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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Naunton, held in Naunton Village Hall at 6.00pm on Monday May 2021

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

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish meeting.
2. **Apologies** None, as all councillors attended.
3. **Minutes**
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 May 2019 were accepted 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.)

- **Cotswold District Council – Report from Councillor Richard Keeling**

Cllr Richard Keeling reported on the past 2 year's activities during Covid restrictions, noting the sense of community and the way that local villages had looked after everyone who needed help or support during the pandemic.

Among the changes since the new CDC was elected, Cllr Keeling noted an increase in the cost of garden waste collection, and increase in car parking charges, the replacement of the community grant scheme with a crowdfunding platform at a cost of £30,000 p.a., the removal of the Ward Member's ability to refer planning applications to the Planning Committee automatically. A new fly-tipping reporting tool was supported by Cllr Keeling although he was not able to support the revised CDC budget due to lack of detail in its proposal to borrow £65 million. Cllr Keeling also advised the parish that the CDC Planning Department had a serious shortage of officers and asked for patience while this issue was resolved.

- **St Andrew's Parish Church, Report from Diane Woolley, Hon Sec, Parochial Church Council.**

The pandemic has had a major impact on the Church's activities and full normal service has not yet been resumed. Volunteers have been cleaning the church so that supervised and unsupervised prayer could take place. Four Sunday services, nine Holy Communion and one small wedding have taken place between lockdowns. Pastoral care has been provided by telephone, email and Zoom, with Zoom services continuing on Sundays. Most social events had to be cancelled but the coffee shop should open soon and Naunton Music is planning events.

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

Since the last report, restoration of the lean to, the Dovecote and the turbine shed has been completed. The next project is to bring basic facilities to the stable block. Lockdown brought many visitors and Gill Bell volunteered to tidy the site regularly. Visitors also damaged some walls, which have since been repaired. During lockdown Penny Hanks and Stuart Corbyn created a website for the Dovecote rear, while Gill and Peter Bell mowed the area regularly.

The Trust is developing an Environmental Policy to manage the site without disturbing wildlife by the river. Due to Health and Safety regulations a number of signs are necessary on site, and 'No Parking' signs will be erected shortly.

- **Village Hall Committee – report from Louise Goll, Chair, Naunton Village Hall Trustees Committee**

Prior to lockdown, income from the village hall was sufficient to build a reserve fund. During lockdown, government grants enabled the Trustees to set aside a reserve fund for future urgent repairs or improvements. Due to the stability of the hall's finances, hall fees are being waived for village organisations and groups using the hall during 2021/22.

Running repairs are being carried out during lockdown and the village community has continued to maintain and repair the hall and its environs. This includes the Parish Council's repairs to the boundary wall, flower bed reinstatement by Claire Fazan and Rick Rawlings with plants donated by the Gardening Club. The Trustees would like to thank volunteers Angela and Graham Cossey, Pat Boulton, Bill Nesbitt, Bob Steiner, Dougie Hindley, Peter Bell and Chris Goll in particular. Future improvements include a screen for presentations, speakers and a cooker hood.

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

River clearing has been well attended and the river has flowed well through the past two wet winters. On 23rd December 2020 the most severe single day of rainfall since 2007 occurred, a reminder of the threat from flooding. The Parish Council has donated a further 50 Aquasacks for use in flood risk periods.

The Flood Group will meet later this year to plan other actions to prepare Naunton for possible future flood events.

The Naunton Flood Alert Service has been set up to manage the water level monitoring gauge, which provides live data to residents who subscribe to the service.

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

Many of the Committee's events involve large crowds gathering so could not be held during lockdown. In between lockdowns, the Committee organised an annual 'Fish & Fizz' evening and an annual 'Progressive Supper'. Future events include a self-catered, socially distanced, village picnic in June, and a smaller bonfire night than usual. The monthly breakfast club is likely to restart in July.

- **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.

- **Gloucestershire Police**

The local police team covering the Bourton area, which includes Naunton, is PC Peter Escolme – who joined in April 2021 - and PSCO Charlie Symes. During the pandemic the types of incidents they dealt with included many new and different situations in addition to the usual events.

Foot patrols will resume in summer and they will also be using two electric bicycles to patrol more effectively. Police will also be conducting speed checks and general traffic check points to support the PCC Policing Plan: Safe & Social Driving. Please report all concerns via the 101 phone line or use the email on the police website <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>. Using other, less formal, channels means that the amount and type of demand is not recorded and resources cannot be allocated correctly. Dial 999 if a crime is in progress or if life is in danger.

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

A total of 130 messages were distributed to 69 addresses on the mailing list, which includes some people who have left the village but still wish to be kept informed. Alerts are mainly received from the police and many relate to scams and fraud. During the past year several scams have tried to take advantage of the vulnerable during the pandemic restrictions. Sadly, the 'phantom' has not delivered any items since Easter 2019.

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

The cricket field continued to be maintained during lockdown and the parish council has dealt with the dog fouling issue.

All matches this year will be held on a midweek evening as it has been difficult to call upon players for Sunday games. To help meet the increasing cost of field maintenance a social membership will be offered to all for a £10.00 donation. The club will be open on match evenings subject to Covid laws and other fund-raising events will be held.

- **Cotswold Friends – report from Susie Bromwich, Fundraising Manager**

Cotswold Friends were very grateful for the donation from Naunton Parish Council, which helped them to adapt services for older people and support them during a year of isolation. This included doorstep deliveries, telephone befriending, emergency drives, a 'scrub hub', newsletter activities, and a book and jigsaw lending library

Over Christmas nearly 300 Christmas telephone befriending phone calls were made by volunteers and staff. Easter gift bags were again made up and delivered and included Easter cards with personal messages from local school children.

This year Cotswold Friends will rebuild Community Activities Programmes, Develop Carer Support Services, create a hospital service and an Independence Service, to help frail individuals, as lockdown lifts, to regain some measure of self-reliance.

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

The Chairman thanked the village community spirit, with many volunteers on hand to help. The parish council had continued its work during the pandemic, using Zoom for meetings and responding to 60 planning applications since May 2019. The Parish Council expressed concern over the size and suitability of one small barn conversion as well as sharing the concerns of many residents regarding the impact of developments at the golf club on the existing sewage system.

Parking on pavements and on junctions as well as large vehicles entering the village were reported frequently to the parish council, although signs are already in place to advise against these. Further action would involve a village survey and a cost of £10,000 for any Road Traffic Orders (RTO's). Litter and dog fouling have also been hot topics., leading to the recreation field being designated a 'dogs on leads only' area.

The Chairman reminded residents to report any issues with roads, potholes or drainage on the Gloucestershire County Council Highways 'report-it' website - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/> Residents can also comment on local planning applications through the Cotswold District Council planning website - <https://publicaccess.cotswold.gov.uk/online-applications/>

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.

6. 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 18.28.

Signed Chairman

Date: 16 May 2022