

- **Flood Relief Committee – Report from Keith Russell**

The annual river clearing took place in October 2023 and was well supported. The river continues to flow well. The Committee met the Cotswold River Trust in March. The Trust covers the Thames tributaries in the Cotswold AONB.

The Windrush is very clean through the village and the Riverfly Partnership is monitoring the quality, so that we can easily identify any severe changes in water quality.

Blocked drains were cleared but more work is needed on a regular basis.

- **Naunton Social Committee - Report from Pat Boulton**

The new 'Progressive Supper' in May was very well attended but the biggest event was the Jubilee party, attended by 275 people. Despite bad weather collapsing gazebos the night before, local support made sure the event took place. A hog roast, bar and games were provided. Attendees toasted the late queen, and the village queen Joan Mitchel, who judged the crown competition. There was also a cake competition. The Committee also organised the following – Open Gardens two plays, a Craft Fair and the first New Year's Eve party in many years.

- **Public rights of way – Report from Neil Vincent, warden**

There has been a little clearance during the year. A new permissive path has been opened to replace a dangerous section of the Wardens Way which followed the B4068 at Eyford.

- **Neighbourhood Watch – Report from Diana Woolley**

A total of 25 messages have been distributed to 70 addresses, which covers 104 recipients. This includes some people who have left the village but still wish to be kept informed. A few new residents have also joined. The majority of the messages relate to scams and fraud.

- **Naunton Cricket Club – Report from William Davies**

The club arranged 15 matches last year and played 13, winning about half of them. The Club has 90 members. To help raise further funds the Club will be organising more social events this year.

**5. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Beverley Chance**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports and noted the many changes which the Parish Council had weathered during the past 12 months. Highlights included the successful use of the GCC 'Report it' web page; and the PC's gifts to local children at both the Jubilee the Coronation celebrations.

The issue of the damage to the turf in the cricket field due to the annual bonfire has still not been resolved.



The outstanding balance of the £100,000 Public Works Loans Board loan which the PC took on to help rebuild the Village Hall now stands at £79,650.

The Chairman then thanked Councillors for their contributions and commitment to serving the community.

As the Chairman had not stood for re-election this year, Councillors and the public thanked the outgoing Chairman, Bev Chance, sincerely for her 24 years of service to the community as a Councillor and as Chairman of Naunton Parish Council.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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