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**Annual Reports to Naunton Parish Meeting, May 2021**

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## 1. CDC councillor Richard Keeling's report –April 2020 to April 2021

The year has of course been dominated by the Covid Pandemic, and whilst I don't plan to spend much time talking of this, I would like to say how impressed and encouraged I've been by the way our villages have pulled together to ensure that everyone was looked after and the needy helped. You might wonder sometimes about the state of our society, but when the chips are down there is always a tremendously heart-warming response – 'Community' is alive and active here!

March 2020 saw a change in the refuse and recycling operations with the roll-out of new bins, a weekly food waste collection and a reduction of garden waste collection to every other week. The permit is increasing by 33per cent (£30 to £40). Replacement bins/bags will also be chargeable at £5 per container from now on.

Following on from the previous year's increase in parking charges (+30%), this year brought the news that the option to pay cash at Cotswolds car parks was to be removed (in stages through this coming year) and payment could only be made through an 'app' on a smart phone or by card. Given that some 9,000 adults in the Cotswolds don't have a smart phone and 72% of all payments in 2019 were cash, this doesn't seem rational. I have (and will continue to) challenge this decision; so far the only change has been to drop the 'cost' argument and replace it with a 'green' reason for the change.

During the year there have been major changes in the senior management at the Council, with Nigel Adams (Head of Paid Service with 28 year's service) and Bhavna Patel (Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services) both leaving (at a cost of £330,000) to be replaced with a new Chief Executive – Robert Weaver and an interim Monitoring Officer. An additional 8 people have been recruited to fill various positions to deliver manifesto promises.

A number of Strategies and Reports have been proposed at Council, covering:-

- Ecological Emergency declared (July 2020)
- The Climate Emergency (Sept 2020)
- Corporate Strategy and Plan (Sept 2020)

In addition there have been a number of other changes:-

- A number of changes have been made to the Council's Constitution.
- The Community Grant scheme has been replaced by 'Spacehive', a crowd funding platform (costing £30,000 p.a.).
- Removal of the Ward Member's ability to automatically refer planning applications to the Planning Committee where considered appropriate. (This particular decision is causing a considerable amount of annoyance to effected Parishes and is the subject of ongoing discussion.)
- A new additional crest for the Council, designed for use on social media and new road signage including the crest and the parish's name. These being part of a £200,000 'Civic Pride' scheme.
- A new fly-tipping reporting tool has made this a much easier process and there has been a substantive increase in the numbers being reported. I presented a motion to Council to increase the spending on this bane and I believe this has been given through the 'Civic Pride' scheme (to be confirmed).

In February, the revised budget for 2021/2 was presented to and approved by Council. I was not able to support this vote due to lack of detail on the £65 million borrowing proposed.

It has been necessary to support the CDC Leisure Centres during the pandemic (circa £650k), some of which we will get back as and when normality resumes.

The Planning Department is currently suffering from large workloads and a lack of Officers – recruitment is currently taking place and I would ask for your patience whilst these matters are being resolved.

**Report from the Chairman of Naunton Parish Council** (for the period May 2019 –May 2021)

I would like to thank the village representatives - and beyond - for all your reports. We all know that the pandemic has caused us all significant challenges, bringing what we knew as normal life into turmoil. As a Parish we are extremely lucky to have a good community spirit - whilst some of our residents were forced to 'shield' ,an army of volunteers was there to help – be it a friendly voice on the phone or collecting prescriptions, shopping and doing odd jobs. The Black Horse opening its kitchen for takeaway food as well as having the Wednesday mobile shops in its car park.

Modern technology has played its part with online shopping, and with friends and family being able to see each other with Skype, video calls, and Zoom meetings during lockdowns .

The Parish Council has remained active throughout, having to hold meetings via Zoom, being kept updated with guidelines and the normal email notifications and exchanges. Since May 2019 there have been 60 planning applications for the Parish Council to consider. These included tree works, equestrian properties, residential & quarry extensions and a few barn conversions, The Parish Council showed concerns over the suitability and size of one of the barn conversions, and shared with many residents the concerns over the development at Naunton Downs Golf Club being connected into the existing sewerage system.

