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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Naunton, held in Naunton Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 20th May 2024

Present: Cllr Charles Hanks (Chairman), Cllr David Pickup, Cllr Keith Russell, Cllr Gibberson.
Three members of the public.

In attendance: Maxi Freeman (Clerk)

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.
 2. **Apologies** Received from Cllr Barnes in advance.
 3. **Minutes.** Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 were approved 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.)
 - **Gloucestershire County Council – Report from Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington**
GCC is introducing several new initiatives this year including:
 - * **New technology for Highways.** A spray injection patcher, which can tackle 1000 potholes a day; equipment to remove whole sections of road surfaces and resurface and the ability to use recycled road surface materials.
 - * **A Gloucestershire Flood Guide** which explains what to do in a flood (<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flood-risk-management/flooding-information/flood-guide/>)
 - * **Financial support for community projects** through a number of funds including the Build Back Better funding allocation to each Councillor.
 - * **Youth and mental health** projects, refugee support and the launch of choirs at local libraries aimed at reducing loneliness.
 - **Cotswold District Council – Report from Cllr Len Wilkins**
Cllr Wilkins reported that CDC was experiencing a shortage of funding and was working to improve the situation. Further points included:
 - * **Changes in the planning process.** Once an application is on the planning portal, respondents only have 28 days in which to post comment including objections.
 - * **Planning enforcement** is subject to a backlog and delays as there is only 1 officer at present due to resignations.
 - * **Mobile CCTV** has been installed at sites where fly tipping occurs regularly. Several offenders have been caught and fined. The maximum fine has risen to £1,000. Residents can also report fly tipping on the 'Report-it' site on the CDC website: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/report-it/>
 - * **Publica**, the shared service administration body formed by 4 local District councils, is being dissolved at some expense to CDC and its partners.
 - * 2024 is the **50th anniversary of CDC**. Several public celebrations will be organised.
- Cllr Hanks thanked Cllr Wilkins for his report and support and advice during the year.

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

Due to limited clergy time, the number of services in St Andrew's has continued to be less than it had been pre pandemic. Zoom services take place twice a week and six services are usually held at the church each month.

Major services such as Remembrance Sunday, Carol service and Midnight Mass as well as Easter services are generally well attended. The rural cinema, Thursday morning coffee shop and Naunton Music concerts all continue. There was also another interesting talk by Paul Roberts and a Lent Lunch, both held in the Village Hall, and once again the Spirit of Naunton service was held at The Black Horse.

Thanks to all those who have helped to keep the church operating and the village a happy place. Special thanks go to Michael Cronk and Joan Mitchell who will both be retiring from the PCC at the end of May.

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

Little progress has been made on the projects outlined at the last annual parish meeting, particularly in creating the working model. A student from Cotswold School had agreed to make the model but nothing was delivered and no responses were received from the school or the student. The original designer may be able to help later this year.

The Trust received an unexpected donation this year so is currently well funded. The picnic and duck race were well attended. Another event is planned for 29th July.

There are many visiting walkers and the Trust tries to balance the visitors' expectations of being able to get to the riverbank with the need to protect the wildlife from disturbances. Mrs Hanks thanked one of the volunteers in particular – Gill Bell – for mowing the grassed areas.

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

AGM - All trustees were re-elected at the AGM, which was well attended. The Trust is working towards a sustainable future for the hall. The bank balance remains healthy but a long-term strategy for a sinking fund is required. The Social Committee agreed to become a sub-committee within the Trust. It focuses on raising funds for long term maintenance and improvements to the hall. AGM attendees were walked through the new website and taken on a tour of the newly refurbished hall, bar and storage area.

Activities - Seven groups meet regularly at the village hall, including the new 'Move it and Lose it' fitness class. The hall has also been hired for a number of other activities.

Fund Raising – Fund raising events include the Lounge Bar being open twice a month in winter, plus several other special events – Naunton Games, Fireworks, Christmas Cheese and wine and a bi-annual New Years Eve event.

Maintenance - The Trustees are currently creating a plan for improvements – urgent, moderate and general. Carbon footprint reductions are also being considered.

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

The annual river clearing took place in October 2023 and was well supported. Although water levels were high, no property in the village was damaged. A tree overhanging the river was cleared in March as the owner had not responded to letters to clear the tree themselves. The Flood Warden reminded residents who own a riverbank are legally responsible for maintaining the unobstructed flow of the river. The Chairman thanked Cllr Russell and the Flood Committee for their work protecting the village.

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

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, Diana has sent out 29 messages. Regrettably the majority have continued to be related to scams and fraud. Diana receives far more messages, mainly from the Action Fraud squad, but about half are not relevant to Naunton and so are not forwarded.

- **Naunton Cricket Club – Report from Scott Keating**

This year the club has grown, with several younger players joining. The club also has more supporters in the village. 13 fixtures were arranged but 3 were cancelled due to bad weather. Of the 10 played, Naunton won 6. Other changes include a new grounds man, a new mower and hot water in the pavilion. Scott thanked Charlie Hanks for his continuing help and Peter Bell for co-ordinating and supporting the club in many ways.

5. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council – Cllr Charles Hanks

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports and noted that the village was still a very vibrant community. He encouraged residents and village organisations to contact the parish council to see if they could help on any village improvement projects.

The Chairman thanked the previous Chairman - Beverley Chance – for her 25 years of service as Councillor and as Chairman for some of that time. He also thanked the clerk. Fortunately, the PC is now up to full strength, with 5 councillors.

The PC carried out a wide range of activities including working with GCC Highways and providing financial support for the village hall - 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 £77,465. The PC has also improved the recreation field and completely renewed the playground. Future projects include working to reduce speeding and inappropriate parking in the village and replacing an aged bench.

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

Signed
Chairman

Date: 19th May 2025