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

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

**at 6.30pm on Monday 16th May 2022**

**Present:** Cllr Bev Chance (Chairman), Cllr Charlie Hanks (Vice Chairman), Cllr Peter Bell, Cllr Keith Russell, and Cllr Peter Bell.

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

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.
2. **Apologies** Received in advance from Councillor Pickup.
3. **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th May 2021 were accepted by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

1. **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**

Gloucestershire County Council is working hard to maintain and improve its services at reduced cost to residents, and in the face of the pandemic. Key areas of extra spending include: road improvements, new cycle routes, new and improved school buildings, care for vulnerable adults, climate change measures, Community Speedwatch budget, ‘Build Back Better’ budget, new Fire and Rescue Service equipment (who donated old equipment to Ukraine) and better Children’s Services. Following changes to the team, this last now has a good OFSTED report. 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/>

* **Cotswold District Council – Report from Cllr Richard Keeling**

Cllr Richard Keeling reported on the continuing sense of community across the Cotswold villages, then highlighted some items of CDC expenditure:

\* a borrowing requirement of £12.6 million (which he had not supported due to concerns over increased costs to residents).

\* increases in green bin licenses and car park charges

\* £350,00 for council employee training

\* £400,000 for feasibility studies for net carbon zero social housing

\* £900,00 spent on consultations with a further £629,000 approved.

Across the wider Cotswold area:

\* The boundary commission is considering creating two Cotswold constituencies - one in the north and one in the south.

\* A consultation on changing the status of AONBs to National Parks.

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

Weekly Sunday morning services on Zoom (which proved so welcome during lockdown) are being maintained and gradually the number of services inside the church has increased with well-attended almost normal services on Remembrance Sunday, for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and for Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. The Carol Service was held in the churchyard and Good Friday children’s activities were held mainly in the church. There have also been funerals, a baptism and a recent family blessing. Wednesday morning prayers and the Thursday morning coffee shop are now operating normally. However, Naunton Music activity has been limited and the rural cinema continues in the Village Hall temporarily.

There is currently no church warden so duties are shared between PCC members. .

As always, thanks are owed to all those who have helped to keep our church operating as a place of worship and to keep our village such a happy place

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

Since the last report, further works have been hampered as the designer of the working model of the turbine has stood down but alternative help is being recruited. The trust has decided to build a disabled WC and small kitchen in unit 4 of the stable block. Trustees continue to maintain the site in sympathy with wildlife but will remove the fallen tree which could block river flows.

Finances are good, with of Friends’ contributions, donations, grants and legacies. A ‘Rain and Shine’ performance and a Duck Racing Day are planned for later this year.

* **Village Hall Committee – Report from Louise Goll, Chair, Naunton Village Hall Trustees Committee s Ukrainian**

The village hall is in a good state of repair and with healthy funds, having received £31,270 in Government Grants during Covid restrictions. At the end of this financial year the hall had £28,864 in its account.

In the final quarter of the year the hall was back in full operation with 9 groups using it regularly. A curry night raised £1200 for the Disaster and Emergencies Committee’s support for Ukrainian refugees. Hall fees are still being waived for village organisations and groups but this will be reviewed in light of rising energy costs. Grateful thanks are due to committee members for their time and efforts, and the community for maintaining and repairing the hall.

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

River clearing has been well maintained again with the annual event in October being well supported by volunteers. A ‘walkabout’ meeting with the Community Flood Resilience officer from Community Action in Gloucestershire discussed ways to reduce the risk of future flooding and flood planning. We hope to see the problem with blocked drains improved to reduce flooding risks.

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.

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

Due to Covid restrictions, a very quiet year. In July restrictions eased and the monthly breakfast club restarted. It has been well attended ever since. The October Fish & Fizz was sold out and on November 5th the return of the bonfire and fireworks was hugely popular. We hope to be more sociable o 2022-2023.

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

The working party for the area has not met as often as usual but has completed the installation of new waymark posts just above The Brake in Naunton. Other small works have been carried out personally. As working party activities resume, further improvements will be scheduled.

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

A total of 45 messages have been distributed to 68 addresses, although this includes some people who have left the village but still wish to be kept informed. However, none of the newer residents have signed up yet.

The majority of messages are from the Police and continue to be related to scams and fraud. For the record, I continue only to pass on about half of the "alerts" which I receive, limiting what I forward to matters which I consider relevant to the Naunton community.

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

Relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions enabled the club to host 11 of the 13 Wednesday matches scheduled – 2 were called off due to the weather - with 9 wins and 2 losses.

Members enjoyed Friday evening social events with a meat raffle and open bar.

Sufficient money was raised to ensure care of the grounds with a surplus used to update the bar and for pavilion repairs. The coming season promises to be a very good one, with some 90 annual members already enrolled and a similar number of matches to last year arranged.

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

Thankfully the Parish Council was able to return to normal face-to-face meetings. Over the past year we have seen 24 residential planning applications ranging from changing of windows to the demolition and new build of one property and 20 applications for tree maintenance works. A few applications are still awaiting a decision from CDC and one has now been withdrawn.

The outstanding balance of the £100,000 Public Works Loans Board loan to rebuild the Village Hall now stands at £83,934.42.

Councillors have attended meetings of the Quarry Stakeholders Group and several Cotswold District Council forums as well as meeting GCC Highways and the Environment Agency officers for a walkabout around the village.

The 1,000 whips which Naunton PC secured from the GCC Ash Die Back scheme have been planted on the southern boundary of Breedon’s quarry. Our thanks go to Breedon for accommodating these and for covering the planting costs.

The Parish Council continues to supply dog waste bags (over 6,000 this year alone) and the issue of fouling has improved slightly in some areas of the village. The Chairman thanked the community spirited parishioners who continue to carry out informal litter picking in and around the village.

The Parish Council supported the Playground Project, led by Cllr Charlie Hanks and his committee, with successful grant applications for £9,374 plus a donation of £2,500 from PC funds. These, together with the PC’s VAT claim, added to the tremendous generosity of parishioners in making the project such a big success.

As ever, parking continues to be an issue in the village but, other than urging people to inundate the police with calls, the Parish Council has no powers to help with this problem.

The Chairman then thanked the Councillors for their contributions and commitment to continuing to serve the community in challenging times, as well as thanking the Clerk.

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 18.48.

Signed ……………………………………………………… Chairman

Date: 15 May 2023