Parking on pavements and at junctions was frequently brought to our attention, also 'oversized vehicles' (and possibly bad drivers) causing damage to walls . Having looked into "what can we do" – Pulhams coaches (which operates the school bus) has agreed to monitor and log all incidents of difficulty being able to pass through the village and the police have advised that parking issues must be reported 'at the time'. If an officer is available to attend they will. There are signs advising 'Not suitable for articulated/long vehicles' at Naunton Inn and Harford Bridge (the one at HB had been obstructed by branches but is now visible) . However, further action to resolve these issues would involve lengthy procedures and would be costly. The Parish Council would have to carry out a survey residents opinions through public meetings and any changes such as a 7.5T weight limit or installing double yellow lines, would cost approximately £10,000 each in legal fees.

Litter and dog fouling have also been very much hot topics. Fouling on the recreation ground had been monitored as well as being addressed with signs and markings, but unfortunately there was no improvement of the situation. The Parish Council and the recreation Ground Committee agreed that a 'Dogs on Leads' policy was needed and signage has been put in place.

Other signage issues were also addressed, with the Public rights of Way team removing the non-rider-friendly sign near the dovecote. Complaints with regard to signs being placed by individuals unrelated to the Parish Council were also addressed, including some requests to keep dogs on leads around livestock. It is distressing to hear of sheep being attacked by dogs off lead and unfortunately we have had a few attacks in the Parish.

Fellow Councillors and the kind folk of the village who have been 'picking up after dogs' while out on walks, retrieving discarded (full) dog waste bags strewn across fields and generally litter picking on each and every walk. Having been alerted to an area described as a fly tip on the top road, the manager of the natural stone quarry at Grange Hill was very prompt in dealing with that particular eyesore.

Following a request from the Parish Council, we expect 1,000 native trees to be delivered as part of one of the GCC tree replanting schemes. The Council has been in discussion with Breedon Quarry (Huntsmans) to plant these whips between the proposed bund of the Southern Extension and the

boundary of their land this autumn. This plantation will not only provide a growing screen between the quarry and nearby neighbours far earlier than anticipated, it will also provide a good wildlife habitat and can be enjoyed by users of the footpath/bridle path.

Lockdown halted plans for the wild flower planting on Chapel Bank but we hope that when groups can work together this will be planned further and tbe put into action.

There have been three road closures due to utility connections and we are awaiting confirmation from GCC Highways regarding agreed work on drainage issues - one above Spring House on Grange Hill and another at The Mill Race where silt build up needs to be removed.

With the new salt/grit box in situ we are fortunate to hold a good supply for the Parish if and when needed. Luckily we have not needed to call on the services of Robert Hicks with the snow plough.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to the village activities resuming, with more positive reports next year, in the meantime I would like to remind parishioners that any concerns regarding roads/potholes/drainage and other highways issues can be reported via the GCC Highways report [it.gov](https://www.gcc.gov.uk) and likewise there is a comment section on the CDC website regarding planning applications (which can at times be a total minefield regarding understanding the policies and excepting some of the decisions!!)

Finally, thanks must go to our Clerk Maxi for all her diligent work, and the commitment of fellow councillors who continued to serve our community throughout the lockdowns. These have at times proved very challenging, with Zoom calls having their limitations. We hope to be back to a more normal service for the foreseeable future.

Bev Chance#  
Chairman, Naunton Parish Council  
May 2021

## St Andrews Parish Church report

### St Andrew's Church Report (Naunton Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2021)

As St Andrew's currently is without a churchwarden and I am the Honorary Secretary of the Parochial Church Council, I have been asked to provide a report on the activities of the church since the date of the last Parish Meeting in 2019.

Sadly, there is not very much that I can report because the pandemic has had a major impact upon the activities of the church since the beginning of 2020 and full normal service has not yet been resumed. However, with a dedicated band of volunteers to ensure the church is as virus free as feasible, the church has been kept open for the public as much as possible. Initially this was daily for just two hours of supervised private prayer but once it was permitted the church has been open daily for unsupervised prayer and between lockdowns, during 2020 there were four Sunday services of Evening Prayer and eight of Holy Communion and in 2021 there has been one of Holy Communion and one, very small, wedding.

