**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the**

**Parish of Naunton, held in Naunton Village Hall**

**at 7.00pm on Monday 21st May 2018**

**Present:** Cllr Bev Chance (Chairman), Cllr Charlie Hanks (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Bell, Cllr Keith Russell, and Cllr David Pickup. Maxi Freeman (Clerk) and two parishioners were present.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.
2. **Apologies** None, as all councilors attended.
3. **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 22 May 2017 were signed at the 17th July 2017 meeting.

1. **Reports** (Note: Only highlights of the reports are included here. Full reports are available on the website).

* **Cotswold District Council**

The Chairman read the report from Cllr Richard Keeling, which focused on the freeze in the authority’s share of local residents’ council tax payments for 2018 and the real term reduction of 45% since 2005. This makes CDC the 21st lowest District Council charge in the country. Cllr Keeling also mentioned the freeze on parking charges; the benefits of forming Publica Group to provide services to 4 councils (Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean and West Oxfordshire), including savings of £5.6million a year by 2020 and £41milllion over 10 years. The Cotswold Community Awards were introduced and Planning Enforcement training was mentioned as well as a £750 grant towards WW1 Centenary projects.

* **Gloucestershire County Council**

The Chairman read the report from Cllr Nigel Moor, which explained that the council tax increase was 4.49%, resulting in a 2.3% increase in adult social care and a 28% increase in funds for children’s services.

An extra £150 million will be invested in highways. The highways contract has been broken down into three areas: highways maintenance; highways structural maintenance (already awarded to Tarmac) and highways professional services.

Street lights are being converted to LED to reduce carbon emissions across the county. Regarding traffic, one of Cllr Moor’s objectives is to reduce significantly the amount of heavy traffic through Stow by removing the A429 from the freight routes through Gloucestershire. Highways England has excluded the A429 from the national strategic roads network and the 2nd tier Major Roads Network. As a result, HGVs will be directed away from the Fosse Way as organisations become aware of the new designation as only a ‘Local Highway’.

* **Gloucestershire Police**

The Chairman read the report form Gloucestershire Police. The number ofincidents fell from 9 in 2016/17 to 8 in 2017/18 and Naunton remains one of the safest parishes in Gloucestershire.

* **Naunton Cricket Club**

Cllr Hanks read the report from the Chairman Will Davies. The club has lots of home g ames throughout June, July and August. Having several captains helps when it comes to organising teams. The club is in a strong financial position and funds will be used to repaint the clubhouse and repair the decking. The clubi s pleased to have Mr David Hallswoth as its annual President especially as he was the main organiser in the acquisition of the club house.

* **Village Social Committee**

Cllr Chance read the report from Pat Boult, Social Chair. Due to the closure of the Village Hall for over 6 months, it has not been possible to hold the usual events. Those that were held (Classic car rally, Bonfire night, Progressive Supper) were very successful and contributed funds to the Village Hall project.

* **Village Hall Committee**

Cllr Chance read the report provided by Ian Adcock, Chair of the Village Hall Trust. The past 12 months have been some of the most momentous in the hall’s 80-year history, with improvement work starting at the end of 2017, following a period of fund raising over the past few years. Major contributions were received from resident of Naunton and from an increase in the precept to provide a loan via the Parish Council. The builders finished in May 2018 and, to minimise costs, certain jobs are being undertaken by local volunteers. The renewed hall is expected to re-open at the end of July for a village celebration; a separate marketing event will be held to promote the hall to potential users. The Chair thanked everyone who had been involved.

* **Neighbourhood Watch report**

Cllr Chance read the Neighbourhood Watch report provided by Diane Woolley. A total of 73 messages were received and distributed to 69 addresses on the mailing list. Alerts received from the police are filtered for relevance before being distributed. Many of the messages are advisory rather than warnings, and some relate to the Naunton ‘phantom’. GDPR regulations do not apply to Neighbourhood Watch emails.

* **Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for St Andrew’s Church** The PCC has met four times since the last report. Eight special services have been held throughout the year, along with the Wednesday morning prayer services and several other regular village activities. There has been little fundraising for the church due to the renovation of the village hall and it’s extended closure. Several village organisations used the church for meetings while the village hall was closed.

* **Dovecote Society**

Cllr Chance read the report from the Chairman of the Dovecote Society, Penny Hanks. Building works were delayed due to bad weather but phase 1 is nearing completion. Excavating the ‘leats’ revealed stoneworks in excellent condition. Further excavation is planned under the lean-to. Safety fencing and information displays will be added before the opening to the public, the date of which is expected to be rescheduled for summer this year.

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

The Chairman reported that this year sewerage, drains, ditches and grips had all caused problems which the Council dealt with. However, the Chairman reminded residents that it can sometimes be helpful if more people would report problems using the ‘Report it’ website because more complaints should raise the issue higher up the priority list. Blocked drains, overgrown vegetation, road hazards and many other issues can all be reported on this site: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-rights-of-way/roads/report-it/>.

A large number of planning applications has been reviewed, most of which were approved. However, a disappearing bat loft and a new equestrian business raised issues.

The Chairman thanked the snow wardens, who were called into action on several occasions this winter; the Flood Monitor Group for taking on the monitoring of the river level and overseeing smooth operations in the future; PCC St Andrews for allowing the council to meet there; the Cricket Club for allowing the council to meet there; and the Black Horse for hosting the defibrillator training; the households which hosted group meetings as well as the refreshments after the Remembrance Service while the Village Hall has been out of action. The Chairman then thanked the councillors for their many and varied contributions to the maintenance and improvement of village facilities.

1. **Questions from the floor to be answered by Councillors**No questions were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.