Sadly, restrictions meant that last year we were not able to have a service at St Andrew's on Remembrance Sunday although prayers were said by a very small group at the memorial outside the Chapel. Nor was it possible to hold the annual Spirit of Naunton service in The Black Horse nor the usual candle-lit Carol Service but there was an afternoon Carol Service in the churchyard and morning services of Holy Communion in the churchyard on Christmas Day and Easter Day. All the open-air services were well-supported and the two services of Communion were blessed with glorious sunshine. Since the beginning of lockdown restrictions our Rector, Rev Canon Katrina Scott, supported by Rev Sue Pestell and Rev Catherine Cowie, have continued to provide pastoral care by telephone, email and Zoom, including weekly Sunday morning worship through Zoom with the plan for Zoom services to continue even though pandemic restrictions are now easing.

Of course, the pandemic has also meant that since the first lockdown St Andrew's has not been able to continue to host its weekly coffee shop, and the rural cinema showings and Naunton Music concerts have also had to stop although Bob and Barbara Steiner have managed to organise three appropriately distanced and sanitised rural cinema performance in the Village Hall under the auspices of the church with another scheduled for 1st June. It is hoped that the coffee shop will soon be able to re-open and there are plans for Naunton Music to hold at least a couple of concerts this Summer with the first hopefully in July. All church activities are publicized by email and by posters.

Diana Woolley  
07.05.21

### Naunton Dovecote Trust

Since the date of our last Report in May 2018, we are pleased to say that we have finished the restoration project on the lean-to, the Dovecote and the turbine shed. Nothing of interest was unearthed by the investigative digging inside the lean-to where we had hoped to find some evidence of the water-wheel which had once been situated there. An initial estimate to bring water to the stable block unit nearest the donation box and create a disabled W.C., simple kitchen and possible archive area was far higher than we anticipated. We were therefore investigating the possible costs of a far simpler plan to bring very basic facilities to that Unit when lock-down occurred. We will continue to work on this as soon as regulations allow.

During the national lockdown the Dovecote site remained open – initially for local people, but as last summer’s regulations were lifted we had many visitors from further afield who enjoyed picnicking at the site. We are not sure how they knew about us, but word got around and we had quite a few visitors. Not everyone left the site quite as they found it, but our new Trustee Gill Bell was assiduous in visiting the site and clearing up any ‘residue’ left there. It was necessary for us to circulate a letter to the village pointing out that Cotswold stone walls do not contain mortar and they are not intended as children’s climbing frames! Some damage was done to our walls and this has recently been repaired.

During lock-down Penny Hanks and Stuart Corbyn worked with Chris Goll to create a website for the Dovecote and details have been circulated to all villagers and ‘Friends’ of the N.D.T. who live outside of the village. We have had much positive feed-back and last week one of David Hanks’s photographs of the Dovecote interior was featured in the Daily Telegraph letter page! Many thanks to Gill and Peter Bell who regularly mow the farmyard area and the paths through the outer area to give access to the river and features.

It is NDT policy to leave the long grasses there for as long as we can in the summer months to encourage the wildlife. We are in the process of developing an Environmental Policy to document how we intend to manage the environmental aspects of the site, with particular reference to our desire not to disturb wildlife (animal or vegetable) by the river and in the cordoned off area beyond the turbine shed. This can be difficult to manage during enthusiastic river-clearance sessions but a compromise can always be found if everyone is aware of what we are trying to achieve. We are also keen not to introduce plant life which would not occur naturally in this habitat It is good to see that the site is well-used by walkers and local people. It is frustrating that it has become necessary to place so many notices there as this spoils the rural ambiance, but H & S issues sometimes make this necessary. Some ‘No Parking’ signs will sadly have to be added soon as people seem incapable of walking 50 yards from the road to the gate.

P. A. Hanks  
Chairman N.D.T.

## Village Hall Committee report 20/21

1. The Village Hall closed with the first Covid lockdown in March 2020. The Annual Report for 2019/20 is attached and provides detail for the financial year 2019/20, covering the beginning of our operations under the Covid 19 regulations. A key point to note from that annual report are that the hall income was comfortably covering out goings and enabling us to build a reserve fund for the future.
2. We have been fortunate to receive 5 government grants during the financial year 20/21 to support the hall as a community asset. These grants have totalled £28,603. Our financial position is therefore very healthy and as of May 2021, we have £ 33,922 on account. We have set aside £15,000 as a notional reserve fund to ensure we have the necessary funds in the future to cover any urgent repairs or necessary improvements.
3. The hall partially re-opened for episodes during the year when regulations allowed enabling temporary resumption of the Rural Cinema and the Naunton Nippers. At present only Naunton Nippers are regularly using the hall on a Thursday morning as allowed by current regulations.
4. The Hall has been actively managed over the lockdown period with regular checks to ensure all was well. The Trustees' Committee continued to meet via Zoom. We have implemented some running repairs and small improvements which should be completed for the hall reopening in June 2021.
5. The Trustees agreed recently that, given the grants received and the healthy financial position, we would waive hall fees for village organisations or groups for the remainder of this financial year 21/22. This is to assist village organisations to restart and support any fund raising activity at a time when social distancing may require numbers to be limited.
6. As ever, the Trustees have been supported by the skills and goodwill of the village community in maintaining and repairing the hall and its environs. We are grateful to the Parish Council for organising and funding the repair of the boundary wall between the Pound and the hall driveway. The flower bed has been reinstated due to the efforts of Claire Fazan and Rick Rawlings with plant donations by several members of the gardening club. This is greatly appreciated. Oversight of the hall, running repairs and maintenance have been attended to and grateful thanks are due to Angela and Graham Cossey, Pat Boulton, Bill Nesbitt, Bob Steiner, Dougie Hindley, Peter Bell and Chris Goll for their time and efforts.
7. We are now looking forward to re-opening fully in June 21 and will continue to pay careful attention to all subsequent Covid 19 regulations as we do so.

Louise Goll  
Chair of the Naunton Village Hall Trustees Committee  
May 2021



### **Flood Relief Committee report May 2020/2021**

River clearing has been maintained with annual events on a Saturday morning in October for both years...They have both been well supported by volunteers, and we have seen the result in that the last two winters have been very wet , but the river has flowed well. However on the 23rd December 2020, we had the most severe single day rainfall event since 2007, and this should serve as a wake up call.

The Parish Council has donated a further 50 Aquasacks available at flooding risks .

No other flood group activities were carried out after 2018 following the termination of the activities of the Cotswold Flood Action Group by Cotswold District Council. However it is important that we do not become complacent, and the flood group will meet later this year to discuss other actions that we can implement to ensure that Naunton is prepared for future flood events.

The water level monitoring gauge is now operational and maintained by an independent group, the Naunton Flood Alert Service. A bank account has been opened at Lloyds to enable the group to collect subscriptions from villagers who wish to subscribe and support the service. Sufficient funds should be available annually to finance the operations in 2021 , which are limited to those who subscribe to the service .

Keith Russell  
May 2021

### **Naunton Social Committee report**

At a recent Social Committee zoom meeting, plans for a picnic on the recreation ground in June were discussed. It is to be self catered, and socially distanced! This is the first time this type of event has been planned and is an open invitation to all Naunton residents, a way for new comers to meet up with existing locals.

In one of the breaks in total lockdown, we did organise an annual 'Fish & Fizz' evening, and an annual 'Progressive Supper', We are hoping to restart the monthly breakfast club from July. Bonfire night, if allowed to go ahead, will be a smaller event, again for local residents and families and friends.

We hope to resume activities when possible but, unfortunately, it will take a lot of confidence to organise the sort of events we've had in the past, Fetes, Country Markets, Classic Cars etc. as the nature of such events involves large crowds coming together.

Pat Boulton  
May 2021

**Naunton Public Rights of Way Warden's report**

It's clearly been an unusual and taxing year and it's been no different for the maintenance of public right of ways in the North Cotswolds. The work party responsible for this area met less than half a dozen occasions from Spring 2020, although I was able to prioritise 3 of the first 4 tasks in late Summer to be on Naunton Parish paths, including the installations of new waymark posts just above The Brake. I've managed to complete some smaller jobs myself and there are just 2 larger tasks which remain on our books. We have recently returned to work party activities and I continue to be happy to take on board any reported problems. "

Neil Vincent  
May 2021

## Gloucestershire Police report

The local police team is based at Stow-on-the-Wold. The team comprises of:

**PC 1501 Alison Palfrey**

**PC 2431 Peter Escolme**

**PSCO 9288 John Allen**

**PSCO 9251 Charlie Symes**

Between us we cover 43 parish councils from Aldsworth to Broadwell.

Peter & Charlie are the dedicated officers for Bourton (including Naunton) and Alison & John the same for Stow; however we support each other and have removed 'boundaries' so that the parishes we serve have full coverage. We are all based at Stow Police Station.

Policing in the last year, like life in general has been challenging; having to implement and understand new legislation and guidelines that were often fluid has dominated how we worked. The demand on the Police did not reduce but the types of incidents we were tasked to deal with, were matters that we have never had to experience before.

As we move into summer peak season foot-patrols will commence in addition, we are being provided with two electric bicycles so that we can patrol more effectively between various parts of the village.

We will also be conducting speed-checks/general traffic check-points to support the PCC Policing Plan: Safe & Social Driving. If there are any roads in particular that the community would like to see this take place then please let me know.

**I would encourage all reports** that are not life threatening to be made via 101 or email via the force website. This gives us oversight to the issues that are occurring and "what gets measured gets done".

There is 'unhidden' demand in the North Cotswolds that is not recorded on police incident systems. When matters are reported on a more informal basis, such as directly to the team via email or telephone this call to service is not recorded.

When decisions are made across the force to the allocation of officers versus resource there is a danger that the recorded stats do not reflect what is actually happening with the work we do for our communities.

Please do not feel that you cannot call the team via telephone at Stow but we need to protect the team numbers by ensuring that all incidents are recorded.

I have only commenced my current posting in April 2021; if any member of the Parish Council wish to meet me so that we can 'walk' the village to discuss issues then please get in touch.

If you see any of us on patrol please do not hesitate to stop and chat.

**Peter Escolme**  
**Constable 2431**

Cotswold Policing Team | Gloucestershire Constabulary | Stow-on-the-Wold Police Station  
| Stow-on-the-Wold | GL54 1AB Personal: 01452 907283 | Stow: 01452 907270

[www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk) | [Twitter page](#) | [Facebook page](#)

## Neighbourhood Watch Report

Neighbourhood Watch Report  
(Naunton Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2021)

This report as Naunton's Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is not very different from those given previously.

On the day that this report was prepared there were 69 addresses to which email messages are being sent covering 102 individuals. I am pleased to say that the list includes a few people who have left the village but wish to remain associated with it but I regret that so far none of the newer residents have joined up despite having been informed of the existence of the scheme through the welcome pack which Bob Steiner kindly distributes to all newcomers.

As always, unless I slip up (and I think I have been doing quite well) when I send out messages, I send them to myself with a blind copy to my Neighbourhood Watch group list. This procedure has been adopted so that I know messages have gone through and those in the lists do not get the addresses of all other group members shown in their inboxes.

At the date of producing this report and since the last Annual Parish Meeting two years ago I have sent out 130 messages the majority of which sadly related to scams and fraud, including some in the past year where attempts have been made to take advantage of the vulnerable during the pandemic restrictions.

As I have stated in previous reports, almost all of the information which I pass on reaches me from the Police and I realise that some of the messages and advice which I pass on may seem trivial and/or irrelevant but I continue to work on the basis that the information I am distributing may be of value to at least some of those to whom it is sent. Recipients can easily delete anything in which they have no interest and if bored by my messages can ask to be removed from my list. 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.

It is hoped that the scheme is considered to be of value to participants and I only regret that the disappearance of "the Phantom" - no items delivered since Easter 2019 – means that I do not have the opportunity to share a little amusement in between all the doom and gloom.

Diana Woolley  
07.05.21

## Cricket Club Report

Last year no activities occurred except the maintenance of the field. Dog fouling has been dealt with by the Parish Council.

This coming year, however, with it being difficult to call upon players for Sunday games, all matches played will be on a midweek evening. With the costs of field maintenance ever increasing, to raise income, a social membership will be offered to all for a £10.00 donation. The club will be open on the evening of matches subject to Covid laws and other fund-raising events will be held.

Mr William Davies  
May 2021

